



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

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April 24, 2023



*Image: Marcus Knight, Maintenance Mechanic 1st Class, Water Department takes a moment at the Eco-Fair to share his responsibilities within the Water Department on Wednesday, March 19<sup>th</sup> at the Botanical Garden with older students from the Lew Muckle Elementary school.*

## **WAPA Participates in Eco-Fair on St. Croix to Celebrate National Earth Day**

U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS – The Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority (“WAPA” or “Authority”) is proud to announce its participation April 19-20, 2023, in the annual Eco-Fair held at the Botanical Gardens on St. Croix and virtually, in honor of national Earth Day. The event, hosted by the St. Croix Environmental Association, aimed to educate and inspire students to adopt sustainable practices and protect the planet.

The Authority conducted both in-person and virtual sessions, where students were taught how potable water is processed, the importance of water conservation and ways to incorporate more sustainable practices into their everyday lives. Marcus Knight, a member of the Authority’s Water Division, further elaborated on his role in providing water to the community and the reasons why water outages can occur. At the end of the sessions, students made a pledge to be more mindful of their consumption and waste, and to do their part in taking better care of the environment. Participating schools included, Juanita Gardine Elementary school, Good Hope Country Day, Lew Muckle Elementary school, Alfredo Andrews Elementary school, and St. Croix Montessori, amongst others.

"We are delighted to have participated in this event and to have had the opportunity to educate young minds on the importance of water and energy conservation," noted Shanell Petersen, Director of Corporate Communications at the Authority. "As an organization, we are committed to supporting initiatives in alignment with WAPA’s mission to protect our pristine environment, and we believe that education is a key component of achieving this goal."

In addition to the Authority, yesterday's eco-fair featured a variety of other government organizations, local businesses and non-profits who also shared in educating students on Earth Day and earth-friendly practices. "We are grateful to WAPA for their participation in our eco-fair and for their commitment to sustainability," noted Olivia Walton, Education Coordinator at the St. Croix Environmental Association. "Events like these are critical in educating and inspiring the next generation to make positive changes for our planet."

*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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