



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 Inspires Future Engineers Across the Territory to Close Out National Engineers Week



*Image: (Left to Right) Matthias Clarke, WAPA Mechanical Engineer I, Mone't Lewis, WAPA Talent Acquisition Specialist, and Guivd Montoban, WAPA Network Assistant, at Central High School interacting with students on opportunities in engineering and paid summer internships at WAPA.*

U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS (February 21, 2025) – To wrap up National Engineers Week, the Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority (“WAPA” or the “Authority”) returned to Bertha C. Boschulte (BCB) Middle School to host an engaging solar energy event for students. The WAPA Communications team led an interactive session where students made s'mores using a DIY solar oven while learning about the benefits of renewable energy and the vital role engineers play in developing projects like the three solar farms in the territory.

Through hands-on learning and discussions, students gained insight into the importance of sustainability and the career opportunities available in science, technology, engineering,

and mathematics (STEM). WAPA hopes events like these will inspire the next generation to consider careers in STEM and help shape the future of the U.S. Virgin Islands.

“At WAPA, we recognize that the future of the U.S. Virgin Islands depends on the bright minds of today’s students,” stated Shanell Petersen, Director of Communications, WAPA. “By engaging with young learners through hands-on experiences like the solar energy project at BCB, we aim to spark curiosity and inspire the next generation of engineers and innovators.”

In addition to outreach at the middle school level, WAPA Human Resources, Information Technology (IT) and Communications teams, alongside WAPA engineers, also attended the Central High School Career Awareness Fair yesterday. At the CHS Career Awareness Fair, WAPA actively engaged with high school students about the summer internship opportunities available and encouraged senior applications for the Alva C. McFarlane Scholarship. This scholarship provides substantial financial aid to students pursuing careers in engineering, technology, and other critical fields:

- **Bachelor’s Degrees** – Up to \$80,000 in funding
- **Associate’s/Technical Degrees** – Up to \$30,000 in funding

Eligible students are encouraged to apply before the deadline, February 28, 2025. Applications must be submitted online via the [online portal](#). For scholarship inquiries, please contact Tracie Wells, Assistant Director of Human Resources, WAPA, at [tracie.wells@viwapa.vi](mailto:tracie.wells@viwapa.vi).

As WAPA continues investing in future talent, the Authority also invites qualified candidates to apply for open engineering positions. These roles offer opportunities to contribute to impactful projects that strengthen the territory’s energy and water infrastructure.

For more information about the current career opportunities, visit WAPA’s [online career portal](#).

*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.*

###

---

**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.

(340) 774-3552 (STT/STJ) • (340) 773-2250 (STX) | [f](#) Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority | [t](#) @VIWAPA