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## Bryan Orders Fuel Conservation Measures as Iran War Threatens New Cost Pressures in USVI

Citing growing uncertainty in global energy markets, Governor Bryan has ordered executive branch agencies to curb fuel use, limit vehicle travel, and prepare for possible budget reductions as the Virgin Islands braces for potential economic fallout.

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With the war in Iran continuing to unsettle global energy markets and raise concern about higher fuel and electricity costs in the Virgin Islands, Governor Albert Bryan Jr. has ordered executive branch agencies to immediately tighten fuel conservation practices and review government vehicle usage, calling the move an early step to shield the territory from wider economic fallout.

The directive, issued Tuesday in a memorandum to commissioners and agency heads, marks the administration's first formal conservation response as the government monitors what it described as growing instability in global energy markets. The order comes as the Virgin Islands weighs the possibility that external shocks could drive up fuel costs, strain household budgets, and deepen pressure on the cost of living.

Bryan said the action is intended to protect public resources, preserve fiscal stability, and position the territory to better withstand outside forces tied to the international situation.

"Leadership requires more than reacting to events after they reach our doorstep," he said. "It requires vigilance, foresight, and the discipline to act early when warning signs begin to emerge. The uncertainty in global energy markets has the potential to affect fuel prices, family budgets, and the broader cost of living in the Virgin Islands. We are taking prudent action now as a first step to help cushion the impact of forces beyond our control, while we continue to monitor conditions and assess what additional measures may be needed."

Under the directive, executive branch agencies must immediately restrict the use of government vehicles to authorized official duties only. Agencies are also being instructed to reduce travel where possible, encourage shared vehicle use when employees are going to the same destination, review vehicle assignments to confirm operational need, and monitor fuel usage regularly to identify opportunities to cut unnecessary consumption.

Emergency response vehicles used for public safety and emergency operations are exempt.

The governor said the directive reflects a broader message about stewardship and the need for discipline in a period of uncertainty. In the memorandum, he told agency leaders that responsible management of taxpayer dollars is a year-round obligation, but said current international conditions make that responsibility more urgent and require stronger oversight, less waste, and reduced exposure to rising fuel-related costs.

The administration is also preparing for the possibility that further steps may be required if global conditions worsen. As part of that planning, Bryan said the government is considering targeted budget adjustments, including the possibility of a 10 percent reduction in allocations across agencies, if that becomes necessary to protect the territory's financial position.

"We cannot control international conflict or the movement of global markets," Governor Bryan said. "What we can control is how responsibly and how thoughtfully we respond. Our responsibility is to place the Virgin Islands in the strongest position possible to withstand outside pressures without compromising essential services."

The order widens the conversation beyond government operations alone. Bryan also urged residents of the Virgin Islands to begin taking similar precautions in their own daily routines, including carpooling, combining errands, limiting unnecessary trips, and making sure personal vehicles are properly maintained for maximum fuel efficiency.

"I want the people of the Virgin Islands to see this for what it is, an appeal for preparedness, prudence, and shared responsibility," Governor Bryan said. "Simple steps taken now can help families manage costs more effectively and reduce the strain that may come if global instability continues to place upward pressure on fuel prices. The same spirit of preparation that guides government should guide us as a community."

Bryan also framed the moment as one that calls for practical leadership rather than delayed reaction, saying conservation in this context is not only about budgeting, but also about readiness and responsible governance.

“In times of uncertainty, strength begins with preparation,” Governor Bryan said. “When we act early, when we make wise choices, and when we remain focused on what is essential, we strengthen our ability to meet challenges with steadiness, compassion, and resolve.”

Commissioners and agency heads are expected to communicate the directive clearly within their departments, ensure full compliance, and identify any additional ways to reduce unnecessary fuel consumption while preserving essential public services.

The new order builds on [growing concern](#) in the territory over how war-driven instability abroad could quickly be felt at home, particularly in a community already vulnerable to imported fuel costs and broader price shocks.