



# Annual Report

1 May 2019 - 30 April 2020

for a greener, cleaner, healthier BVI | [greenvi.org](http://greenvi.org)



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

**Vision**

A green, clean, healthy, and prosperous BVI, where the well-being of the people is of primary importance and a balance is maintained between conservation of the natural environment 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...

Together, we have made great progress from A to Z - Advocacy to Zika - despite these difficult times. A heartfelt "thank you" is extended to our community, donors and partners. We're all in this and, through collaboration, we can weather this storm. As we move toward a greener, cleaner, healthier and more prosperous BVI, we'll continue to help increase our resilience by focusing on Waste Management, Alternative Energy, Food Security and a Green Economy.

The coronavirus stay-at-home mandate allowed us to rethink the way forward, and this led to more recycling, composting, and home gardens. We are embracing the "care more, use less" concept. The result? By the end of April, 23,212 tons of waste were diverted from being burned, and 33 new public recycling points were added during the spring lockdown.

41 businesses have embarked on a green journey through Green Certification, and our 5 School Gardens harvested home-grown fruits and vegetables. On Virgin Gorda, we've reduced high risk mosquito breeding sites by 84%, and installed solar systems on Tortola. Facebook likes are up by 31% - just one way we're catalysing the behaviour changes critical to sustainable living.

As we navigate the uncharted waters of COVID-19, the vulnerability of small island states is brought home again. For many years, climate change and outmoded systems have resulted in serious threats to our fragile environment. This reminds us – in no uncertain terms – that the time to rethink our priorities and how we live is now.

Stay safe and be kind - together, we're making a difference.



Henry Creque



Dr. Ronald Georges



Vanessa King



Charlotte McDevitt  
Executive Director



Abigail O'Neal



Dylan Penn

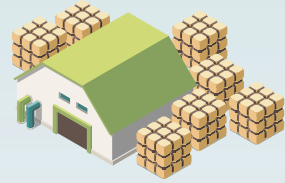
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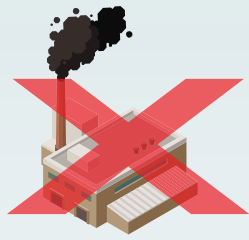
# AN IMPACTFUL YEAR

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

## WE RECYCLE



**2** test recycling centres



**3212** tons of recyclables diverted from dumping/incineration (cumulative)



**4** million plastic bottles diverted



**17.35** tons of glass/plastic upcycled locally (cumulative)



**15** Jobs created



**51** recycling stations



**2845** educated in person

## GREEN CERTIFICATION



**1505** people trained



**41** engaged businesses



**\$47K** Green Fund contribution

## BUGCUB



**84%** reduction in high risk breeding sites on VG



**64%** reduction in high risk breeding sites in East End, Tortola



**1211** people educated on Virgin Gorda



**11** cleanups

## GARDEN PROJECTS



**5** school gardens



**100** students taught

Polywood signs made on Tortola from recycled plastics. Soon all BVI public recycling bins will be made from this upcycled material



Dixie Duggins, a plumber at Dr. D Orlando Smith Hospital, placed receptacles for plastic bottles around the hospital to promote recycling. When asked why, he responded: *“My daughters have respiratory problems and the burning at Pockwood Pond makes them worse, so this is something I can do to help them. The WE RECYCLE Programme helps my family and others to breathe cleaner air.”*

# WE RECYCLE

Healthy Waste Management Works! Since 2016, Green VI and the BVI Government have partnered in designing and facilitating WE RECYCLE. As a result, 3,212 tons of recyclables (glass, plastic and aluminum cans) have been diverted from incineration, open burning and dumping.

Test Recycling Centres on Tortola and Virgin Gorda sort, bale, and process recyclables. Building these centres has created 15 new BVI jobs and provided materials for local entrepreneurs to upcycle.

With 51 public drop-off sites – 33 added on Tortola during the COVID lockdown in April – the “WE” in WE RECYCLE has become a dynamic reality. The participation of individuals and businesses has led to greater public involvement in solving waste management problems.

## IMPACT

**51** Recycling stations

**3212** Tons of recyclables diverted from incineration/ dumping (cumulative)

**4M** Plastic water bottles diverted

**17.35** Tons of glass / plastic upcycled locally (cumulative)

**15** Jobs created

# BUGOUT

Green VI, the BVI Government and active communities are making the BVI healthier when it comes to disease-threatening mosquitoes. Monthly cleanups, infrastructure repairs, and data-driven use of larvicides have resulted in an 84.19% reduction in high risk breeding sites on Virgin Gorda and a 63.49% reduction in East End, Tortola. Guided by a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Health, a BugOut pilot on the East end of Tortola has been conducted. Although COVID halted BugOut's physical outreach operations in March & April, we increased our social media messaging, reminding people how to reduce mosquito breeding in and around their homes.

## IMPACT

**84%** Reduction in high risk breeding sites on VG

**64%** Reduction in high risk breeding sites in East End, Tortola

**1211** People educated in person

**11** Clean ups



*"Because of the BugOut Programme, viruses such as Zika, Dengue and Chikungunya are kept in check on the island of Virgin Gorda. This is especially important during the pandemic that we all face right now."*  
Rick Williams, VG Resident





# GARDEN PROJECT

Our Garden Project fosters food security for a sustainable BVI through gardening, composting and mulching in schools and communities. We've established vibrant gardens at five primary schools through partnerships with educators and communities. Four are on Tortola – Ebenezer Thomas, Francis Lettsome, Joyce Samuels, Leonora Delville – and one is on Virgin Gorda at Bregado Flax.

Through this project, we've grown relationships and gardens that cultivate positivity, connection, environmental responsibility, food security and a new kind of classroom. We're pleased and proud that our interactive Lesson Plans, which have been adopted into the BVI National Curriculum, are being taught in schools. When COVID restrictions ease and schools reopen, both Gardens and Lesson Plans will be reactivated.

For more information and Lesson Plans, visit our website.

## IMPACT

**5** School garden classrooms

**100** Children educated

*"Having to put in the work and then to see the reward was very gratifying for the students. They enjoyed and took great pride in caring for the garden and reaping their crops. They saw first hand how agriculture can earn a living, as well as feed families, making it very beneficial."*

Tekeisha Thomas Herman, Teacher at Francis Lettsome Primary School



# GREEN CERTIFICATION

Green Certification incentivizes, guides and educates businesses in best green operational practices through Bronze, Silver, Gold and Leader Accreditations. Developed in partnership with the Ministry of Natural Resources, the programme promotes corporate environmental responsibility and provides critical financial support for environmental education through its Green Fund.

## IMPACT

**41** Businesses engaged

**1505** People trained in person

**\$47K** Green fund contribution



“Since working with Green VI, VP Bank has implemented recycling and composting systems that greatly benefit both our staff and our Territory. Thanks to Green VI and the enthusiasm of VP Bank staff, we understand what and how much waste is generated from our everyday activities, and how we can reduce the waste stream, as well as reuse and recycle these items. At work, we have reduced our reliance on single-use plastics, which ultimately results in a less polluted environment. In our homes, the separated waste items now include food scraps, which go into counter-top bins that we have provided to employees; the resulting compost enriches the BVI soil. These are just two of the many knock on effects of the Green VI training, and we believe that our greater awareness and positive action makes a big difference. We continue to spread the message to “care more, use less” to our friends, family and the wider community.” Joanna Vass, Client Advisor, VP Bank.





# ONGOING WORK



## RESEARCH

Green VI integrates ongoing research findings into all its programme themes: Waste, Energy, Education, Water and Innovation:

**Sustainable Island Practices** All over the world, islands are at the forefront of adapting to climate change. We are constantly learning and sharing information with others to discover what may work best for the BVI.

**Technologies** We test small scale solutions that, if successful, can be expanded and replicated for island systems.

**Traditional Practices** Our past teaches us valuable lessons. For example, kitchen gardens, common a generation ago, can now play an important role in food security and independence.

## ADVOCACY

In keeping with our eleven years of work in protecting human and environmental health, we support and champion:

**Recycling Centres** developed by Government (based on data from our Test Recycling Centres) on each of the BVI's main islands, with operations outsourced to local contractors.

**Ban on Plastics** (such as disposable food-ware and bags) with a concurrent import duty exemption for eco-friendly alternatives, to significantly reduce plastic pollution.

**Container Deposit Bill** to ensure the critical long term funding for BVI recycling to continue.

**Renewable Energy** Government incentives to increase the use of green energy sources and jobs.

**Regenerative Agriculture** incentives to increase food security.

**Vector Control** innovative technologies and techniques, the use of data to accurately target operations, and increased community participation to significantly reduce the threats of mosquito-borne diseases.

Photo Credit: GIS

# We're still .....

## EDUCATING

We have many fun, interactive ways to help people of all ages understand how to make daily choices that lead to behaviour changes that protect their health, their family's health, and the environment that sustains us all.

Our updated website is a wealth of information on how to live green and healthy in the BVI. Like and follow our Facebook and Instagram accounts for updates and Green Tips.



LESSON PLANS



PRESENTATIONS



PUBLICATIONS



DOOR TO DOOR



FIELD TRIPS



CLEAN UPS

## PROMOTING ALTERNATIVE ENERGY

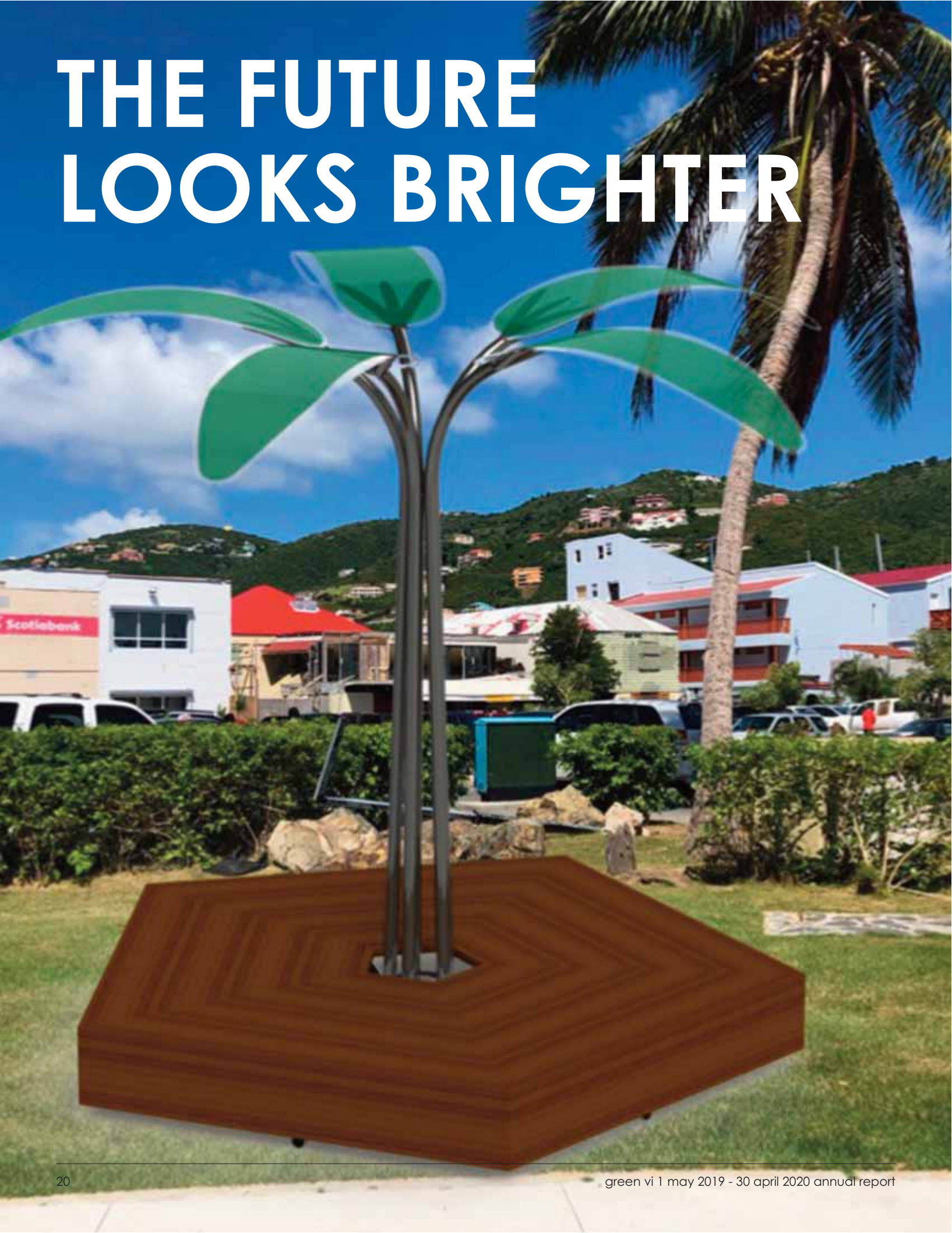
Along with outreach education, Green VI continues to dynamically promote the use of alternative energy:

Our **Electric Cars** on Tortola and Virgin Gorda continue to demonstrate their efficiency on our hills, their low running costs and zero emissions.

Various **Solar Installations** are showing how to harness our natural sunlight. One installation - soon to be interconnected to BVIEC's power grid - will be a big first for the BVI.



# THE FUTURE LOOKS BRIGHTER



## WE RECYCLE EXPANSION

In partnership with the Government of the BVI and local partners, we're expanding the WE RECYCLE Programme to Jost van Dyke and Anegada. We hope to receive funding to purchase a Glass Crusher for Tortola and use the aggregate produced for roads, construction projects and landscaping.

## BUGOUT EXPANSION

We'll soon launch an education campaign throughout the BVI to help communities decrease the risk of mosquito-borne diseases by reducing breeding sites.

## GARDEN PROJECT EXPANSION

**School Garden Classrooms:** Once schools are back, we'll re-establish our five garden classrooms and link these to the community. We aim to set up at least one new school garden on each of our main islands.

**Composting & Kitchen Gardens 101:** Look out for our online and in-person workshops that will show you how to compost, feed your soil and grow your own food.

**Mulch Project:** In partnership with the Departments of Waste Management and Agriculture and local farmers, Green VI will launch the "Mulch Project". Wood chippers on Tortola, Virgin Gorda and Jost van Dyke will reduce bush and tree cuttings to mulch for covering to suppress weeds, retain soil moisture, and improve soil structure, drainage, and nutrient-holding capacity.

## RENEWABLE ENERGY

**Solar Tree:** In July 2020, with our project partners, a solar tree will be installed in the Noel Lloyd Action Park on Tortola that will convert sunlight into clean energy through solar film integrated into the "leaves". Folks will be able to sit down in the shade of the OPtree and charge their phones with power from the sun.

**YEP Grid Tie:** When complete, YEP's solar system will be the BVI's first that interconnects to BVI Electricity's grid. This will be a huge step forward in providing the Territory's energy needs through the abundant, natural force of the sun. Also, data from the system will be shared with the community for a better understanding of BVIEC's renewable energy regulations.

**VG EcoPark Solar Installation:** Our Virgin Gorda Ecopark office will be run off of 13 solar panels linked to an inverter and battery. This project will demonstrate how the clean power of the sun can reduce electricity bills.

**Anaerobic Digesters & Compost Toilets:** Our EcoParks will feature compost toilets linked to Anaerobic Digesters, wherein bacteria break down organic waste to produce methane to power a gas cooking stove.

## TORTOLA ECOPARK

The EcoPark will feature renewable energy, water production technologies, materials management; designed to support entrepreneurs and inspire visitors in what will be an innovative, sustainable, scalable and replicable model.

# PARTNERSHIPS; THE CORNERSTONE OF SUCCESS

Green VI actively seeks and fosters relationships with Governments, Communities, Schools, Churches, Clubs, Institutions and Businesses in order to build and maintain meaningful collaboration. These Partnerships are essential to the successful, sustainable work required to meet the pressing needs of our times.



## Local Partners

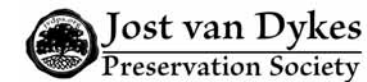
**Government:** Green VI continues to partner with the Government on the WE RECYCLE Programme, following the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed in April 2019 with the Ministry of Health & Social Development. The MoU outlines this partnership to guide BVI Recycling and Materials Management.

### NPO's

Green VI continues to partner with local NPO's, such as Unite BVI and the Jost van Dyke Preservation Society, to make recycling a sustainable reality throughout the Territory.

### Local Entrepreneurs

We have partnered with VI Plastics to facilitate the production of polywood for locally made recycling bins and furniture. We aim to work with Greencrete and Blockworks VI to increase the use of recycled glass aggregate in local construction, and encourage other sustainable ventures in upcycling.



## International Partners

Green VI participated in the following international conferences to explore partnerships and information-sharing opportunities:

- Clinton Global Initiative
- Caribbean Permaculture Research Institute of Barbados

We continue to partner with the Community Foundation of the USVI, the USVI Recycling Partnership, Island Green Living on St John, Ocean River Institute and Sunew to share information and resources. New partnerships are being explored with Earthship Biotecture, VIPA LAUSANNE S.A, St Martin, St Barts, Martinique, Guadeloupe, Canada and the US.



# THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS AND SUPPORTERS



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Mark Chapman

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# THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS AND SUPPORTERS



None of this important work is possible without family, friends, individuals and organisations who give 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. In addition to financial funding from local and international donors, we are fortunate to receive many types of contributions, including:



## In Kind Gifts

Voyage Charters kindly hosted Green VI on their electrified sailing yacht for our annual Board & Staff Retreat. Designed and built by Voyage, this eco-yacht is a BVI "first" among charter vessels, and we were treated to luxury sailing using the latest electric drives, renewable power and a high efficiency generator.

## Personal Financial Gift

Toni and Larry Lyerly's love of sailing, the ocean, a clean earth and the BVI, led them to start helping Green VI achieve its vision in 2010. Through personal donations, family foundation grants and a recent planned gift, they continue to fund our critical planning and development. *"We were so happy about the timeliness of our Charitable Remainder Trust gift, which helped Green VI make a positive impact during the COVID-19 pandemic."*



## Gift of Time

*"I thank you from the bottom of my heart for the experience I had this summer. To work with you and everyone else in something I am so passionate about opened my eyes to a whole new perspective ...thank you for allowing me to be a part of something so impactful on the lives of others and in the islands."* Nikita Mankad

# THANK YOU TO GREEN

# FUND CONTRIBUTORS



In addition to a green fund contribution, the Grant Thornton team worked alongside Leonora Delville students to prepare their Garden Classroom.



# OUR TEAM'S PASSION



*"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. As a Board member, I look forward to working with our Team members, as we all move forward with dynamic passion and commitment."*

Dylan Penn, Board Member

*"In my 42 years in the BVI, I've known and worked with many non-profit organizations. Many have been stalwart stewards of our greater good, and none more so than Green VI. Steadfast, grounded in reality, sincerely dedicated to the Territory and truly charitable, Green VI is showing us how we can help pass healthy, protected islands on to our children. It has been an eye-opening privilege to be a member of this outstanding team. Onward . . ."*

Joanne Penney, Advisor



*"We are working toward a greener, cleaner and healthier BVI. Seeing the state of our dumpsites and Pockwood Pond was an eye opener. The collaborative WE RECYCLE Programme can significantly reduce this problem and show that there is a better way - reduce, reuse, recycle and upcycle."*

Greg George, Team Member





## HOW CAN YOU HELP?

These students are planting the seeds to keep the fragile environment of the British Virgin Islands green, clean, healthy and beautiful. To continue to nurture and grow our vision, we need YOU!

Your gift to Green VI 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 to create environmental responsibility

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Donate now at  
[greenvi.org/donate/](https://greenvi.org/donate/)

