



THE VIRGIN ISLANDS WATER & POWER AUTHORITY CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS NEWS RELEASE

(340) 774-3552 • communications@viwapa.vi / www.viwapa.vi

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Figure 1: Palma Lough, Member Relations & Training Manager, Oklahoma Municipal Power Authority; and Chair, Customer Connections Section (left) and Director of Corporate Communications, Shanell Petersen (right) at the 2023 American Public Power Association Customer Connections Conference accepting the Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority's Excellence in Public Power Communications awards in Web and Social Media and Video.

Authority Recognized for Excellence in Public Power Communications

U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS – The Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority (“WAPA” or “Authority”) is proud to announce its recent awards received this week from the American Public Power Association (APPA) for outstanding achievement in public power communications. The APPA's annual Excellence in Public Power Communications Awards honor public power electric utilities and utility organizations that demonstrate innovation and creativity in communication strategies across various media platforms. The entries were judged in three categories: Print & Digital, Web & Social Media, and Video. Awards were given to utilities that showed ingenuity and creativity in telling their stories through outstanding copy, design, financial data presentation, graphics, social media engagement, video editing, and web layout and interactivity.

Rated against public power utilities across the United States, the Authority had the honor of winning two prestigious awards: the Award of Excellence for [Web](#) and [Social Media](#) and the Award of Merit for [Video](#). Both awards feature WAPA's ongoing commitment and dedication to increasing open and honest communication, and engagement with the community.

"We are always striving to enhance our communication strategies to better serve our customers. The recognition received in both categories will only inspire us to innovate further and leverage new technologies and creative approaches to deliver relevant and impactful messaging," noted Shanell Petersen, Director of Corporate Communications at the Authority. "We are immensely proud of this achievement."

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.

(340) 774-3552 (STT/STJ) • (340) 773-2250 (STX) |  Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority |  @VIWAPA