British Virgin Islands Electricity Corporation

FACT SHEET & TIPS

**BVIEC**

* The Ordinance of the British Virgin Islands Electricity Corporation (BVIEC) came into effect in 1979.
* The Government of the Virgin Islands is the sole shareholder of BVIEC which is under the portfolio of the Ministry of Communications and Works.
* Functions: to generate, transmit, supply, distribute and sell electricity throughout the BVI.
* The Corporation’s Board of Directors is comprised of a Chairman, five ordinary members and two ex-officio, members all appointed by the Cabinet.
* The BVIEC owns and operates three Power Stations: Long Bush – 1 unit, Pockwood Pond – 12 units and Anegada – 6 units.

**HISTORY**

* In the 1950’s, The Government of the Virgin Islands public electricity supply provided six hours of electricity per day to 63 customers. This was produced by one 20KW generator.
* Between 1950 and 1970 the Long Bush Power Station was constructed and three 60KW units supplied 18 hours of electricity per day to 210 customers.
* Between 1950 and 1970, Long Bush Power Station expanded to three medium speed 1.2MW generators and a 13.2KV bus system.
* By the end of the 1970’s service had been extended to most major areas in the BVI.
* In 1972 electricity supply was extended to Virgin Gorda and then later to Jost Van Dyke via submarine cables.
* On May 23, 1979, the government’s electricity department was converted to the British Virgin Islands Electricity Corporation, an autonomous statutory body.
* In the 1980’s a Power Station was constructed on Anegada, offering twenty-four hour service.
* In 1986, the Pockwood Pond site was purchased.
* Between 1970 and 1990 the Corporation added an additional twelve generating units.
* The total number of active consumers increased from 1,829 in 1970 to 6,347 by the end of 1989.

**PHASE I - IV**

* Phase I, 1990 – Construction of the Pockwood Pond Power Station with two 3 MW Mirrlees generators.
* Phase II, 1995 – Installation of two 4.5 MW Wartsila generators at the Pockwood Pond Power Station, and extension of the 34.5 KV Transmission network to Long Swamp, Tortola.
* Phase III, 1999 – Extension of the Pockwood Pond Power Station, installation of three 6 MW Rolls Royce units and extension of the 34.5 KV Transmission Network to Virgin Gorda via submarine cables.
* Phase IV A, 2005 – Replacement of one Rolls Royce engine with a 5.5 MW unit and installation of one additional 5.5 MW unit.
* Phase IV B, 2006 – Replacement of the remaining two Rolls Royce engines with 5.5 MW units.
* In 2015 4.5 MW of temporary / peaking generation was installed to maintain a reliable power supply whilst Phase V project is completed.

**PHASE V POWER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME**

* Before Phase V there was an effective installed capacity of 39 MW with a maximum demand of 34 MW.
* The Ground Breaking Ceremony of the Phase V Development Programme took place on Monday, March 23, 2015.
* Phase V, 2017 – Extension of the Pockwood Pond Power Station building, 3 new 8.5 MW Wartsila generators with a total capacity of 25.5 MW and the installation of two additional transmission cables between Pockwood Pond and Long Bush.
* Contractors: Generation system – Wartsila, Finland; Transmission system – K Line International, Canada.
* After the completion of Phase V Development Programme the Territory’s installed generating capacity increased to 57.5 MW, a forty-seven percent increase after units 1, 2 and 11 (sum capacity 5.5 MW) are retired.
* Approximately ninety-nine percent of the Territory’s electrical energy is produced using imported fossil fuels.

**(RENEWABLE) ENERGY PROGRAMME**

* In May 2015, the British Virgin Islands Electricity Corporation (Amendment) Act 2015 was passed amending the 1979 ordinance so as to provide for the development and management of renewable energy. This means, private companies and individuals, with the approval of the Ministry and the BVI Electricity Corporation (BVIEC), will be able to produce energy through renewable energy sources such as wind, solar, hydro etc.
* The Virgin Islands Energy Policy 2016-2016 was developed via wide stake-holder consultation, and approved by the Cabinet of the Virgin Islands to help chart a sustainable energy future for the Territory.
* One of the Policy’s aims is to guide the Territory in replacing 30% of the national electricity supply with renewable energy by 2023.
* 2014-2015, multiple pilot studies completed exploring the usage of solar street lights.
* In 2016 fifty solar street lights were installed in various areas including Tortola, Virgin Gorda, Anegada, Jost Van Dyke and Salt Island.
* Renewable Energy Courses commenced at the H. Lavity Stoutt Community College, Summer 2014.
* October 2015 - Public Relations Campaign launched to engage all stakeholders and educate the public on energy conservation and renewable energy.
* April 2016, School Campaign launched to educate students on the importance of renewable energy: reducing, reusing and recycling. Collaboration between the Ministry of Communications and Works, , the Ministry of Natural Resources and Labour, BVIEC, the Water & Sewerage Department, Department of Waste Management & Green VI

**ELECTRICITY CONSERVATION TIPS**

* Turn off lights when leaving a room.
* Replace old incandescent light bulbs with energy saving light bulbs. Example: LED lights.
* Set air conditioning to optimal rate instead of extremely cold temperatures.
* Minimize hot water usage.
* Install solar water heaters.