



# THE VIRGIN ISLANDS WATER & POWER AUTHORITY CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS NEWS RELEASE

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## **\*WAPA Receives \$1 Million Grant to Further Enhance Technical Training & Development Programs**



*Image: WAPA Personnel during training on the hybrid bucket trucks on St. Thomas.*

U.S. Virgin Islands – The Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority (“WAPA” or “Authority”) is pleased to announce the receipt of a \$1 million grant from the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA) Technical Assistance Program. This grant will strengthen ongoing efforts to enhance technical training and development programs, building on the Authority’s history of empowering employees and ensuring the safe and reliable operation of the electric grid.

In the past, funds from the OIA Technical Assistance Program have been instrumental in conducting various training initiatives that have significantly contributed to the professional growth and expertise of our workforce. Notably, WAPA certified 30 linemen through the US Department of Labor Apprenticeship program with a partnership with Electric Cities of Georgia and two Information Technology employees in Cyber Security protocols through SANS.

Our commitment to empowering employees with technical, safety, and leadership skills has led to the establishment of a hybrid training program, diversifying the learning approach and ensuring that WAPA’s workforce is equipped with the knowledge and skills needed to excel in their roles. Additionally, partnership with the Northwest Lineman College has elevated training and development standards for WAPA employees, further enhancing their capabilities and readiness to meet the demands of the industry.

The newly awarded grant will enable the Authority to continue efforts in ensuring the safe and reliable operation of the electric grid while providing opportunities for upward mobility and professional development for employees. By qualifying employees according to industry best practices and safety standards, the Authority reinforces its commitment to continuous improvement in all aspects of operations.

The Authority extends sincere gratitude to the Office of Insular Affairs for their support and investment in workforce development initiatives, which are essential for the continued growth and success of the Authority and the overall Territory.

*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.

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