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UVI to Host Energy Sustainability Fair This October in St. Thomas; St. Croix to Follow in Spring 2024

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The Caribbean Green Technology Center (CGTC) at the University of the Virgin Islands (UVI), in collaboration with the VI Energy Office (VIEO), is set to host the second Annual VI Energy and Sustainability Fair. The event will take place at UVI's Orville E. Kean Campus' Elridge Blake Sports and Fitness Center on Saturday, Oct. 28, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

With the theme “Accelerating Resilience,” the fair aims to educate the Virgin Islands community about sustainable and resilient energy practices. Attendees will have the chance to engage with professionals and experts in the fields of solar energy, water security, composting, and sustainability.

Greg Guannel, director of CGTC, underscored the importance of resilience in the current unpredictable climate. He remarked, “We need to ensure that our homes can adapt to changes in power, water, or sustainable living conditions. This event will equip attendees with the knowledge needed to invest wisely for a secure future.”

Visitors to the fair can look forward to live demonstrations on electric vehicles, solar power, composting, and other technologies. Moreover, international graduate students will be presenting their groundbreaking research on energy technology and policies, with a focus on the unique challenges faced by island communities.

Jonisha Aubain, a UVI graduate and current PhD student at UMass Amherst, highlighted the global perspective the event brings. “Students from Puerto Rico, Jamaica, the Virgin Islands, and beyond will share their dedicated research on energy transitions for island communities, ensuring a rich exchange of ideas.”

V.I. Energy Office Director Kyle Flemming praised the ongoing efforts to enhance the USVI's energy position. “This fair will showcase the significant strides we've made in ensuring Virgin Islanders enjoy greater energy security and resilience,” he stated.

Prominent guests, including Gov. Albert Bryan are expected to grace the event, which has garnered support from notable entities such as the University of the Virgin Islands, the Virgin Islands Energy Office, Freeport Commodities, WAPA, ProSolar Systems, Seven Seas, Energy Factory, and Luminaid.

For residents who can't make it to the St. Thomas event, a subsequent fair is scheduled for Spring 2024 on St. Croix.

For more information or to get involved with the Energy Fair, interested parties can reach out to the Caribbean Green Technology Center at cgtc@uvi.edu.