

Annual Report

May 2022-April 2023

for a greener, cleaner, healthier BVI



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

greenvi.org

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 . . .

“The secret of change is to focus all of your energy not on fighting the old, but on building the new” Socrates

The past year has been intense, but the drive, passion and dedication of our team has meant significant progress in moving our work forward. We have done so through partnerships with government and other organisations, community collaboration, policy support, major international funding, and continued delivery of results across our innovative projects.

The WE RECYCLE programme, facilitated in collaboration with the Department of Waste Management since 2017, has diverted 8,394 tons of glass, plastic & aluminium from the dumpsite. Also, legislation for a Plastic Ban & Deposit System has been drafted, a BVI Organics Management System catalysed and local entrepreneurs supported.

Our world class BugOut programme continues to demonstrate an innovative non-toxic, non-GMO mosquito control tool, Wolbachia, that eliminates the need for poisonous chemicals.

The SMART School Project is underway and, through collaboration with

project partners, we aim to increase resilience in 14 public schools to certify them as “GREEN + SAFE = SMART”.

We’re grateful that our work is being recognised internationally. A professional crew from “The Fixers”, a U.S. reality TV show, created a remarkable transformation of the Tortola EcoPark that has strengthened current projects and catalysed new ones. The episode airs on Discovery International in early 2024. “Voice of the Oceans” also filmed us as they sail around the world highlighting exceptional work being done for the greater good.

And so, we continue to work to establish the BVI as a model for Zero Waste, Zero Mosquito Disease & Systemic Resilience. This is only possible through partnership, collaboration, commitment and intention. We invite you to join us on this exciting journey.

Green VI Board Of Directors

Yours in service,
Green VI Board.



Henry
Creque



Felice
Swapp



Charlotte
McDevitt
Executive Director



Sharon Flax
Brutus



Vanessa
King



Edward
Childs



Dylan
Penn

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MAKING A DIFFERENCE

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

WE RECYCLE



8,394

Tons of Recyclables Diverted from Dumping/Incineration (cumulative)



9.4

Million Plastic Bottles Diverted (cumulative)



57

Tons of Glass/Plastic Upcycled Locally (cumulative)



2

Test Recycling Centres



56

Recycling Stations (VG & Tortola)



26

Jobs Created

OUTREACH & ECOPARKS



11,184

Face to Face Engagements (BVI wide)



840

EcoPark Visitors



2

EcoParks (Tortola & Virgin Gorda)

BUGOUT
BVI VG



44%

Decrease in hatch rates



40%

Decrease in females (only females bite)



509,957

Mosquitoes collected and scored



12

Schools with Mosquito Reduction Protocols



9,381

Face to Face Engagements

SMART SCHOOLS



5

School Garden Classrooms



2,778

Face to Face Engagements (from Dec 2022)

GREEN CERTIFICATION



9

Businesses Engaged



\$47K

Green Fund Contributions

WE RECYCLE: Toward Zero Waste

The **WE RECYCLE** programme, a partnership between the Government of the BVI and Green VI, continues to increase diversion rates and provide an alternative to burning glass, plastic and aluminium cans. Glass is crushed to make aggregate, certain plastics are upcycled locally into Polywood (the new recycling bins are made from plastics the community recycles) and remaining plastics and aluminium cans are exported for recycling.

An Organics Management System is being catalysed. Initially, yard waste will be diverted to create mulch, followed by a food waste management system to produce compost. Green VI is supporting the development of a Ban on Plastic and a Container Deposit System that will decrease litter, increase recycling rates and fund the Recycling System long term.

Together, we can Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and be part of a solution whereby we use waste as a resource to create local jobs and products.

IMPACT

- 8,394 Tons of Recyclables Diverted from Dumping/Incineration (cumulative)
- 9.4 Million Plastic Bottles Diverted (cumulative)
- 57 Tons Glass & Plastic Upcycled Locally (cumulative)
- 56 Recycling Stations (VG & Tortola)
- 26 Jobs Created
- 2 Test Recycling Centres

"I have been through Solid Waste facilities from Belize to Honduras to Mexico, Rio and around the States and this is one of the best run facilities I have seen - the cleanliness and the organisation is so logical it's appealing. In Spanish, it would be asombroso- awesome."

Mark Lichtenstein - Executive Operating Officer & Chief Sustainability Officer, State University of New York College



1. Department of Waste Management's new Wood Chipper 2. & 3. Students learn how to recycle at the Virgin Gorda and Tortola EcoParks



BUGOUT: The Power of Community & Science

The BugOut Wolbachia Programme is a global leader in innovative vector control aimed at reducing, and potentially eliminating, the diseases caused by the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito, such as dengue, chikungunya and Zika. With government approval, the Wolbachia tool was added to our successful BugOut Programme in January 2023 to enhance our proven approach of integrating community education, source reduction and mosquito breeding data.

Our Mosquito Lab at the Virgin Gorda EcoPark welcomes visitors of all ages to learn how this naturally occurring, non-toxic, non-GMO tool for mosquito control is working to protect the health of residents and visitors alike.

VG IMPACT

44% Decrease in hatch rates

40% Decrease in females (only females bite)

509,957 Mosquitoes collected and scored

15,413 Mosquito eggs collected and scored

BVI IMPACT

12 Schools with Mosquito Reduction Protocols

9,381 Face to Face Engagements



“We are a visiting family and have been to the BVI many times before and were bitten by mosquitoes left, right and centre. This time, we don't seem to be putting repellent on. Lots of mosquitoes, but we are not getting bitten. Great job with what is going on!” **Tony & Maureen Hunter, frequent visitors to Virgin Gorda**



1

1. Comprehensive Mosquito Education in BVI schools 2. Continuous Mosquito Outreach 3. Clean Ups = fewer mosquito breeding sites 4. Only female mosquitoes bite! 5. Mosquito Traps for Reduction and Surveillance



2



3



4



5



1



2



3



4

1. Planting Food Gardens 2. Outreach aligned to the BVI curriculum 3. Waste Audits conducted 4. DIY Eco-Friendly Cleaning Workshops

SMART Schools: Building Resilience

The BVI SMART Schools Project is a longstanding partnership between the Department of Disaster Management (DDM) and the Ministry of Education to make the Territory's schools safe, healthy and green. Through EU RESEMBID funding, the expansion of this project supports 14 public schools to reach safe, healthy and green goals as they continue to recover from the 2017 category 5 hurricanes. Implementing partners, DDM, Green VI, BVI Red Cross and HLSCC Centre for Applied Marine Studies are committed to fostering greater climate resilience in the Virgin Islands by maximising disaster resilience in our public schools. Green VI's role includes facilitating the following in schools:

- Recycling Systems
- Mosquito Reduction tools and protocols
- Garden Classrooms with compost bins, water harvesting & irrigation systems, tools and upcycled polywood pergolas, sheds and raised beds
- Energy Audits and Energy Efficient Retrofits
- Water Audits, drinking water systems and DIY eco-cleaning workshops

All the above will be complemented with respective Education Programs integrated into the BVI curriculum.

IMPACT

2778 Face to Face Engagements

12 Schools with Mosquito Reduction Tools & Protocols

8 Recycling Systems

5 Garden Classrooms

2 DIY Eco-Cleaning Workshops

"The Green VI sessions at Robinson O'Neal Primary were very exciting and informative. Staff and students were able to gain much knowledge from the presentations and field projects. Teaching our students about growing their own food, protecting the environment and recycling will help develop a greater commitment to our island and help to make our Virgin Islands cleaner and healthier."

Ms. Norma Creque, former Principal of ROMPS



ECOPARKS: Sustainability in Action

Our EcoParks on Virgin Gorda and Tortola are vibrant hubs of green activities designed to engage and inspire visitors. We're honoured to have been chosen by "The Fixers" - a reality TV show that travels the world helping organisations working for the greater good. Their dynamic team partnered with ours and substantially renovated the Tortola EcoPark in April 2023, increasing the Park's educational impact by enhancing its demonstration projects. The episode will air early in 2024 on Discovery International.

Tortola EcoPark - some of the activities:

- Recycling
Water Generation
Composting
- Upcycling
Vegetable Garden
Electric Vehicles
- Water Harvesting
Seed Propagation
DIY Cleaning Tips

VG EcoPark - all of the above, plus:

- State of the Art Mosquito Lab
Compost Toilet
- Off-Grid Solar Installation
Biodigester

Come visit and see for yourself what's being done in the BVI and how simple and practical "going green" can be.

IMPACT

2 EcoParks (Tortola & Virgin Gorda)

840 Visitors

236 Community Service Students

"After spending a week observing GreenVI's work, while filming an episode of "The Fixers" television show, I returned home realizing that I need to "own" my trash and shift my habits to reduce, compost and re-use more. I had arrived with an understanding of the 3 Rs: Reduce, Recycle, and Reuse, and left having learned about the 4th, and possibly most important, R: Rethink. The work Green VI is doing in the BVI is an example other countries can, and should, follow."

Steve Beebe, Television Director



1. WE RECYCLE Competition Prize Giving at the VG EcoPark 2. & 3: Before and After "The Fixers" 4. VG EcoPark's Mosquito Lab 5. Compost Workshop at Tortola EcoPark



1



2



3



4



5

1. "Green" Training for TMF 2. Aerial BVI Field Trip to EcoPark 3. Oil Nut Bay "Green" Training
4. Nanny Cay Field Trip to EcoPark 5. St Mary's Green Pledge Signing

GREEN CERTIFICATION:

Helping Businesses "Go Green"

Developed in partnership with the BVI Government, the Green Certification Programme incentivizes, guides and educates businesses in best green operational practices through Pledge, Bronze, Silver, Gold and Leader Accreditation. This will become increasingly relevant as the Government passes the Environmental Management and Climate Adaptation Bill.

IMPACT

9 Businesses Engaged

2 Churches

47K Green Fund Contributions

144 People Trained



"Collaborating with GreenVI for our sustainability goals was truly impactful. Their team's expertise and engagement helped us grasp the importance of waste management and the training sessions prompted us to rethink our daily habits and recognize their influence on our professional and personal lives. Green VI helped us make big changes in our workplace and homes, solidifying our commitment to a sustainable future. Their work is vital for the Island's beauty, longevity and community health. As a team, we now better understand our role in driving positive change."

Kensley Monopoli, Wellness Specialist, The Aerial, Buck Island

ONGOING WORK

ADVOCACY

Advocacy for legislation and infrastructure systems for waste management, food security and renewable energy is ongoing, with particular focus on a **Ban on Plastics**, a **Container Deposit Bill** and the implementation of the recent **Solid Waste Management Strategy**.



RESEARCH

Green VI is constantly researching, learning and sharing information with others to discover what will work best for the BVI and other small island states. Our current focus areas are **Sustainable Materials Management**, **Traditional Practices** and new **Technologies**



EDUCATION

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. We offer educational forums, in-person consultations and group trainings that include topics, such as:

Recycling
Shrinking Your Light Bill
Home Composting

Greening Your Cleaning
Going Paperless
Reducing Mosquito Breeding

You can learn more on our website and social media platforms about how to create a “green” healthy lifestyle in the BVI.



1. SMART Schools Outreach
2. SMART Schools Garden Classroom
3. DIY Eco-Cleaning workshop



1. Clean up with Beyond the Reef 2. Drinking Water From Tortola's Air to Water Generator 3. Releasing Mosquitoes With Environmental Health Division 4. Food Garden Produce Sale 5. SMART Schools Mosquito Education 6. Industrial Glass Crusher Installed at Pockwood Pond to Process Glass "Waste"

THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT

WE RECYCLE

We're excited about the Territory's first formal Material Recovery Facility on Virgin Gorda (planned for 2024), implementation of the Organics Management Plan and activation of the Glass Crusher at Pockwood Pond. We trust the government will pass and implement the Ban on Plastic and Container Deposit System in 2024. Meanwhile, we'll expand the upcycling infrastructure and work closely with entrepreneurs to divert even more materials from being burned.

BugOut

2023/24 will see a significant increase in our team as we continue to work toward the elimination of invasive, disease causing mosquitoes on Virgin Gorda. Also, working with Government's Environmental Health Division, we'll establish a Mosquito Lab on Tortola to support data analysis and education on reducing mosquito breeding sites.

SMART Schools

Alongside our SMART School partners, we are full steam ahead to get at least 11 public schools SMART certified.

EcoParks

We continue to enrich our EcoParks as hubs of innovation that demonstrate sustainability related projects. On Tortola, this includes setting up a Mosquito Lab, additional Plastics Management components and installing a Solar Power System.

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. Collaboration among our communities, companies, government and every individual is essential for

Government

Guided by Memorandums of Understanding, Green VI continues to partner with the BVI Government to establish a viable Materials Management System, make our schools as SMART and resilient as possible and minimise the risk of mosquito borne diseases.



WE RECYCLE

School Competition in partnership with The Government of the BVI.



Local Entities

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

Entrepreneurs

Our aim is to support entrepreneurs as we journey toward a BVI Materials Management System. Preliminary efforts include our partnership with VI Plastics, which produces Polywood for locally-made recycling bins and furniture. We hope to work with local entrepreneurs on Organics Management solutions as infrastructure is 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.



VI PLASTICS

Amount of plastic that goes into making one piece of polywood.

International Partners

Green VI continues to maintain and develop international relationships to explore new partnerships and information-sharing opportunities:

- Community Foundation of the USVI
- Ice River Springs
- Island Green Living Association
- Verily Life Sciences





Our TEAM'S PASSION

Thank you to our motivated & motivating team



Board Member | Felice Swapp

There is an increasing stack of everyday yet dramatic evidence as to why it is critical for us all to meet the challenge of healthy and viable coexistence with and within nature. The global challenge is huge and we cannot solve it all, but I love that we are working hard and fighting hard here in our Virgin Islands to do our part and more. I believe that answers emerge from the combination of fact-based analyses and motivated people, getting the best from each so as to tackle problems with solid, applied understanding to the context and pragmatic realities. This union of science, pragmatism and active community engagement is at the core of the Green VI ethos and I firmly believe it is why there is such strong and meaningful impact across our projects.



Team Member | Vernessa Bellot

Green VI's BugOut Programme is paramount when it comes to keeping dengue, Zika and chikungunya at minimum levels on Virgin Gorda. Our dedicated team works tirelessly to eliminate and treat breeding sites, install and maintain an island-wide mosquito surveillance programme and educate the public on source reduction practices.

THANK YOU! TO OUR DONORS & SUPPORTERS



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THANK YOU! TO OUR DONORS & SUPPORTERS

“We are greater than, and greater for, the sum of us.”

Heather McGhee

This important work is made possible by 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:



Financial Gifts

“The Fixers” TV show seeks to make a long term impact within communities and bring awareness to the world of important issues. In my years working in film and television, I’ve travelled many times to small Caribbean islands where waste never truly leaves the island. I actively searched for an organisation that tackles this issue and Green VI is, by far, the most ambitious recycling organisation I have ever come across. Their passion for their island and the reduction of waste is unmatched. I’m beyond excited to see what the future holds for the EcoPark and Green VI as their efforts continue to grow!

Randy Kulina, Showrunner, “The Fixers”

In Kind Gifts

“Green VI’s partnership with the Faile Foundation has led to board, staff and community workshops on strategic planning and development. The family believes in empowering nonprofit organisations to become sustainable, and Green VI has been the organisation we have invested the most time and talent in. Green VI’s program growth, success and expansion to other islands shows the hard work the board, staff and community members have done and their commitment to strategic planning and implementation. We are happy to continue to work with Green VI as we develop models that can be replicated world-wide.”

Elizabeth Shonter Cox, Executive Director, Faile Foundation



Gift of Time

“It has been a pleasure for VISIONS participants to partner with Green VI these past two years and support them in their efforts to create a greener, cleaner, healthier BVI. Our focus has been to educate our teens on mosquito reduction and how to recycle, reduce, and reuse plastic, glass, and aluminium. We thank Green VI for their continued partnership!”

Megan Schenberg, British Virgin Islands 1 & 2 Director



What can you do?

Whatever support you can give - hands-on volunteering, lending a voice to advocacy, donating money or expertise or simply passing on the message - it's all appreciated and it all makes a difference in how we can live better and be better. For fourteen years, Green VI, as a local non-profit, has been engaged in the formidable task of catalysing green change in the BVI, with a Mission to demonstrate and facilitate environmentally friendly systems. The work is well documented and easy to understand at greenvi.org.

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/

