

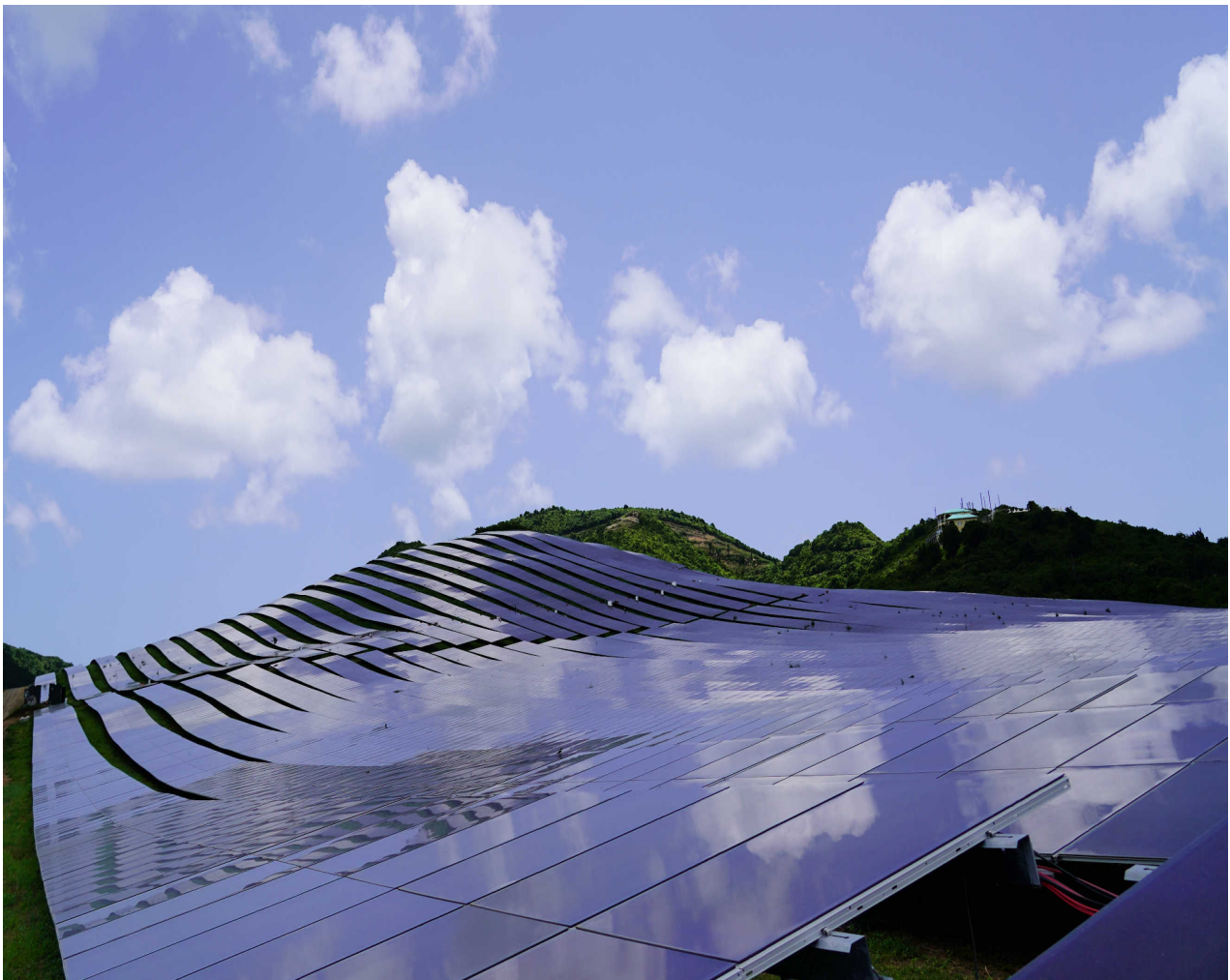
The Virgin Islands Consortium

Bryan Administration Says Solar Investment Will Help Shield Virgin Islands From Global Fuel Shocks

With the Middle East conflict fueling oil-market turmoil and higher prices, the Bryan administration says expanded solar and battery investments are already easing pressure on ratepayers while reducing the Virgin Islands' exposure to imported fuel shocks.

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A portion of the Estate Hogensborg Solar Farm. By. ERNICE GILBERT, V.I. CONSORTIUM.

As rising global tensions continue to shake energy markets, the Bryan administration says the Virgin Islands is accelerating its investment in solar power and battery storage in

an effort to reduce residents' exposure to fuel-price spikes and strengthen the territory's long-term energy security.

According to Government House, the push comes as conflict in the Middle East continues to disrupt global energy markets, driving up oil prices and unsettling supply chains. Officials said nearly 20 percent of the world's oil supply moving through the Strait of Hormuz has been affected, contributing to what international experts have described as one of the most significant energy disruptions in modern history.

Against that backdrop, the government said the crisis has reinforced a broader concern for island economies such as the Virgin Islands: heavy reliance on imported fossil fuels leaves residents vulnerable to sudden and uncontrollable increases in energy costs.

"We cannot control wars. We cannot control global oil markets. But we can control how we power our future," said Governor Albert Bryan Jr. "Our investments in solar energy are not just about sustainability—they are about stability, affordability, and protecting our people from global shocks."

The administration said solar energy offers a financial shield that fossil fuels do not. Unlike oil and gas, officials noted, solar power is not tied to geopolitical instability, shipping disruptions or sudden commodity-driven price spikes.

The government also pointed to broader expert analysis showing that renewable energy can help insulate economies from the volatility that often accompanies global oil and gas markets. As fuel prices rise, officials said, countries around the world are accelerating solar deployment to lower costs and stabilize their energy systems.

In the Virgin Islands, the administration said that translates into lower and more predictable electricity costs, reduced dependence on imported fuel, long-term savings for residents and businesses, and greater energy security during periods of global instability.

Officials said the territory's investments in solar generation and battery storage are already helping reduce the burden on ratepayers by lowering reliance on expensive imported fuel. As more renewable projects come online, the administration said, those savings are expected to grow, helping move the territory toward a cleaner and more affordable energy future.

The government said global demand trends support that direction. In Europe and other regions, officials noted, solar demand has risen in direct response to higher energy prices linked to the Iran conflict, as both governments and consumers seek greater control over energy costs.

For the Bryan administration, the broader goal is to build a more modern and resilient economy that is less exposed to external shocks. "There are no price spikes for sunlight," Governor Bryan added. "By investing in renewable energy today, we are protecting our people from the uncertainty of tomorrow."