



Island Green Newsletter

Island Green Assists with Governor's Greening Bills

Three groundbreaking bills aimed at cleaning up – and greening up the USVI- were submitted by Gov. Kenneth Mapp to the V.I.

Legislature earlier this year. The bills mandate recycling, beverage deposit containers, and ban plastic bags. Island Green's President Harith Wickrema, who also serves as chairman of the Virgin Islands Waste Management Authority, worked closely with the governor to co-author the new bills along with Department of Planning and Natural Resources Commissioner Dawn Henry and Mapp's chief legal counsel Emile Henderson.

One of the bills includes implementing beverage container deposits around the islands, in order to reduce waste output. The beverage container deposits will collect bottles, as well as cans to be recycled.

The Plastic Bag Ban aims to ban single use plastic bags by local businesses and instead requires reusable bags.

Some businesses have self enforced the law, such as Starfish Market, who switched to paper bags this Earth Day, reducing their ecological footprint. We are proud to announce that the the V.I. Legislature unanimously approved the Plastic Bag Ban on Sept. 20, 2016, and it will take effect on Jan. 1, 2017.

The Source Separation Law will require residents to separate their recyclable/compostable waste from regular trash. Waste Management Authority will aid the community in proper waste disposal.

Governor Mapp submitted the legislation to Senate President Neville James on February 2, 2016.



From left to right, Doug White, Christie O'Neil, Harith Wickrema, Jim Dobrowolski, Senator Marvin Blyden, Rob Crane, Alice Krall, and Karen Vahling



Governor Kenneth Mapp

Many thanks to Doug White, Susan Collins, Chuck Riegel, and Judith Enck for testifying on behalf of the bills.

VISIT THE RESOURCE DEPOT

Do you have any items of value that you don't want anymore? Skip the landfill, and drop them off at the ReSource Depot! Do you want to refurbish your home or business for a lower cost? Visit the Resource Depot for construction materials! Our landfills are scheduled to close in 2020! Don't contribute to the landfill. RETHINK, reduce reuse, recycle!

Visit <http://iglavi.org/what-is-resource-depot/location-hours-contacts/> or email info@islandgreenliving.org for more information.

VOLUNTEER!

Our can crusher is back in action! Thanks to the St. John Community Foundation for assisting VIWMA with collecting aluminum cans for drop off at the Resource Depot. Now to crush these cans!

Do your part for your community, and volunteer with Island Green Living to help beautify St. John! The battle on climate change starts with you!

For more information, email info@islandgreenliving.org

Fundraising Challenge!

Wow! We just received wonderful news from a local resident, who wishes to remain anonymous, committing to donating \$30,000.00 contingent that we raise matching funds by December 31st. This means if you donate \$100.00, IGLA will receive \$200.00. Any amount large or small will be matched between now and the end of the year – a great opportunity for a tax credit, too.

Funds raised will help us catapult to a fully functioning operation which will help us in our day to day operation of The Resource Depot, can crushing and recycling, sustainable education, outreach, government advocacy, etc. The donor has made it clear that Island Green must raise the full amount to receive his \$30,000.00. The sooner we get there, the sooner we will receive the check and get started! Please give your best and tell your friends about this great opportunity to change our island for the better!

To make a donation, visit www.iglavi.org/donate or email info@islandgreenliving.org

If you would like to speak, feel free to call Harith on his cell at 215-620-8809
Thank you!

ISLAND GREEN'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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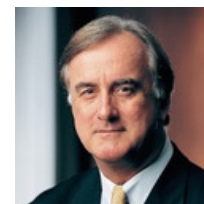
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We Are So Grateful to Our Major Donors of 2016

Brad and Juli Camrud



Brad Camrud, owner of the Link Group, and Julie Camrud have made an extremely generous donation of \$25,000. Brad and Juli are one of our biggest donors, giving \$10,000 last year, and committed to \$25,000 next year. Not only has Brad made extremely generous donations to IGLA, he also provides brilliant marketing insight to Island Green Living in order for us to gain more supporters for our cause of creating a sustainable St. John and USVI. Pictured above, Brad is sitting in a chair he made out of recycled material. Thank you Brad and Juli for your continued support and dedication to Island Green Living

BDO

Thank you to BDO, for a generous donation of \$2,500. Donations like these are vital to our vision of a sustainable St. John.

Joy and Andrew Stillman

Many thanks to Andrew and Joy Stillman for their donation of \$5,000 to Island Green Living. Andrew and Joy continuously support Island Green Living by making donations, year after year. We simply could not do it without you! Thank you for your dedication to your community and the environment.

Jim Dobrowolski Dr. Cool

Thank you to Jim Dobrowolski, President and CEO of US Facilities, Inc., and owner of Dr. Cool, for a very generous donation of \$10,000. Jim's donation will go a long way towards furthering our green initiatives, such as a Sustainable Living Center, which will help to establish St. John as a top eco-destination.

St. Croix Renaissance Group

Island Green Living would like to say a big thank you to the St. Croix Renaissance Group for a very charitable donation of \$1,000.



AT INNOVATIVE, WE BELIEVE IN
YOUR ISLANDS. YOUR WORLD.



Island Green Living would like to thank Innovative Technology for a very generous donation of \$20,000. As Island Green Living is a not for profit organization, we are dependent and so grateful for donations such as these to further our many green initiatives to continuously create a more sustainable St. John and US Virgin Islands.

Gallows Point

Gallows Point asks each guest to donate \$1 to Island Green Living for every night that they stay there. Over the last four months, Gallows Point has donated over \$2,000. Thank you so much to Gallows for your continued charitable donations to Island Green Living. If you own a local business and would like to donate any proceeds to IGLA please email info@islandgreenliving.org

**Above is a partial list of our
2016 donors.**

RETHINK

REDUCE

REUSE

RECYCLE

Island Green's Lobbying Efforts



by Alexandra Lipp

The grocery store Plastic Bag Ban is effective January 1, 2017. But what about reef-damaging sunscreen?

Island Green has been lobbying legislators to ban the importation, sale, and use of oxybenzone containing sunscreen in the USVI. Senator Marvin Blyden has embraced this vital cause.

Although oxybenzone is FDA approved, it hasn't been reviewed since the 1970's and it can be found in over 3,500 personal care products including sunscreen, shampoo, makeup, insect repellent, moisturizers, and even lip balm. The CDC found that 97% of Americans are contaminated with oxybenzone, and it has been found to have detrimental effects on humans, the coral reef, and marine life.



Scientists believe that coral is damaged when oxybenzone exceeds a concentration of 62 parts per trillion. Levels of oxybenzone in seawater near coral reefs in the USVI were found to be 12 times higher than that amount. Oxybenzone exacerbates coral bleaching, and reduces their ability to reproduce and build a community. Coral reefs contribute \$30 billion to local economies each year through tourism and



fishing. Coral reefs also serve as carbon sinks, absorbing carbon dioxide that would otherwise contribute to global warming. Dr. Craig Downs, co-author of a study on oxybenzone that was conducted in St. John, and prominent researcher on the effects of oxybenzone, stated, "We have lost at least 80% of coral reefs in the Caribbean. Any small effort to reduce oxybenzone pollution could mean that a coral reef survives a long, hot summer, or that a degraded area recovers." And oxybenzone isn't just toxic to coral- it's also toxic to algae, fish, sea mammals, sea urchins, and even humans.



This doesn't mean that you can't wear sunscreen to protect yourself from the sun- there are over 200 sunscreens on the market that do not contain oxybenzone and other harmful chemicals. Look for sunscreens with zinc oxide or titanium oxide as the active ingredient. It's very important to read the labels before purchasing these products- some sunscreens use ad hype, such as "Reef Safe," however, they may in fact contain oxybenzone.

Eliminating harmful chemicals from the products that you purchase is one small way that everyone is able to make an impact and help to preserve the environment. Please contact your local senators to help expedite the process of banning oxybenzone.

Plastic-Free St. John

Island Green is excited to welcome our newest board member, Ken Halden. Ken is spearheading our efforts to become the greenest island in the world, with his foresight and visionary efforts to make St. John a Plastic-Free Island: . With the passing of our Plastic Bag Ban, we are already on our way to a plastic-free island! However, we still have a long way to go with replacing plastic straws with paper, compostable to-go food containers, and many more efforts. to become plastic-free.

For more information on getting involved with Plastic-Free Island: St. John, visit www.plasticfreestjohn.com



Cool the School Project

by Alexandra Lipp

On October 5, Julius E. Sprauve School, along with community members, celebrated the installation of four air conditioning units, donated by Mitsubishi Electric, at the Cool the School Kickoff Event.

Island Green's President Harith Wickrema stated that after a meeting with Education Commissioner Dr. Sharon McCollum in 2015, the issue of uncomfortable temperatures in some V.I. classrooms was raised. Afterwards, Alice Krall, an Island Green volunteer and community activist got to work creating the Cool the School Campaign. Alice recruited Jim Dobrowolski, IGLA board member, and president and CEO of U.S. Facilities Inc, the parent company of Dr. Cool. Mitsubishi donated the units to Julius E. Sprauve, and Dr. Cool installed them for free.

The new air conditioner units run on a refrigerant called R410, which burns more cleanly and efficiently than other refrigerants. Jim Dobrowolski shared, "You live in one of the most beautiful places in the world. So with Mr. Wickrema and Island Green Living, we are trying to keep it one of the most beautiful places in the world, to keep it green, keep it environmentally friendly, to keep it energy efficient."



In addition to Harith Wickrema and Jim Dubrowolski, board members Doug White, Rob Crane, Karen Vahling, and Christie O'Neil represented Island Green at the Cool the School Event.

Senator Marvin Blyden, Vice Chairman of the Energy Committee, stated, "This kind of public-private relationship is very critical, because this could not have been done without the generous help of Dr. Cool." October 5th was just the kickoff of Cool the School, as it will continue until all USVI schools have adequate air conditioning.

Please contact info@islandgreenliving.org if you are interested in sponsoring an installation.

Meet the Interns



Alexandra Lipp is a senior at Temple University, majoring in Tourism and Hospitality Management, with a concentration in Hospitality Operations. Alex arrived in St. John in September, and will intern with Island Green Living until mid-December 2016. If you see her around, be sure to say, "hi!" Alex is the social media manager of IGLA, creates marketing materials, assists with organizing events, building relationships with so many interesting people, and much more. After graduation in January 2017, Alex hopes to continue her work with non-profits, as well as her travels around the world.

Past Intern



Neoshie Giles attended Temple University majoring in Tourism and Hospitality Management with a concentration in events. Naturally a tree hugger, Neoshie jumped at the opportunity to preserve the US Virgin Islands for her required full-time internship before graduating in May 2016. She arrived in January 2016. During her internship, Neoshie has built relationships with leaders such as CEOs and government officials, worked with the VI Department of Education, assisted with grant writing, designed marketing material, and so much more. After graduating, Neoshie wishes to pursue a job within the events industry in a sustainable discipline.

JOIN US!

Become a member of Island Green Living today!
Individual memberships are only \$60- just \$5/month!
Business memberships are only \$120 for a full year.
Easy and affordable, join us in our mission to preserve the USVI for future generations.
Visit www.iglavi.org/members/ or email info@islandgreenliving.org for more information.



**Rethink
Reduce
Reuse
Recycle**

Volunteers in Action



Martha Toomey, Dr. Gary Ray, and Susan Parten



Miles Stair, Neoshie Giles, and Karen Vahling



Harith Wickrema, Mark Lichtenstein, Marty Johnson, Charlotte McDevitt, Jessica Seigle, Brad, Julie, and Natalie Camrud



Gary Ray, Harith Wichrema, and Alice Krall



Raquel Escarcega and Leo Dandeneau



Linda Sorenson and Cherie Mulder



Many thanks to Dr. Gary Ray, IGLA board member, spearheading our can crushing initiative.



Green Movies

IGLA will be continuing our tradition of Green Movie Thursdays with a delicious vegan potluck this month! The first Green Movie Series was in March with the movie "Cowspiracy," which focuses on the major environmental damage caused by animal agriculture, which is greater than fossil fuel use. Island Green's Green Movie Series has also featured "Forks Over Knives," and "Race to Extinction." Island Green's next Green Movie Thursday will be on October 20th, and we will be showing the award-winning movie "Trashed," in honor of the passing of the Plastic Bag Ban, and in anticipation of the recycling bills. With the USVI's current waste crisis, now more than ever, it is important to educate yourself on sustainable waste management.

IGLA will host the Green Movie Series at Lower Giff Hill School's Great Room at 6 pm. Don't forget to bring a plant-based dish to enjoy and share. If you are in need of culinary inspiration, visit

www.iglavi.org/vegan-recipes



Island Green's Vision Statement

There is a battle being waged on Mother Earth, and it is imperative that we combat it with ethical business practices, responsible living, technological advancements, innovative systems, infrastructure and most of all: engagement, education and teamwork.

The fragile eco-systems, reliance on outside sources for many goods & services, waste management issues and dependence on tourism make Caribbean islands vulnerable to environmental damage, economic devastation and health/wellness issues that follow. The USVI face growing waste output, looming 2020 closure date of near-capacity landfills, toxic storm water run-off, high energy costs and lack of viable recycling options.

Current Objectives

Our goal is to combat the assault on USVI's natural resources. Ultimately it is our objective to institute meaningful change throughout the USVI, success that could be mirrored in other locales throughout the world. Intrinsic to this mission is inspiring a culture of change within the islands, empowering and engaging the public and our visitors through education, reinforcement and recognition. IGLA will implement the following initiatives:

Rethinking, reducing, reusing, recycling, along with upcycling. If we are able to reduce the amount of garbage transported to St. Thomas' landfill, it will help in complying with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) closure mandate. It will also save significant dollars in barge transportation fees. We are excited about not only reducing our carbon footprint, but also setting an example and offering a blueprint for other islands and communities around the globe.

Island Green established St. John's ReSource Depot, which has allowed 240,000 lbs. of building materials to be repurposed/reused to date. Island Green also launched Green Building and Green Villa Certificate programs that encourage builders to use eco-friendly practices. In 2015, IGLA launched the Preserve St. John initiative to combat recycling issues on the island starting with aluminum.

Strategy

Partnership/coordination and cooperation between various government agencies/departments along with environmental/civic organizations and the private sector.

Accelerate the adoption of aggressive solid waste reduction, reuse, composting, recycling, and related job creation activities.

Establish a Vocational Job Training Center that emphasizes Sustainable Materials Management (SMM)

Education including school curriculum to teach benefits of recycling, composting and environmentally responsible practices as well as the devastating environmental impact without such practices.

Build excitement and engagement of all residents— instilling ownership and pride in the initiatives and progress.

Tactics:

Initiation of the Green Living with Zero Waste educational program. Sustainability incorporated as part of the curriculum, K-12th grade.

Students become ambassadors of change and influence their parents as well

Hands-on opportunities for students to become part of the sustainability solution
Recognition programs for students, encouraging participation.

Encourage formation of Island Green Living/recycling clubs and advisory committees at each school

Community Outreach

Provide opportunities for the community to be engaged in environmental issues on occasions such as "Green Thursdays," a monthly event featuring movies on environmental topics and guest speakers to discuss composting, green products and other green practices, as well as the economic benefits that recycling brings.

Institution of Town Hall meetings and the formation of work place advisory committees to engage community support. Town Hall meetings will offer a forum for education and communication and include IGLA, government representatives and members of the private sector and general public.

Promote Green Villa & Green Building Programs

Preserve St. John, St. Thomas, St. Croix

Expand Resource Depot to include a thrift shop, encouraging reduction in consumption and reusing items otherwise destined for the landfill.

Source Separated Recycling
Volunteer Recycling ambassador program

Deposit bottles/cans to further encourage recycling

Ban on plastic bags; introduction of reusable grocery bags

Paper straws rather than plastic straws
Enclose dump sites and sponsor by local business. Will provide advertisement opportunities for sponsoring business or opportunities for students to take ownership of the site and create mural art. Proper disposal protocol at each location.

Marketing agreement with end-users of recycled aluminum, plastic and paper/cardboard to purchase at market pricing. Propose usage of "Recycled from Virgin Islands" logo as marketing.
Island Green Living Global Summit Event will focus on examining the challenges, benefits and vital sustainability solutions in the Caribbean and beyond.

Lay the groundwork for a "green paper" with actionable items and a set timetable, feature case studies and best practices from experts and provide a forum for education and engagement.

Individuals, companies and organizations that are leaders in the area of sustainability, green initiatives and environmental education will be honored.

If we all work together as ONE, we can accomplish and preserve our islands from environmental and economic devastation.

Find our full mission statement at www.iglavi.org/vision



Help to Preserve Our Islands

All prospective members of IGLA are required to complete this registration form.

☐ **NEW MEMBERSHIP** ☐ **RENEWAL** ☐ **Changes for directory?**

SECTION 1: MEMBER CONTACT INFORMATION

TITLE	<input type="checkbox"/> Mr	<input type="checkbox"/> Mrs	<input type="checkbox"/> Miss	<input type="checkbox"/> Ms	<input type="checkbox"/> Dr
NAME					
ADDRESS 1					
ADDRESS 2				HOME TELEPHONE	
ISLAND/CITY				MOBILE PHONE	
ZIP CODE				PRIMARY EMAIL	
JOB TITLE:				SECONDARY EMAIL	

*Star the e-mail and phone number you would like listed in the directory

SECTION 2: MEMBERSHIP TYPE AND PAYMENT DETAILS

MEMBER TYPE	DESCRIPTION	MEMBERSHIP DUES (Annual)	Please Check
INDIVIDUAL	1 year membership	\$60	
BUSINESS	Includes 1 year business membership, website lasting and unlimited use of Island Green logo	\$120	
GREEN SUPPORTER	Includes 1 year business membership, a choice of 8x14 poster display OR coupons, flyers or business cards distributed at Island Green Living membership meetings, website listing, and unlimited use of Island Green logo	\$500	
SUSTAINABLE SUPPORTER	Includes 1 year business membership, a feature in our newsletter, public recognition on social media, an honorable mention in email blasts, 8x14 poster display at Island Green membership meetings, website listing, and unlimited use of Island Green Logo	\$1000	
PAYMENT METHOD	<input type="checkbox"/> Check <input type="checkbox"/> Online <input type="checkbox"/> Cash		

SECTION 3: MEMBER INFORMATION

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
Are you a member of another environmental organization? If so, what organization?
Do you own a villa in USVI? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Name of the villa _____
Please indicate any strengths or special interests you may have. (Check off ALL that apply to you). <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteering <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising/Corporate Relations <input type="checkbox"/> Working with students <input type="checkbox"/> Government Relations <input type="checkbox"/> Resource Depot <input type="checkbox"/> Recruiting <input type="checkbox"/> Green Villa Program <input type="checkbox"/> Community Outreach <input type="checkbox"/> Upcycling <input type="checkbox"/> Recycling <input type="checkbox"/> Grants <input type="checkbox"/> Graphic Design <input type="checkbox"/> Articles other _____

Date: _____

To register for membership and pay online: Go to <http://iglavi.org/members/>

To pay by check: Send a check made payable to Island Green. Mail to:

Island Green
PO Box 410
St. John, USVI 00830

If not completing online, please send a copy of your membership form to info@islandgreenliving.org.

For more information on becoming a member, call Harith at 215-620-8809