



THE VIRGIN ISLANDS WATER & POWER AUTHORITY CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS NEWS RELEASE

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Amid Heat Advisories, WAPA Launches “Together, We Power Through the Summer Strain” Initiative



Image: Glenis Weekes, Millwright 1st Class, performing equipment maintenance at the Randolph Harley Power Plant.

U.S. Virgin Islands (September 10, 2025) — The Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority (“WAPA” or “the Authority”) has announced the launch of its “Together, We Power Through the Summer Strain” campaign, designed to protect grid reliability as late-summer heat drives higher energy demand across the Virgin Islands.

WAPA has been taking proactive steps to protect the grid as temperatures reach their peak. These efforts include conducting daily inspections of lines and transformers, performing regular generator maintenance to meet high demand, and expanding the use of solar and battery energy storage systems (BESS) to reduce strain on the system.

At the same time, the Authority is encouraging customers to play a role by conserving energy, especially during peak hours (12:00 p.m.–2:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m.). During these times, small steps like setting thermostats between 72 and 78 degrees, limiting the use of

major appliances, and turning off unnecessary lights can help reduce outages and keep the system stable during the hottest months.

“Keeping power flowing reliably requires a community-wide effort,” said WAPA CEO Karl Knight. “Our battery energy storage systems, together with other initiatives, help maintain grid reliability and ensure adequate generating capacity. We are also expanding the deployment of BESS units to strengthen critical infrastructure. By working together through conservation, we can protect the grid and keep the territory fully powered.”

Residents and businesses are encouraged to join the effort on social media using the hashtag #PowerThroughVI to help raise awareness and inspire energy-saving practices. More information about how WAPA is actively addressing the summer strain is available at www.viwapa.vi/summerstrain.

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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