



THE VIRGIN ISLANDS WATER & POWER AUTHORITY
CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS
NEWS RELEASE

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WAPA TO DISTRIBUTE DRINKING WATER VOUCHERS THIS WEEKEND ON ST. CROIX

*Water customers living in areas affected by lead and copper in the water supply
will be eligible*

ST. CROIX, U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS – Chief Executive Officer Andrew Smith has announced the Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority’s “Clean Water Action” distribution plan for water vouchers to St. Croix residents who live in the areas affected by lead and copper in their water supply. The vouchers, which will be issued as coupons redeemable for bottled water at designated businesses over the next 90 days, will be distributed from **Saturday through Monday, November 18 to 20, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

Representatives from WAPA, VITEMA, the VI Departments of Health, Planning and Natural Resources, and Human Services, the VI National Guard and VI Police Department are coordinating this effort to ensure an efficient process at the distribution stations.

Voucher registration information:

Pre-registration: Eligible residents of the affected communities listed below are strongly urged to pre-register for the coupons at www.cleanwaterusvi.com to reduce line delays. The online portal will open on Thursday afternoon. Upon arrival at the distribution station, the recipient should present the approval code and personal identification.

Walk up registration: Eligible residents must present personal identification and the WAPA water account number (can be found on the most recent bill). Renters who may not have a WAPA bill in their name or a lease verifying residency, must present a picture I.D., and will be required to sign an affidavit confirming eligibility.

Residents of communities managed by the Virgin Islands Housing Authority will be notified by their housing manager how to receive their coupons and will not need to visit the distribution centers this weekend. These communities are Aureo Diaz Heights, Candido Guadalupe, and Williams Delight.

Residents who participate in the Department of Human Services “Meals on Wheels” program and those on the agency’s waiting list will be delivered water by the agency’s personnel.

All other water customers residing in the affected areas who are unable to visit the distribution centers from this Saturday through Monday should stay tuned to media outlets for further information about time and location for additional voucher distribution.

Distribution locations are as follows and signage will be posted at each site to assist residents through the process:

Distribution Station #1--drive-thru only: Parking lot adjacent to the Midre Cummings Park, Frederiksted-Saturday and Sunday service for water customers residing in La Grange, Smithfield, Wheel of Fortune, Two Brothers, White Lady, Hannah’s Rest, Campo Rico, Whim, and Stoney Ground.

Distribution Station #2--walk up only: Agricultural Fairgrounds, Estate Lower Love (eastern entrance), Saturday, Sunday and Monday service for water customers residing in Grove Place, St. Georges, Adventure Hill, Paradise, Mount Pleasant (South), Williams Delight, Profit, and Castle Burke. Customers from other affected neighborhoods listed may also walk up at this location on Monday as the other locations will be closed.

Distribution Station #3--drive-thru only: John H. Woodson Junior High School - Saturday and Sunday service for WAPA water customers residing in Colquohoun, Mon Bijou, Barren Spot, Diamond (West), Strawberry Hill, Sion Farm, St. John, and Montpelier (East).

Redemption Centers for coupons:

Water coupons may be redeemed at these St. Croix locations: The Market, Plaza East, both Pueblo locations, and Blue Mountain Water.

Coupon books are valued at a total of \$100. Each coupon is valued at \$10 and must be fully redeemed when used. There will be no cash exchanges, refunds or rebates permitted. Coupons will expire within 90 days of receipt.

For more information about the water distribution program, visit www.cleanwaterusvi.com.

CEO Smith reminds the public that the utility’s water remains safe for bathing, flushing, cleaning and laundering clothes, however a “no drink” advisory is still in effect for consuming and cooking. Department of Health hotlines are available for residents with health concerns related to lead in potable water at 340-712-6299 or 340-776-1519. The Department of Planning and Natural Resources also operates a hotline related to concerns on water sampling at 340-514-3666. All hotlines operate Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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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.