



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

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## WAPA Sparks Solar Excitement at Paradise Learning Summer Camp



*Figure 1. Students at Paradise Learning Summer Camp build their own solar pizza ovens.*

St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands (August 5, 2025) — The Virgin Islands Water & Power Authority (“WAPA” or “the Authority”) brought the power of STEM to life last week Thursday, July 31, during a special visit to the Paradise Learning Summer Camp on St. Thomas.

Campers ages 4 to 9 were treated to an interactive, hands-on learning experience led by WAPA’s Communications team. The outreach aimed to spark curiosity about science and sustainability, with a focus on solar energy and how it contributes to a cleaner, more resilient Virgin Islands.

During the session, campers explored the power of the sun and learned how it can be transformed into clean, renewable electricity. They were excited to discover that there are currently four solar farms across the territory—Petronella, Spanish Town, Hogensborg, and

Donoe — with a fifth, Fortuna, on the way on St. Thomas. These solar farms are part of WAPA's broader mission to reduce reliance on fossil fuels and strengthen energy independence.

To make the lesson even more memorable, students rolled up their sleeves and built their very own solar-powered pizza ovens using everyday household items. The activity brought STEM concepts to life and helped campers understand how sunlight can be captured and used in practical ways.

"Our summer outreach initiative with campers across the territory has been a rewarding way to engage with young minds and support their growth," said Shanell Petersen, WAPA Communications Director. "I'm incredibly grateful to our team for their dedication in visiting camps this summer across the territory. As we conclude this season's activities, we look forward to continuing our relationships with the Virgin Islands Department of Education, educators and all those who play a role in shaping the future of our children."

By investing in early STEM exposure, WAPA hopes to empower the next generation of innovators and environmental stewards who will help shape a cleaner, more resilient Virgin Islands.

*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.