



THE VIRGIN ISLANDS WATER & POWER AUTHORITY CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS NEWS RELEASE

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WAPA Announces Backup Battery for Schneider Hospital

U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS (September 25, 2024) – The Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority (“WAPA” or the “Authority”) is pleased to announce that Schneider Regional Medical Center on St. Thomas will receive a backup battery system, made possible through a grant WAPA secured from the Office of Insular Affairs. This system will improve WAPA’s emergency response capabilities by providing essential support to the hospital during natural disasters and unforeseen electrical interruptions, ensuring uninterrupted power for critical operations.

The project includes the installation of a 4-hour/2-megawatt Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) at the hospital, part of WAPA’s strategy to enhance grid reliability across the territory. This BESS will strengthen the hospital’s power continuity, support the hospital’s energy management, and protect sensitive medical equipment from power disruptions, safeguarding patient care.

In addition to this significant upgrade for the territory, WAPA announces funding to acquire a new fleet of electric vehicles (EVs), including additional bucket trucks and essential vehicles for its line department, made possible through grants from the Office of Insular Affairs. These vehicles will improve WAPA’s ability to address critical operational needs, enhance service reliability, and support key functions such as powerline maintenance.

This expansion also includes additional vehicles for meter reading crews, increasing WAPA’s operational efficiency. By adding electric vehicles to its fleet, WAPA is meeting important service needs while also leading the way toward cleaner, more environmentally friendly energy solutions.

WAPA continues to prioritize innovation and sustainability, ensuring each investment delivers reliable, cost-effective, and environmentally responsible services to the people of the Virgin Islands.

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.