



THE VIRGIN ISLANDS WATER & POWER AUTHORITY CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS NEWS RELEASE

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Powering Our Islands, Together: WAPA Celebrates the People and Progress Behind Public Power



Figure 1. Roy Freeland, WAPA Certified Lineman 1st Class, shows curious St. John student the safety tools used to keep electricity flowing across the island.

U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS (October 9, 2025) — The Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority (“WAPA” or “the Authority”) proudly joins more than 2,000 community-powered, not-for-profit utilities nationwide in celebrating Public Power Week (October 5–11, 2025) and Energy Awareness Month — a time to honor the dedicated employees who power our islands and to reaffirm WAPA’s dedication to serving the Virgin Islands community.

The People Behind WAPA

At WAPA, the power delivered begins with its people. From plant operators and line crews to water technicians and customer service representatives, WAPA’s employees take pride in serving the same communities they call home. Together, they work to keep the lights on, the water flowing, and the future bright for every home and business across the territory.

“Our employees are your neighbors, friends, classmates, and family — many of whom grew up right here and chose to dedicate their talents to serving our community,” said Karl Knight, Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director of WAPA. “From past stalwarts to the new generation rising to bear the responsibility, these men and women don’t just work at WAPA — they’re part of the very fabric of the Virgin Islands.” ([Read full Message from the CEO.](#))

This week, October 6–10, also marks Customer Service Week, and WAPA is recognizing its dedicated Customer Service team — the frontline employees who connect daily with customers, provide essential support, and are a daily reminder of WAPA’s care and service to its customers.

Building a Stronger, More Reliable WAPA

As part of its long-term modernization plan, WAPA continues to make critical infrastructure investments that enhance service reliability and efficiency. Ongoing projects include expanding solar generation, undergrounding electrical lines, installing composite poles, advancing water system rehabilitation, and deploying an advanced metering infrastructure. Together, these efforts strengthen the electrical grid and water systems, improve storm resilience, and support a cleaner, more sustainable future for the Virgin Islands.

Celebrating Community and Conservation

This October, WAPA will also mark Energy Awareness Month, highlighting ongoing efforts to improve reliability, promote conservation, and support a more sustainable energy future. Throughout the month, WAPA will feature the stories of the people behind WAPA, showcase progress in renewable energy and infrastructure, and share conservation tips through community events, social media, and local outreach — inviting everyone to take pride in “Powering Our Islands, Together.”

To learn more about the local people shaping our local power, visit www.viwapa.vi/publicpower.

The Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority Communication’s department is committed to reaching, informing, and connecting with the youngest members of the community to the eldest, through meaningful, transparent and effective communication.

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About WAPA: The Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority is an autonomous agency of the Virgin Islands Government which produces and distributes electricity and drinking water to residential and commercial customers in the territory. WAPA was created by the Fifth Legislature of the Virgin Islands in 1964 through Act No. 1248. Today, WAPA generates electrical power at production plants on St. Thomas and St. Croix and distributes electrical service through smart grids to customers on St. Thomas, St. Croix, St. John, Hassel Island, and Water Island. Potable water is distributed to almost 13,000 customers through water lines and standpipes. WAPA also has the responsibility of installing and maintaining streetlights.