



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

(340) 774-3552 • [communications@viwapa.vi](mailto:communications@viwapa.vi) / [www.viwapa.vi](http://www.viwapa.vi)

## WAPA Board Approves Solar and Battery Storage Amendments to Deliver Cleaner, More Reliable Power

**U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS (Sept. 11, 2025)** – The Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority (“WAPA” or “the Authority”) is pleased to announce that during yesterday's Special Governing Board meeting, amendments to existing power purchase agreements (PPAs) were approved to move forward two critical renewable energy projects—the Bovoni Solar Farm and the Fortuna Solar Farm, each supported by battery energy storage systems (BESS).

WAPA CEO Karl Knight highlighted the broader vision these projects support, sharing, “This brings a benefit to the Randolph Harley Power Plant by advancing our ambitious plans for a renewable energy hub on St. Thomas in the Bovoni area. Alongside our existing power purchase agreement for a wind farm in that area and a microgrid, we are also revisiting opportunities such as waste-to-energy and landfill-to-gas. We are looking at this part of St. Thomas to provide alternative generation through renewables to support the power plant.”

With yesterday's approvals, the Bovoni and Fortuna projects will expand available energy storage systems that allow WAPA to capture excess solar energy and deploy it when most needed—especially during peak demand periods or unexpected outages. This strengthens the grid and ensures greater reliability for customers. Battery energy storage allows solar power to become a dependable, around-the-clock resource rather than one limited to daylight hours.

WAPA's analysis confirms that the structured agreements for these projects are in the best interest of ratepayers. By clearly separating the costs for solar generation and battery discharge, the Authority is ensuring there is no double billing. Instead, the Authority is securing predictable pricing and building a foundation for long-term savings. “We have looked at the total output from the solar farm and the costs of the battery storage systems,” noted CEO Knight. “We’ve come to the conclusion—along with our partners that participated in the analysis—that this ultimately has a positive economic impact on the Authority and the community.”

The Bovoni and Fortuna solar projects demonstrate WAPA's continued dedication to building sustainable energy solutions that benefit residents today while preparing the territory for tomorrow. Together, these projects showcase how renewable energy, paired with modern storage technology, can reduce reliance on imported fuel, improve reliability, and support a cleaner energy future for the Virgin Islands.

**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.