



THE VIRGIN ISLANDS WATER & POWER AUTHORITY CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS NEWS RELEASE

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Buckets of Fun! WAPA Teaches St. John Youth About Energy and Water



Figure 1. Roy Freeland, WAPA Certified Lineman 1st Class (top) shows curious campers the safety tools used to keep electricity flowing across the island. Joseph Wrensford, WAPA Water Plant Operations Supervisor (bottom) speaks with kids about how clean water reaches their homes.

ST. JOHN, U.S. Virgin Islands (July 11, 2025) — The Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority (“WAPA” or “the Authority”) brought energy, education, and excitement to St. John youth on Friday, July 11, 2025, during an outreach visit to campers from the Dr. Carla Sewer’s Art & Literacy Workshop, held in partnership with the Friends of Virgin Islands National Park at Cinnamon Bay.

WAPA’s Communications team, Water Distribution members, and linecrews visited the summer camp and connected with 15 curious and energetic campers, ranging in age from 4 to 13. The interactive visit focused on the journey of safe drinking water from the ocean to

homes on the island, and the critical role of solar energy in creating a more sustainable Virgin Islands.

The children learned how WAPA supports the community through solar power and safe water, including how its partner, Seven Seas Group, uses reverse osmosis to turn seawater into safe drinking water. They also explored why saving energy matters and how solar power, in partnership with VIElectron and VIRAPC, is helping to create a cleaner, brighter future for all Virgin Islanders.

One of the highlights of the visit was the hands-on demonstration by WAPA's linecrew, who shared stories about their daily work and showed campers the tools they use every day, including the grant-funded hybrid bucket truck. The children were thrilled to see the equipment up close, sparking curiosity about how electricity is delivered and maintained across the island by members of their community.

"We're always proud to educate our young residents and help them understand their power and water sources and the people behind our essential services" said WAPA Communications Director, Shanell Petersen. "Engagement on St. John plants seeds of curiosity and sustainability in the next generation."

By connecting with the campers, WAPA reinforced its dedication to educating and inspiring the territory's youth—encouraging them to take an interest in clean energy and conservation.

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.