



Annual Report

May 2021-April 2022

for a greener, cleaner, healthier BVI

greenvi.org



Green VI is a BVI not-for-profit organisation established in 2009

greenvi.org

Vision

A green, clean, healthy BVI that demonstrates a viable balance between the conservation of natural resources and development.

Mission

To demonstrate, facilitate and catalyse environmentally friendly systems through practical projects, education and innovation, with focus on waste, energy and water.



From the Board . . .

Catalysing Change

Dear Friends,

The prolonged impacts of the 2017 storms, along with the challenges of climate change, COVID, the war in Ukraine and political upset in the BVI, have not made it easy to remain optimistic as we map the way forward. And yet, we are optimistic as we reaffirm our strategic aims and objectives.

This hard-won optimism, significantly fueled by the tangible results of our work on the ground, is made possible through donor support, strong partnerships and community engagement. We have catalysed a viable recycling system, implemented cutting edge mosquito control, and are teaching young people how to grow their own food. We are honoured to serve our community, as we move toward a better BVI.

Now, our goal is to expand, strengthen and ensure the sustainability of our programmes and create models for waste management, vector control and resilient schools that can be

shared regionally and internationally. As Mark Litchenstien, a sustainability leader in the USA notes: "Green VI is realising a plethora of positive outcomes. We would be wise to replicate their structure, initiatives and how the organisation values people and builds partnerships."

We thank you for your support as we continue to meet challenges with kindness, collaboration and an unwavering determination to simply "do better" for our families and for the survival of future generations on this beleaguered planet. Together, we can make this difficult work possible.

Yours in service,
Green VI Board

Green VI Board Of Directors



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MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Together, we've achieved significant milestones toward a greener, cleaner & healthier BVI. Thank you!

WE RECYCLE



7031

Tons of Recyclables Diverted from Dumping/Incineration (cumulative)



7.6

Million Plastic Bottles Diverted (cumulative)



43

Tons of Glass/Plastic Upcycled Locally (cumulative)



2

Test Recycling Centres



52

Recycling Stations (VG & Tortola)



25

Jobs Created

OUTREACH & ECOPARKS



8,700

Persons Educated in Person (approx)



581

Outreach Engagements



2

EcoParks (Tortola & Virgin Gorda)

BUGOUT BVI VG



96%

Reduction in High Risk Breeding Sites (from 2016 baseline)



59%

Overall Reduction in Mosquito Breeding Sites (from 2016 baseline)



61

Traps Yielded 5,229 Female Aedes & 24,291 Female Culex Mosquitoes (Feb - April 2022)



4

Team Members Internationally Certified



10

Schools Assessed for Mosquito Breeding Risk Level

GARDEN PROJECT



4

School Garden Classrooms



2

Community Food Gardens/Nurseries

GREEN CERTIFICATION



12

Businesses Engaged



\$20K

Green Fund Contributions

WE RECYCLE

Creating the Way Forward



Polywood Recycling Bins are now made from plastics the public recycles

Seeing the Recycling Centre was inspiring! We're glad that Green VI partners with government to get the BVI to reduce, reuse and recycle. We learned that, when managed, some of the 7 types of plastic can be transformed into useful things, such as furniture. Please be kind to the Sorters and remember to rinse your recyclables! **Desmond Proffitt, MALE co-ordinator.**



With the recent fire that shut down the BVI's only incinerator, waste reduction and diversion are now more important than ever. We salute the unsung heroes of the Department of Waste Management as they step up to deal with our daily waste during this challenging time.

Together, we can **Reduce, Reuse & Recycle** and be part of the Materials Management solution, where waste becomes a resource for creating jobs and products. The **WE RECYCLE** programme continues to increase diversion rates and provides successful alternatives to burning or burying glass, plastic and aluminium cans:

- **Glass** - Crushed to Make Aggregate
- **Plastics** (#2, #4, #6) - Upcycled Locally into Polywood
- **Plastics** (#1) & **Aluminium Cans** - Exported for Recycling

Advocacy for legislation, infrastructure and systems is ongoing, with particular focus on a **Ban on Single Use Plastics**, a **Container Deposit Bill** and **Solid Waste Management Strategy Implementation** (with **Materials Management** emphasis).

IMPACT

7031	Tons of Recyclables Diverted from Dumping/Incineration (cumulative)
7.6	Million Plastic Bottles Diverted (cumulative)
43	Tons Glass & Plastic Upcycled Locally (cumulative)
2	Test Recycling Centres
52	Recycling Stations (VG & Tortola)
25	Jobs Created

BUGOUT

The Power of Community & Science

Because mosquitoes carry diseases such as dengue, Zika, chikungunya, West Nile Virus and malaria, they are the #1 cause of death worldwide. The BugOut programme aims to significantly reduce mosquitoes and protect the health of BVI residents and visitors through innovative best practices and collaboration.

We're excited to now have a Laboratory on Virgin Gorda (VG) for scientifically evaluating new mosquito control tools such as Wolbachia - a naturally occurring bacteria that prevents future generations from hatching. This is a non toxic method that does not involve genetically modified organisms. Our team has placed mosquito traps across VG, and mosquitoes collected are being counted and identified by sex and species per location. The data gathered will be used to better inform vector control efforts.

On Tortola, the Green VI team continues to work in tandem with Environmental Health to support Vector Control Operations. Together, we're showing community members how to reduce breeding sites and keep their families and neighbours safe from mosquito-borne diseases. As we've learned through COVID, epidemics can arise at any time and being prepared reduces risk factors.

VG IMPACT

96% Reduction in High Risk Breeding Sites (from 2016 baseline)

59% Overall Reduction in Mosquito Breeding Sites (from 2016 baseline)

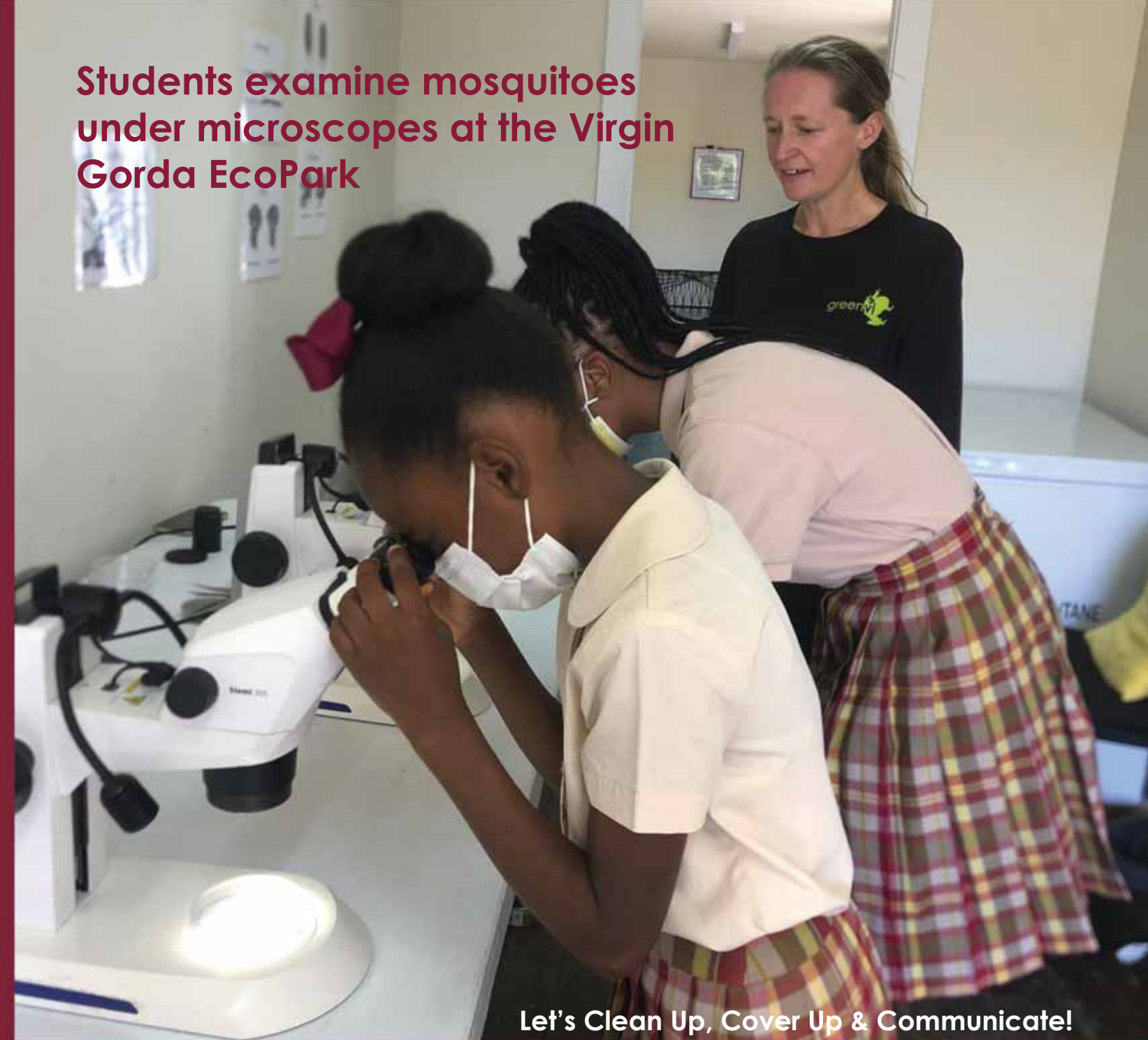
61 Traps Yielded 5,229 Female Aedes & 24,291 Female Culex Mosquitoes

BVI IMPACT

9 Team Members in Training

1599 Knowledge, Attitude & Practices Surveys Completed

Students examine mosquitoes under microscopes at the Virgin Gorda EcoPark



Let's Clean Up, Cover Up & Communicate!



"What stands out the most for me is Green VI's education component. My granddaughter's school was visited by the Green VI team and as a direct result, this six-year-old came home and told me about mosquitoes, recycling and preserving nature. She is calling words and describing concepts I never knew until I became an adult. I am impressed. If this is kept up, we do have a greater hope for the future health of our island paradise Virgin Gorda." **Paul Fenty, BugOut Steering Committee Member.**

GARDEN PROJECT

Connecting Us to the Earth



"I think composting is a great practice that should be introduced to more individuals. Together, we can make a difference in the way we grow our own food." **Renishha Rodgers, College Student.**

School Garden Classrooms

These are back up and thriving as we bring children outdoors to connect to the earth by growing food and composting. Composting is critical in our efforts to divert as much waste as possible from incineration or burial. It's a natural, low cost solution to feed and protect our soil and it also reduces odours, flies, cockroaches and rats in waste areas.

Mulch Project

Restoration of the Department of Waste Management's Chipper continues, despite complications, and the Chipper is now situated at the Department of Agriculture, near the EcoPark. In partnership with these two government Departments, the Chipper will soon begin processing Yard Waste to create mulch for enhanced agricultural practices.

IMPACT

- 4 School Garden Classrooms *
- 2 Community Food Gardens & Nurseries
- 3 Composting Workshops

**Leonora Delville Garden facilitated in partnership with Tidal Roots Farm.*

EDUCATION

Know Better; Do Better

Our education programmes offer fun, interactive ways to help people of all ages make lifestyle changes to protect the health of their families, communities and the environment that sustains us all. Education programmes include Green Time and Lesson Plans at schools, events such as Earth Day, community pop ups, on-site presentations, DIY cleaning product training, composting workshops and demonstrations at our EcoParks.

EARTH DAY 2022 Guava, soursop, cashew, avocado and breadnut are just some of the 44 fruit trees planted at 15 sites, including 10 schools, for Earth Day. As a key regional “hands-on” activity for this world event, we engaged 227 people, including 5 businesses, in showing how we can all be true stewards of the earth by planting trees. To sustain the plantings, we have a 2-year Sapling Management Plan to nurture each tree. [See JTV coverage: BVI Earth Day 2022](#)



"The Green Time initiative has proven to be very important in educating our students about the environment and how we should care for it. The resources provided by Green VI, through our weekly sessions, aid in my various Science and Social Studies lessons." **Allonah Williams, Little Rainbow 4th grade teacher.**



IMPACT

- 8700** Persons Educated in Person (approx.)
- 581** Outreach Engagements
- 44** Trees Planted on Earth Day (74 cumulative)
- 3302** Facebook Likes / 48,699 Reached
- 1157** Instagram Followers / 17,564 Reached

ECOPARKS

Sustainability in Action!

Visitors welcome! Our EcoParks on Virgin Gorda and Tortola are vibrant hubs of green activities, designed to engage and inspire visitors. We show people what sustainability means in practice and how they can apply these principles in their daily lives.

Among our most important Visitors are students of all ages who come to earn Community Service Hours and experience hands-on how and why we can “go green.” These experiences are applied both at home and at school and help immensely in spreading sustainability initiatives throughout the community.

On-site EcoPark demonstrations include:

- | | | |
|------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Recycling | Upcycling | Water Harvesting |
| Water Generation | Growing Food | Plant Propagation |
| Composting | Anaerobic Digestion | Bio-Toilet |
| Solar Power | Electric Vehicles | DIY Cleaning Tips |
| Mosquito Control | Community Service | Collaboration |

... and more. Come and see how simple and practical it is to “go green”.



The WE RECYCLE Tour was one of the most educational and life changing tours I have done. I felt a sense of relief, after many years of trying to figure out what to do about my personal trash at home and reduce my carbon footprint. I pass this information to others I meet daily. **Tony Tuckett, Tortola, BVI.**



IMPACT

- 2 EcoParks (Tortola & Virgin Gorda)
- 9600 Gallons Drinking Water Generated
- 5000 Gallons Water-Harvesting Capacity
- 13 Solar Panels
- 1 Compost Toilet with Anaerobic Digester

GREEN CERTIFICATION

Helping Businesses “Go Green”

Developed in partnership with the BVI Government, the Green Certification programme continues at a slower pace due to the impacts of COVID on local businesses. This programme incentivises, guides and educates businesses in best green operational practices through Pledge, Bronze, Silver, Gold and Leader Accreditation. Certification will become increasingly relevant when the Government passes the Environmental Management & Climate Resilience Bill.



IMPACT

12 Businesses Engaged

\$20K Green Fund Contributions



"In 2021, Eustatia became the first Green Certified hospitality business. This was a mutually beneficial step, as it helped standardise the recycling and sustainability practices of the island's operation, as well as providing funding to support the Eco-Parks on Virgin Gorda and Tortola. The EcoParks demonstrate to the government and community that a greener, cleaner & healthier BVI is an achievable reality."
Jonathan Oakes, Ambassador of International Properties & Projects.

THE FUTURE LOOKS BRIGHTER

WE RECYCLE

In partnership with the Department of Waste Management and the BVI community, we aim to **double current Recycling Rates** over the next year and collaborate to implement systems for **Organics Management**.

The WE RECYCLE Programme will be supported by two international grants that will begin this year. Working with local partners, the **Resilience, Sustainable Energy & Marine Biodiversity Programme (RESEMBID)** grant aims to increase the resilience of schools in the BVI. Waste Reduction & Recycling Systems will be set up in 15 schools, and will include implementing Drinking Water Systems to reduce single use



plastic water bottles. Also, School Garden Classrooms will be expanded and children will be taught composting to reduce the volume of organics being thrown away. An added benefit is that managing food waste properly reduces odours and vermin.

Additionally, a **Prevention of Marine Litter in the Caribbean Sea (PROMAR)** grant to strengthen the Plastic Management Strategy in the BVI will be implemented in late 2022. This project will enhance data collection, explore additional circular economy solutions and facilitate extended producer responsibility programmes.



BUGOUT

Working with Environmental Health, the BVI Red Cross and the Department of Education, we continue to expand the BugOut programme throughout the BVI to help communities decrease the risk of mosquito borne diseases by reducing breeding sites. With additional support from a European Union grant, the BugOut Programme will be strengthened to support enhanced mosquito control at 15 BVI public schools.

Since February 2022, we have been collecting mosquitoes on Virgin Gorda to identify their species and sex. These data, coupled with a Mark, Release & Recapture Study in July 2022, will determine the viability of the Wolbachia tool - a natural mosquito management solution that does not involve genetically modified organisms or chemicals. Should the current evaluations prove positive, implementation will begin before the end of the year.



GARDEN PROJECT

School Garden Classrooms:

The RESEMBID grant will facilitate the implementation and facilitation of up to 15 School Gardens. The gardens will feature Category 5 hurricane-rated tool sheds, locally made pergolas made from Polywood, food gardens and water harvesting systems. Green VI's Garden Lesson Plans, which have been incorporated into the BVI curriculum, will be taught in these outdoor spaces.

Compost & Mulch Projects:

In partnership with the Departments of Waste Management and Agriculture, local farmers and local entrepreneurs, we are supporting a comprehensive Organics Management System. Food and yard waste will be processed to create compost and mulch, valuable resources that enrich the soil and reduce flies, cockroaches and rats. Importantly, composting and mulching can reduce waste going to the public dump sites by 40% - 60%.

PARTNERSHIPS

CORNERSTONE OF SUCCESS

Our working relationships range from one-on-one time with young volunteers to Memorandums of Understanding with Government. We happily count both local and international non-profits among our colleagues and readily turn to leaders in the field for best practices and innovation. We deem collaboration with our communities, companies, government departments and with every individual essential for creating a greener, cleaner and better BVI.

Upcycled polywood recycling bins made by VI Plastics



Local Partners

BVI Government:

Guided by Memorandums of Understanding, we look forward to continuing to work with the BVI Government to further establish a viable Recycling System, reduce disease-carrying mosquitoes and support select public schools in maximising their climate and disaster resilience.

Local Organisations

Green VI continues to partner with local entities, such as H. Lavity Stoutt Community College, the BVI Red Cross and Rotaract for a greener, cleaner & healthier future.

BVI Entrepreneurs

Our aim is to support entrepreneurs as we journey toward a BVI Materials Management System. Preliminary efforts in this regard include our partnership with VI Plastics to produce Polywood for locally-made recycling bins, pergolas and furniture. When the Tortola Glass Crusher comes online, we will work with Government, Greencrete, Blockworks VI and other entrepreneurs to increase the use of recycled glass aggregate in local construction.

We also expect to work with local entrepreneurs on Organics Management solutions as the necessary infrastructure and systems are set up. As the Territory formally adopts a Circular Economy, more opportunities to collaborate will arise with other entrepreneurs. We especially look forward to the time when Recycling Centers are established by the Government and operations are outsourced to local businesses.

International Partners

Green VI continues to maintain and develop regional and international relationships and explore new partnerships and information-sharing opportunities. Currently, our international friends include the Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands, Island Green Living Association, Virgin Islands Recycling Partnership and Ice River Springs.



THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS AND SUPPORTERS



THE FAILE
FOUNDATION

VISIONNOVA

EUSTATIA ISLAND
BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS
18°30'33.44"N, 64°27'26.34"W

TRADEWINDS

Nanny Cay

SMITHSGORE

VPBANK

CAREY
OLSEN



unitebvi
FOUNDATION



the
Palmer
foundation



ICE RIVER
SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS

Digicel



National Bank
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CIL Caribbean Insurers Ltd.

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DONORS AND SUPPORTERS

This important work is made possible by family, friends, individuals and organisations giving us their time, encouragement, wisdom, skills, resources, respect and love. With sincere gratitude, we extend special thanks to those whose generosity of spirit helps us advance environmental sustainability in the beautiful BVI. We are fortunate to receive many types of contributions, including local and international donations and funding from grant making institutions.



Online Donations

"Non-governmental organisations are essential in advancing efforts to counter climate change. They build resilient communities, improve well-being, create equitable opportunities, hone best practices, help develop sustainable economies and protect our life-giving ecosystems. GreenVI is effectively putting all of the above into action and realising a plethora of positive outcomes. We would be wise to replicate Green VI's structure and initiatives and, most importantly, how the organisation values people and builds partnerships." **Mark Litchenstein, Chief of Staff & Chief Sustainability Officer, SUNY College of Environmental Science.**

In Kind Gifts

"Green VI shows us what can be done if a community commits to being leaders and examples of responsible actions to create a green, clean, healthy, sustainable environment." **Elizabeth Cox, Faile Foundation.**



Gift of Time

"Changing the habits of any community, especially one that is remote and has the subsequent logistical nightmares, takes patience and persistence. I am gladdened by what I see in Green VI. They are a heartfelt, well organised group that inspires much hope." **Tara Domican, Community Volunteer.**



OUR TEAM'S PASSION



Thank you to our motivated & motivating team



Board Member

Green VI represents a sustained commitment to reducing our environmental footprint in the BVI - a sustained passion for not only changing the conversation about what it means to be green but actually taking tangible actions toward achieving this goal." **Dylan Penn, Public Estate Manager, Government of the Virgin Islands.**

Team Member

"As development and growth are inevitable, I truly believe that we must develop more sustainable practices to ensure a healthy, productive future for the next generation. This is being realised through Green VI's work as it catalyses systems, advocates best practices and educates our community on how to achieve Environmental Sustainability." **Lauralee Mercer Williams, Green VI Manager.**



Government Partner

"The recycling initiative poses both internal and external challenges, as we work to sensitise the public to increasing environmental pressures. Green VI has helped us navigate these challenges by providing the education and support needed for success. Their knowledgeable recommendations help ensure that the BVI Government will fulfil its mandate to create a greener, cleaner environment for our children's future." **Corina Corea, Department of Waste Management.**



What can you do?

For over twelve years, Green VI - a local non-profit - has been engaged in the formidable task of bringing about green change in the British Virgin Islands. Our Mission to demonstrate and facilitate environmentally friendly systems is far-reaching, well documented and easy to understand at greenvi.org.

We need your help. Whatever support you can give - hands-on volunteering, lending a voice to advocacy, donating money, sharing expertise or simply passing on the message - it's all much appreciated and it all makes a difference in how we can live better and be better.

You can help by giving Green VI a gift today.

Your gift helps us to...

- **Preserve** the natural beauty of the BVI
- **Advocate** to protect human and environmental health
- **Educate & Empower** communities to be independent
- **Research & Innovate** sustainable waste, energy & water projects
- **Promote** food security
- **Foster collaboration** for environmental responsibility
- **Promote positive behaviour change** in our communities

Donate now at
greenvi.org/donate/



