



THE VIRGIN ISLANDS WATER & POWER AUTHORITY
CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS
NEWS RELEASE

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WAPA Celebrates Earth Day by Engaging Students Across the Virgin Islands



Power Production Maintenance Manager, Giddel Beresford (right) and Plant Maintenance Representative, Jahwanza Whyte (left) speak with St. Croix students about generating electricity with solar energy and producing safe water through reverse osmosis.

U.S. Virgin Islands (April 22, 2025) — In celebration of Earth Day, the Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority (“WAPA” or “the Authority”) proudly engaged with students on St. John and St. Croix, participating in community events to raise awareness about renewable energy, sustainability, and the importance of protecting the territory’s natural resources.

On April 15, WAPA took part in the 32nd Annual Eco-Fair hosted by the St. Croix Environmental Association at the St. George Botanical Garden. The event welcomed more than 450 students from grades 3 to 6, all eager to learn about environmental protection. At WAPA’s interactive booth, students explored how renewable energy powers both districts, how safe potable water is produced with our partners Seven Seas Water Group, and how everyday conservation habits make a difference.

Today, WAPA had another opportunity to bring a similar message of sustainability to students district-wide at the Friends of the Virgin Islands National Park Earth Day Celebration on St. John. The Communications team engaged over 600 students with interactive discussions on how solar power works, the importance of protecting natural resources, and the role each of us plays in building a cleaner, more resilient Virgin Islands.

“Clean, reliable energy and safe water are critical to the Virgin Islands’ future,” said Shanell Petersen, Director of Communications at WAPA. “Earth Day is a wonderful opportunity to introduce young minds to the systems that support our communities — and to show them how each of us can play a part in protecting our future.”

Through these Earth Day events, WAPA continues its mission to inspire the next generation and encourage sustainable choices that benefit the entire community. These efforts are part of the Authority’s initiative to encourage environmental education, customer engagement, infrastructure resilience, and career exploration opportunities within the energy and water industries.

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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