



THE VIRGIN ISLANDS WATER & POWER AUTHORITY CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS NEWS RELEASE

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April 19, 2023

WAPA Participates in Annual Week of the Young Child



Figure 1: Shania Lynch, Administrative Assistant at the Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority, engages with young students, teaching them about the importance of water and energy conservation.

U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS – The Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority (“WAPA” or “Authority”) is proud to announce its participation last week in the annual Week of the Young Child™, a nationwide celebration sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). The event which is designed to raise awareness around the importance of early childhood education took place from April 10-16, 2023.

As part of the Authority’s commitment to the Virgin Islands community, team members from WAPA volunteered at the Eulalie R. Rivera and Lew Muckle Elementary schools on St. Croix, where students were taught about water conservation, electrical safety, line worker careers and what WAPA’s function is within the territory. Part of the WAPA’s presentation involved lineworkers showcasing the different features and capabilities of its bucket trucks, which are used to service most of the island’s electrical poles. More than 500 students were in attendance between both schools.

"At the Authority, we understand the importance of investing in our future by investing in our children," noted Shanell Petersen, Director of Corporate Communications at the Authority. "By supporting the Week of the Young Child, we hope to help ensure that every child in our community has access to high-quality early education experiences that set them up for a lifetime of success."

The Authority would like to extend a special thank you to our dedicated WAPA volunteers including Administrative Assistant, Shania Lynch, and Lineworkers Juan Velez Jr. and Michael Edwards Jr. Additionally, none of this would be possible without the efforts of the Virgin Islands Department of Education (VIDE) to whom the Authority extends sincere thanks for the invitation to participate.

For students who were unable to physically attend, a 5-minute video was shared with those school through VIDE, which can be found on WAPA's social media pages that dives into the Authority's organizational structure, career opportunities and the future of electrical vehicles and renewable energy in the 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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