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Could St. John Become The Largest USVI Community To Go Fully Solar? VIElectron Says It's Possible

St. Croix advances in solar plans, St. John awaits legal resolution for green energy push

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At last week's meeting of the Water and Power Authority governing board, representatives from local solar development company VIElectron spoke of the company's current efforts towards fulfilling the power purchase agreements signed with WAPA.

After [facing board opposition](#) to discuss a key aspect of the power purchase agreements between WAPA and VIElectron, with WAPA board counsel deeming such dialogue premature, VIElectron founder Christian Loranger was asked by board member Cheryl Boynes-Jackson about St. John specifically.

Mr. Loranger said that the company's work plan has prioritized completing work on St. Croix, which he said is expected to finish "this year," before starting on St. Thomas. The pace of delivery for the various project, said Mr. Loranger, was largely dependent on the speed and efficiency of the permitting process, "although we're not expecting any problems and we're well underway."

Outside of awaiting the requisite clearances and approvals, VIElectron has to wait for an ongoing court case to conclude before moving forward with work on St. John. "We are currently in litigation on that property," Mr. Belanger said. "But I am hopeful that we will find a solution in short order and we are working towards that."

Once work does get underway on St. John, the hope is that the island would become the largest community powered solely by the sun. "We would very much like to make St. John run around the clock on the solar and battery," Mr. Loranger asserted, while noting that a backup connection to St. Thomas would exist for emergencies.

He notified the board that VIElection would be seeking to amend the power purchase agreement covering St. John to include more power generation as well as additional battery storage to fulfill this goal, ensuring sufficient supply to meet peak demand, with the ability to feed excess capacity back to St. Thomas.