

ELIGIBILITY

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR THE WISE PROGRAM?

Any commercial property located in the US Virgin Islands that uses 30,000 kWh's or less per month and is able to pay for 60% of the project cost or the energy assessment cost if not committed to a project within 30 days of the assessment. Additionally, the property must document a reduction of their energy consumption by at least 15% based on a comprehensive energy assessment as well as continue to monitor reduction for 12 months post the efficiency retrofit.

ARE GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS OR NONPROFITS ELIGIBLE?

NO. Only for-profit, small commercial buildings are eligible.

ARE HOME BASED BUSINESSES ELIGIBLE?

NO. Businesses that are operated out of residences are not eligible for the WISE program. Homes that have converted into a business are eligible if they meet the other WISE eligibility requirements.

AM I ELIGIBLE FOR THE WISE PROGRAM IF SOME MONTHS I USE MORE THAN 30,000 KWH'S?

YES. Your energy consumption must AVERAGE 30,000 kWh's or less over the course of a year to qualify.

AM I ELIGIBLE IF I DO NOT HAVE A WAPA ACCOUNT?

Unfortunately, if you do not have a WAPA account you are not eligible for the WISE program.

IF I USE OTHER INCENTIVES, AM I STILL ELIGIBLE FOR THE WISE PROGRAM?

YES, however the energy savings from other incentives will not be calculated as part of the WISE grant. i.e. If you use the solar hot water incentive the energy savings from the conversion to solar hot water will not be part of the necessary 15% estimated energy savings. Other measures will be needed to reach the 15%.

I OWN A CONDO BUILDING. IS IT ELIGIBLE FOR THE WISE PROGRAM?

YES. As long as your property has a commercial WAPA meter and uses 30,000 kWh per month or less on average, it qualifies for the WISE program.

ARE RENEWABLE ENERGY IMPROVEMENTS SUCH AS SOLAR PV AND WIND ENERGY ELIGIBLE UNDER THE WISE PROGRAM?

Renewable energy improvements are eligible after you reach an estimated 15% energy savings through energy conservation measures (ECM's) and if a reasonable ROI can be met, i.e. the renewable energy project improves the return on investment through shortening the time to payback.

WHAT ENERGY CONSERVATION MEASURES (ECM'S) ARE ELIGIBLE?

The following ECM's are eligible for the WISE program:

- Solar hot-water heating
- Air curtains to reduce AC
- Propane substitution for electric cooking and hot water heating
- Super High Efficiency refrigeration, cooking, ventilation, air conditioning, washing and drying equipment replacements
- Switches, timers, occupancy sensors, and behavioral changes to reduce demand and consumption of lighting, refrigeration, cooking, freezers, hot-water heating, fans, air conditioners, washers and dryers
- LED, CFL, and electronic-ballasted fluorescent fixtures
- Retro commissioning
- Water-use efficiencies including recirculation of waste water, low-flow showers and toilets, faucet aerators, and irrigation measures
- Air sealing and envelope measures
- Domestic-scale renewables including PV and wind
- Other ECM's determined by SEEA to reduce energy consumption (will be assessed on a case by case basis)

I LEASE THE BUILDING, AM I ELIGIBLE?

YES, as long as you are in a long term lease. A lease is considered long term if the WISE project simple payback (SP) can be met within the length of the lease. For example, a \$10,000 WISE project that reduces your utility costs by \$2500 a year would have an SP of 4 years. Therefore, to qualify for the WISE program, the terms of the lease would need to be at least 4 years long or be renewable for that amount of time. Additionally, you can partner with your landlord to implement energy conservation measures that would stay with the building past the lease expiration.

I OWN MULTIPLE BUILDINGS. DO I HAVE TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR EACH BUILDING?

YES. The WISE program requires an application for each property and the associated utility data for each meter.



I FOUND EQUIPMENT FOR LOWER PRICES OUTSIDE OF THE PROGRAM. MAY I USE ANOTHER CONTRACTOR OR INSTALL EQUIPMENT THAT WAS NOT SPECIFICALLY RECOMMENDED?

Although we understand you may find equipment for lower prices on the internet or through other contractors, we recommend using the equipment specified. Quality Electric Supply, Inc. stands behind all work, will ensure that the equipment and their work is fully warranted and that the proper equipment is installed for your property. Using a company or equipment that is not specified by QES could lead to problems with the equipment and the performance of the project, potentially reducing your energy savings and ultimately increasing your utility and project costs.

UTILITY DATA

WHY DO YOU NEED ACCESS TO UTILITY DATA AFTER THE PROJECT HAS BEEN COMPLETED?

Access to utility data is necessary for monitoring and verification after the project is completed. The data will help verify the estimated 15% or more reduction in energy consumption. It is only for monitoring the performance and will not impact the project or funding in any way.

I DO NOT HAVE MY UTILITY DATA FOR THE PAST 12 MONTHS. HOW CAN I GET THIS DATA?

You may access your utility data history on-line in the WAPA website (<https://www.customerservice.vi.wapa.vi/Click2GovCXP/GetPinInput.jsp>). If you do not have an on-line account you can create one simply by accessing the above referenced link and click on “E-mail Us” in order to request a PIN # from WAPA. WAPA will then send you a PIN #. After you have received a PIN # from WAPA, you will then be able to access your account on-line. Through the on-line account you will be able to see your historical monthly utility data. If you do not want to create an on-line account, you may contact WAPA with your account number and they will send you the historical monthly data.

ENERGY ASSESSMENT

WHAT IS ENTAILED WITH THE ENERGY ASSESSMENT?

The assessor or auditor will examine each of your property’s systems focusing on air conditioning and lighting. Applicants may request examination of specific systems which could include plumbing and condition of the building envelop along with analyzing your utility data and use of building to determine what energy conservation measures will provide the biggest savings reducing your energy consumption and utility cost. The evaluation will yield a comprehensive report of saving options for your property.



WHY DO I HAVE TO RECEIVE AN ENERGY ASSESSMENT TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE WISE PROGRAM?

The energy assessment will provide a road map to energy saving, identifying the best opportunities to save energy for your property.

IS THE COST OF THE ENERGY ASSESSMENT COVERED THROUGH THE PROGRAM?

YES. The cost of the energy assessment is covered through the program **as long as you have received approval of your application prior to having the assessment conducted and a project is under contract within 30 days from the completion of the energy assessment.**

HOW MUCH WILL THE ENERGY ASSESSMENT COST?

The assessment will cost \$0.12 per square foot with a minimum of \$400.

HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE TO RECEIVE THE ENERGY ASSESSMENT?

Once you have been approved for the program, Quality Electric Supply, Inc. will contact you within five (5) days to schedule your energy assessment. Once the site visit of the energy assessment has occurred, you will receive your report with recommended energy conservation measures within 15 business days.

OTHER INCENTIVES AND FINANCING

ARE THERE OTHER RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROJECTS?

YES. There are other energy incentives through the Virgin Islands Energy Office as well as loans through the EDA office. Please contact the WISE program if you are interested in finding out more.

IS FINANCING AVAILABLE?

Currently we do not have financing available specific to the program. We are working with local banks to provide a program specific financing option in the future. However, there are some resources through the Economic Development Administration if you are eligible. Please contact the WISE program if you are interested in finding out more.

I AM ELIGIBLE FOR FEDERAL TAX CREDITS. WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR APPLYING FOR THE CREDITS?

You are responsible for applying for any applicable federal tax credits, however the VI Energy Office and Quality Electric Supply, Inc. can offer assistance.



PROGRAMATIC

HOW IS THE WISE PROGRAM FUNDED?

The WISE program is funded through a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy's Better Building Neighborhood programs to the Southeast Energy Efficiency Alliance (SEEA). USVI is one of eleven communities across the Southeast US to receive funds from SEEA.

HOW MUCH IS THE WISE INCENTIVE?

The WISE program will fund 40% of your total project cost, up to \$80,000. Additionally the program will cover the cost of the energy assessment if the project is under contract within 30 days from completion of the assessment.

HOW WAS THE CONTRACTOR SELECTED?

In March 2011, SEEA executed a turnkey contract agreement with the Virgin Islands Energy Office (VIEO) for the USVI WISE small business energy efficiency program. Therefore SEEA is responsible for establishing the program, finalizing the program incentives, selecting contractors to assess and implement measures, qualifying customers, providing outreach materials, and assuring the quality assurance for the program.

SEEA established five criteria for the awarding of a contract to select an energy services company for the program:

- 1) The presence on island of a company or partnership that can offer small businesses a one-stop contracting service, in which energy assessments and installation of measures are provided seamlessly;
- 2) A company with a significant track record in providing both energy audits and project management in measures installation;
- 3) A company with a commitment and track record to hiring local residents as employees and/or subcontractors; and
- 4) A company with the capacity to warehouse energy efficiency equipment on island.

Additionally, there was preeminent importance of a quick turn-around in order to launch a program that meets the expectations of the Governor, DOE, and the needs of small businesses on the Virgin Islands. Therefore, SEEA created a short list of candidates, conducted interviews and selected Quality Electric Supply, Inc. as the contractor for the program based on the criteria listed above.



WHO SHOULD I CONTACT IF I HAVE QUESTIONS?

Please contact Nora Barger, Program Administrator at nbarger@cleanenergysol.com or 1.855.561.5757

WHERE SHOULD I SUBMIT MY APPLICATION?

Submit your application and supporting documentation by email to nbarger@cleanenergysol.com or by fax to 1.800.886.0079

