

# Annual Report

May 2023-April 2024  
for a greener, cleaner, healthier BVI



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

[greenvi.org](http://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 . . .

“Our collective strength will be our resilience.”  
Unknown

Fifteen years ago, Charlotte McDevitt planted the seeds for what has now become a dynamic environmental non-profit working toward Zero Waste, Zero Mosquito Disease & Systemic Resilience for the beautiful BVI.

Building on our 2011 Glass Studio Project, which produced works of art from discarded bottles, we’ve continued to demonstrate how waste can and should be used as a resource. Through the WE RECYCLE programme, a collaboration with the government's Department of Waste Management since 2017, 8,812 tons of glass, plastic and aluminium have been diverted from burning or dumping, which has significantly helped pave the way for the BVI's new Solid Waste Management Strategy on the road to Zero Waste.

With dengue fever on the rise globally, our world class BugOut Programme on the island of Virgin Gorda continues to demonstrate how an innovative non-toxic, non-GMO mosquito control tool, Wolbachia, can eliminate the need for poisonous chemicals and protect our biodiversity and health. In certain areas of VG, a 94% and 82% reduction in disease-carrying Aedes aegypti mosquitoes has been achieved, along with an overall reduction of 72%. These remarkable results showcase how a replicable, integrated approach can bring us closer to the ambitious goal of Zero Mosquito Disease.

Systemic Resilience, our third focus area, is dedicated to the overarching goal of a sustainable BVI. Recently, we’ve seen exciting and impactful progress in this area

through the collaborative RESEMBID SMART School Project. Upon completion, eleven public schools will be “GREEN + SAFE = SMART” certified, thanks in part to Green VI’s delivery of “green” infrastructure for food gardens, recycling, mosquito control, safe drinking and irrigation water and energy-saving retrofits. To ensure the sustainability of this work, we’re sharing curriculum-aligned activities and advising on the integration of a Green School Policy.

Our two EcoParks now host hundreds of visitors each year who learn first-hand how plastic and glass can be turned into products for new businesses and jobs, how gardening for food security is within everyone's reach, how water conservation works and how solar power - which now runs the entire Tortola EcoPark - is practical and possible. Also on the menu are a “lending library” for tools, electric car test drives and a “soon to launch” textile upcycling project that will turn discarded clothing into saleable products.

This dynamic, challenging and creative work has been made possible by our donors, partnerships with government and private organisations, community collaboration and our phenomenal team. So join us as we continue to work for the greater good and establish the BVI as a model for Zero Waste, Zero Mosquito Disease & Systemic Resilience that can be shared with other island states and beyond.

## Green VI Board Of Directors



Henry Creque



Felice Swapp



Charlotte McDevitt  
Executive Director



Vanessa King



Edward Childs



Sharon Flax Brutus

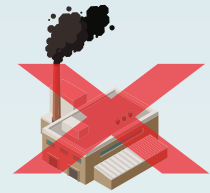
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# MAKING A DIFFERENCE

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

## WE RECYCLE



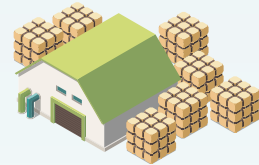
**8,812** Tons of Recyclables Diverted from Dumping/Incineration (cumulative)



**11.3** Million Plastic Bottles Diverted (cumulative)



**84** Tons of Glass/Plastic Upcycled Locally (cumulative)



**2** Test Recycling Centres



**53** Recycling Stations (VG & Tortola)



**39** Jobs Created

## OUTREACH & ECOPARKS



**911** EcoPark Visitors

**222** Community Service Students

## BUGOUT BVI VG



**94%** Highest Decrease in *Aedes aegypti* Females



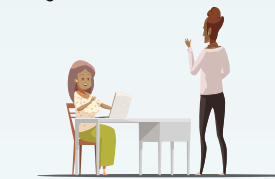
**1,237** Households Served by Releases



**1,144,932** Mosquitoes Collected and Identified



**12** Schools with Mosquito Reduction Protocols



**5,164** Face to Face Engagements

## SMART SCHOOLS



**15,450** Face to Face Engagements (from Dec 2022)



**11** School Garden Classrooms

**97** Curriculum Linked Activities

## GREEN CERTIFICATION



**10** Businesses Engaged



**68** People Trained



**\$69K** 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 and approximately 30% of plastics recycled by the community are upcycled locally into Polywood, which is used to make our recycling bins, school garden fixtures and other products. PET plastics, along with aluminium cans, are exported for recycling.

An **Organics Management System** is being catalysed. Initially, yard waste and cardboard will be diverted to create mulch, followed by a Food Waste Management System to produce compost. Green VI is supporting the development of a Plastic Ban 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 waste is used as a resource to create local jobs and products.

## IMPACT

**8,812** Tons of Recyclables Diverted from Dumping/Incineration (cumulative)

**11.3** Million Plastic Bottles Diverted (cumulative)

**1.8** Million Aluminium Cans Diverted

**84** Tons Glass & Plastic Upcycled Locally

**53** Recycling Stations (VG & Tortola)

**39** Jobs Created

**2** Test Recycling Centres



*"The Department of Waste Management would like to thank Green VI for another year of invaluable service to the Territory. Our Department and Green VI contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals by ensuring the public is engaged and has convenient access to our recycling system which diverts and repurposes plastic, glass and aluminium. We also moved a step closer to having BVI establish its own modern Material Recovery Facility, which will help us reduce our greenhouse gas emissions in the future. As the Director, I am honoured to have met and partnered with a passionate and dedicated organisation whose contributions allow us to sustain 'nature's little secret' for more generations to come."*

**Marcus Solomon, Head of The BVI Department of Waste Management**



# WE RECYCLE: Toward Zero Waste

GLASS



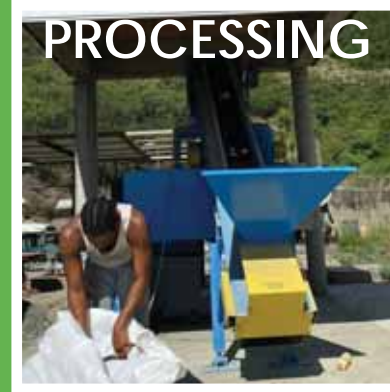
EDUCATION



COLLECTIONS



SORTING



PROCESSING



PRODUCTS



An industrial Glass Crusher is operational at the Pockwood Pond dumpsite facility. Glass aggregate is currently being used as cover material on the dumpsite to reduce fires. Aggregate can also be used for landscaping, pipe bedding, roads and building applications.

PLASTIC #1 & ALUMINIUM



PET#1 plastics are exported to Canada to become water bottles. The value of the plastics does not cover the shipping costs. Aluminium is exported and covers shipping costs but not collections and processing.

PLASTIC #2, 5 & 6



VI Plastics extrudes #2, #5 & #6 into moulds to make Polywood. Polywood is used to make outdoor furniture and recycling bins.

YARD WASTE



Chippers owned by Green VI and Department of Waste Management (DWM) respectively mark the beginning of scaled Organics Management in the BVI.

# 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 non-toxic, non-GMO Wolbachia tool was added to our already successful BugOut Programme in January 2023 to enhance our proven approach of integrating community education, source reduction and mosquito breeding data to protect the health of residents and visitors alike.

## VIRGIN GORDA IMPACT

**94%** Decrease *Aedes aegypti* Females at Oil Nut Bay

**82%** Decrease *Aedes aegypti* Females in First Release Area

**72%** Decrease *Aedes aegypti* Females in Release Areas

**1,144,932** Mosquitoes Collected and Identified

**45,143** Mosquito Eggs Collected & Scored

**2,956** Properties Inspected for Breeding Sites

**1,237** Households Benefiting from Releases

**106** BG Traps & 45 Ovitrap Installed

## BVI IMPACT

**12** Schools with Mosquito Reduction Protocols

**5,164** Face to Face Engagements



*I had the opportunity to observe the BugOut programme firsthand and engage with the dedicated BugOut and Verily teams. The use of the Wolbachia tool is particularly impressive, showcasing the BugOut programme's effectiveness in reducing mosquito populations. This innovative approach not only demonstrates significant results but also highlights the potential for scaling such interventions to other countries within the Caribbean region affected by mosquito-borne diseases. The island's waste management programme which is running in parallel is undoubtedly synergistic with BUGOUT's efforts in reducing mosquito micro-habitats, galvanising community engagement and public trust. The positive outcomes have provided a strong foundation for future efforts in mosquito population control and the broader goal of enhancing public health and safety in the BVI and beyond.*

**Dr. Kirk Douglas, Director of BioSecurity, University of the West Indies (UWI)**



# BUGOUT: The Power of Community & Science

## EDUCATION



## SOURCE REDUCTION



## SURVEILLANCE



## WOLBACHIA TOOL



# SMART Schools: Building Resilience

The BVI SMART Schools Project, a collaboration between the Department of Disaster Management, the Ministry of Education, the H. Lavity Stoutt Community College Centre for Applied Marine Studies, the BVI Red Cross and Green VI, aims to make schools in the British Virgin Islands more resilient, safe, healthy, and environmentally friendly. Through funding from the EU RESEMBID, 13 public schools are being transformed into greener, cleaner, healthier and safer learning spaces. These schools are leading examples of climate change and disaster resilience in our communities.

## IMPACT

**15,450** Face to Face Engagements

**97** Curriculum-linked Lesson Plans

**12** Schools with Mosquito Control Protocols

**8** Recycling Systems

**11** Garden Classrooms

**30** DIY Eco-Cleaning Workshops

*"With heartfelt gratitude, I acknowledge the unwavering support of Green VI in the BVI SMART Schools Project. Their dedication to fostering school resilience is commendable, and the impact of their efforts resonates throughout our communities. Green VI's implementation of "green" sustainability components in our target schools serves as a transformative catalyst. These components, coupled with complementary educational activities, empower students with the knowledge necessary for environmental stewardship. Together, we forge a path toward a more resilient and sustainable future for the British Virgin Islands, shaping a brighter tomorrow for generations to come."*

**Orlandette Crabbe, Acting Chief Education Officer,  
Ministry of Education**



# SMART Schools: Building Resilience

WE RECYCLE



BUGOUT



FOOD GARDENS



WATER & ENERGY



# ECOPARKS: Sustainability in Action

Our two EcoParks now host hundreds of visitors each year who learn first-hand how plastic and glass can be turned into products for new businesses and jobs, how gardening for food security is within everyone's reach, how water conservation works and how solar power - the entire Tortola EcoPark is now run on solar - is practical and possible.

Watch "The Fixers" BVI Episode that transforms Green VI's EcoPark. In this BYUtv Original reality series, an "A-Team" of experienced builders travels around the world, working tirelessly with communities to complete life-changing projects for people, building better futures, one project at a time.

## EcoPark Activities:

- |                     |                    |                               |
|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| Recycling           | Upcycling          | Water Harvesting              |
| Water Generation    | Vegetable Garden   | Seed Propagation              |
| Composting          | Electric Vehicles  | DIY Cleaning Tips             |
| Solar Installations | Biodigester Toilet | State of the Art Mosquito Lab |

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

*"The EcoPark is a great demonstration of the innovative & educational green practices that can have a positive impact on the environment for generations to come. I admire the We Recycle programme which shows that "waste" materials, which would usually be burned, can be used as a resource to make materials, such as polywood. As a past woodwork teacher, I have so many ideas around utilising this material, especially in the schools. I also loved the technology of the air to water generator which would be great for providing drinking water in schools. Most of all, I was delighted to be greeted by so many young persons on the Green VI team who see the importance of this environmental work."*



**Mr. Cecil Hodge, Deputy Principal,  
Elmore Stoutt High School**

# ECOPARKS: Sustainability in Action

EDUCATE



INSPIRE



DEMONSTRATE



INNOVATE



# GREEN CERTIFICATION:

Developed in partnership with the BVI Government, the Green Certification Programme incentivises, 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 and “greens” the Public Sector.

## IMPACT

10 Businesses Engaged

69K Green Fund Contributions

68 Employees Trained

1 International Training

1 Church



*"The Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change is pleased to have Green VI as our partner on the Green Pledge Programme as we work together to encourage public, private and community organisations on a path of environmental responsibility and stewardship."*

*The Green Pledge Programme now boasts over 70 Pledgers from a wide variety of sectors. Green VI has been invaluable in attracting new pledgers to the programme and providing training and tangible support on the ground to transform pledges into action towards a cleaner, greener, healthier Virgin Islands.*

*The Ministry looks forward to continued partnership with Green VI to further develop and establish a Green Certification Programme for The Virgin Islands, through which businesses and organisations can achieve Bronze, Silver, Gold and Leadership levels of certification which will deliver greater benefits and rewards."*

**Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change**



# ONGOING WORK

## ADVOCACY

Advocacy for legislation and infrastructure systems for waste management, safe mosquito control, food security and renewable energy is ongoing.

## RESEARCH

Green VI's work is being captured as part of a Doctorate study with a focus on Materials Management as a proxy for sustainability & regeneration.

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

## MODEL SHARING

Sharing our work with other island nations is key. This year we have facilitated a materials management workshop in Turks and Caicos and hosted Barbados Representatives who came to learn more about the BugOut Wolbachia Project.

## SUSTAINABLE FUNDING

As a not-for-profit organisation Green VI relies on contributions from private donors, Green Fund contributions and grants to do this important work.



# THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT

## WE RECYCLE

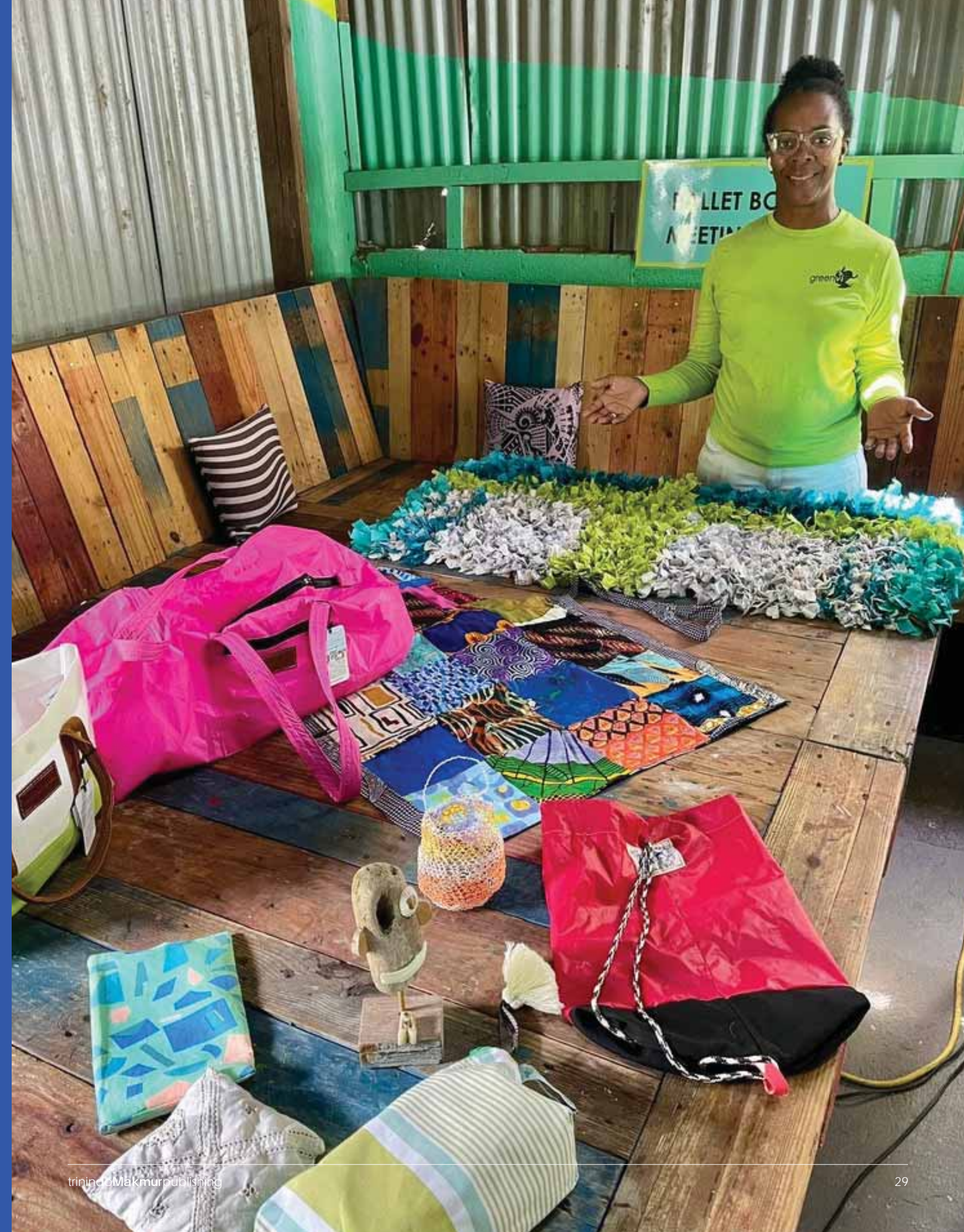
- Support Government in developing the BVI's first formal **Material Recovery Facility (MRF)** on Virgin Gorda
- Catalyse an islandwide **Organics Management Plan**
- **Textile upcycling** that will turn discarded clothing into saleable products
- Take part in **PROMAR** (Prevention of Marine Litter in the Caribbean Sea) to reduce plastic waste and promote circular economies in the BVI, Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, Colombia, St. Kitts & Nevis, Trinidad & Tobago, Guyana and Suriname

## BUGOUT

- Monitor and maintain the success of the **BugOut and BugOut Wolbachia Programme**, and the Wolbachia tool, on Virgin Gorda
- Assist with monitoring and surveillance of mosquitoes on **Tortola**
- Continue facilitating the BugOut education programme throughout the BVI

## GREEN CERTIFICATION

- Partner with Government to **green the Public Sector** between now and the end of 2025
- Help to demonstrate the BVI's broad-based commitment to sustainability



# PARTNERSHIPS:

## Cornerstone of Success

Collaboration is essential to solving the challenges we face as a species. Our working relationships range from one-on-one time with young volunteers to Memorandums of Understanding with Government and partnering with global island nations and technical experts.

### 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.



### 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, the Filipino Association, 284 Media, JTV, Rotary and Rotaract for a greener, cleaner & healthier future.

### Entrepreneurs

Our aim is to support entrepreneurs as we journey toward a BVI Materials Management System. Virgin Islands Recycling Services provide a host of collection, processing and infrastructure services. VI Plastics produces Polywood for locally-made recycling bins and furniture from plastics collected through the WE RECYCLE system.



### 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
- Mavericks



# Our Team's Passion

Thank you to our motivated & motivating team



**Highlight: Caden Fahie, Green VI Outreach Officer**

*"Working as an advocate for climate action, innovation, and sustainability has been a life-changing experience for me, extending beyond just a job that I love. I have had the opportunity to engage with people locally, regionally, and internationally.*

*One of the highlights of my work was representing the British Virgin Islands at the Overseas Territories Youth Summit in the United Kingdom, where I had the privilege of speaking about coral bleaching, youth sustainable entrepreneur practices and better waste management practices. My recommendations to address these issues were included in an action paper that will be used in all the British Overseas Territories over the next five years.*

*I also attended the Small Island Developing States Global Youth and Children Action Summit that aims to empower young people to address challenges facing their communities. Together with other Caribbean youth, our sustainable agriculture project that promotes local support of the economy and improves soil degradation was selected for implementation."*



# “THANK YOU”

## TO OUR DONORS & SUPPORTERS

With sincere gratitude, we extend special thanks to our donors, family, friends, individuals, and organisations who give their time, encouragement, wisdom, skills, resources, respect and love. We are fortunate to receive many types of contributions, including:

### Financial

*Green VI, an organisation dedicated to environmental conservation, has operated in the Territory of the VI for 15 years. Recognizing our shared commitment to the environment, the North Sound Foundation (NSF) has provided funding to support Green VI's work - in particular the BugOut Wolbachia programme, which aims to suppress the disease-causing mosquito, Aedes Aegypti. To date, the programme's success has been remarkable and the NSF team is proud of the outstanding work accomplished by the Green VI team.*

***Clyde Lettsome, Vice President, Oil Nut Bay***



### In Kind Gifts

*I donated two trays of various seedlings to the School Garden Classrooms because I like the initiative that Green VI has taken to partner with the schools to ensure that our children in the BVI will know how to plant & harvest their own food.*

***Mr. Orville Pemberton, Owner of Bay Farm/ Nursery***



### Gift of Time

*"Thanks to Maverick 1000 BVI Impact, this past March we had the unique privilege of visiting the recycling centre on Virgin Gorda. We came together to brainstorm ideas for supporting the mission and vision of Green VI and I was inspired to tears. Through my organisation, Momentum Consulting Inc. I am honoured to bring leadership coaching to this dynamic executive team. It is thrilling to know that working with Charlotte, Sarah, and Dylan, in partnership with the staff and the board, we can create great ROI. As Yanik Silver puts it, 'Ripples Of Impact!'"*

***Marlene Clarke, Co-Founder, Momentum Consulting Inc.***



# THANK YOU! TO OUR DONORS & SUPPORTERS



NORTH SOUND FOUNDATION  
BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

The Oakes Family  
Simon McDevitt  
Mark Chapman



Felice Swapp, John & Jill Maynard, Earill Sargeant, Elizabeth Cox, Orville Pemberton, Kira Samuel, Kaliyah Stevens, Asburt John, Bitter End Yacht Club, Mark Lichtenstein

# 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 fifteen 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](http://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 resilient
- Research & Innovate sustainable waste, energy & water projects
- Promote food security
- Foster Collaboration for environmental responsibility
- Promote positive behaviour change in our communities



