



# IGLA Annual Newsletter

## The Island Green Living Association's First Year

2014 has been an important transitional year for the Island Green Living Association! Having celebrated 10 years in existence as the Island Green BUILDING Association, our name and focus change last year from green BUILDING to green LIVING has resulted in exciting new program initiatives and attracted dynamic new board members and financial sponsors.

We are all so blessed to be the short-term (from a historical perspective) caregivers for this small, awesomely beautiful chunk of Mother Earth arising in the midst of thousands of miles of beautiful, fragile ocean. We, the members of IGLA, feel that it is our responsibility as the stewards of all of St. John to take meaningful, sustainable initiatives to preserve the ocean surrounding St. John, and indeed the whole island itself. If we preserve the environment, we preserve the natural beauty. If we destroy the environment, we destroy the beauty. It's not rocket science!

Through such programs as the Residential Tropical Green Construction Certification Program, 10 years of green building construction promotion and education has resulted in creating island-wide awareness of the potential major environmental damage that residential construction can have on our fragile environment. It has also

made us aware that green building is only part of a sustainable solution. Join IGLA as we continue and expand the great work of our time.

St. John's incredible natural beauty has resulted in the construction of more than 1,000 rental villas and two major hotels on our small island. Thousands of day trippers visit our shores annually. The majority of our electricity is generated by burning fossil fuel (diesel), inefficiently transmitted over long distances. St. John has virtually no recycling. The majority of our waste is trucked and barged off island to an unlined landfill on St. Thomas that is closing in 2020, with no plans for a new one. The ability to throw something away is going away!

IGLA is focusing on continuing to create sustainable solutions for these important issues in 2015. We will be announcing a major upgrade to our ReSource Depot construction materials recycling effort with a joint venture with the St. John Community Foundation's aluminum can recycling program.

You have heard the old adage, "it takes a village to raise a child". IGLA says it "takes a community to sustain St. John's magnificent beauty!"

Read on, and please join us in 2015!



## Welcome, New IGLA Board Members

The Island Green Living Association plans to demonstrate to, and educate the community about, living with less impact. We need a lot of help with this from the community and individuals. Fortunately for us, we have three new board members with diverse skills to meet our objectives.

Nancy Stromp, Terri Lamb, and Harith Wickrema are local St. John residents and business owners who have stepped up to the task of making St. John a greener island. We welcome them to the IGLA board. Their enthusiasm, ideas and love of St. John are the right mix to make positive improvements to the island.

We're also excited to announce that IGLA founder Doug White has been appointed as executive director of the Green Villa Program.



### Board of Directors

- Rob Crane, President*
- Bill Willigerod*
- Doug White*
- Christie O'Neil*
- Terri Lamb, Secretary*
- Harith Wickrema*
- Nancy Stromp, Treasurer*
- Barry Devine, Executive Director*

To join IGLA, visit [www.iglavi.org](http://www.iglavi.org)

**WHAT:** The Coral Bay Open

**WHEN:** Sat., March 15, 2 p.m.

**WHERE:** Skinny Legs

**WHY:** To benefit the recycling efforts of IGLA and the St. John Community Foundation

**See you there!**

# ReSource Depot

**115,000 Pounds Recycled!**

It's hard to believe, but the ReSource Depot is about to begin its fourth year recycling construction and household goods on our island. Over the past year we've kept approximately 55,000 pounds of waste out of local landfills, bringing the Depot's lifetime total to more than 115,000 pounds.

Our depot manager, "Buddha" Gary Emmons, will assist you with finding what you are looking for, from nuts and bolts to the occasional hot tub. Our inventory changes quickly, and

is organized by hardware; electrical; plumbing; house, garden, and pool; furniture; doors, windows, and glass; and lighting fixtures, fans, etc.

The Depot is located at Giff Hill and Centerline, across from the Susanna-berg Transfer Station. Hours are Tuesday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to noon. Stop by often to take a look at our ever-changing inventory, and help us continue to keep thousands of pounds of waste out of local landfills!



**"Buddha" Gary Emmons greets Depot shoppers with a smiling face.**

## Can Crusher On Its Way

We are proud to announce that early in 2015, we will be receiving our new aluminum can crusher and baler. This is the first step toward what we hope will be a comprehensive recycling effort for aluminum, glass, plastic and other recyclables on St. John in a cooperative effort with the St. John Community Foundation.

Though the machine has been purchased and is en route as you read this, we will need continued funding for the operation of the can crusher. An anonymous donor has offered to match every dollar donated toward this cause up to \$20,000, so now is the time to make a difference! Help us reduce the waste that ends up in our local landfills by recycling the 2 million cans that end up on our island annually. Donate now by visiting [our website](#).

## 70,000 Thanks Event Raises More Than \$6,000 for IGLA

Early in 2014, the ReSource Depot had its second annual "Thanks" event. This year, we celebrated the recycling of 50,000 pounds of used materials that were kept out of the local landfill and scooped up by residents and villa owners, in addition to the 20,000 pounds recycled in 2013.



sweet deals.

Not only did we raise \$6,000 that day to help fund IGLA's programs, we helped raise awareness of the need to live with less impact to protect our beautiful island.

In its first two years of operation, the ReSource Depot, with the help of the public and the community, recycled 70,000 pounds. The 70,000 Thanks event was hosted by the IGLA board, but a special thank you goes out to Nancy Louis and her gang of friends who organized, sold raffle tickets, cooked, and partied with music and



2014 FINANCIAL REPORT	
Jan. 1 Beginning Balance	\$15,069
Total Income	\$67,830
Total Expenditures	\$59,446
Balance as of 12/31/14	\$23,453

## ***IGLA Launches Fundraising Campaign: Preserve St. John***

With the expansion of the Island Green Living Association's objectives, IGLA is proud to continue a major fundraising campaign in support of our mission to address environmental issues island-wide. Together with the board of directors and executive director, IGLA's leadership is undertaking key initiatives that will aggressively target issues of recycling, resource conservation, and responsible building and living on St. John.

Collectively, our residents, businesses, and more than 1 million visitors per year are utilizing St. John's natural resources at a rate that poses a growing threat of degradation of

the island. We face unique economic, cultural and environmental problems associated with our isolated geography and tourism base; namely, tons of waste with little recycling, high energy and food costs, increased pollution, reduced green space and endangered wildlife. These are all key issues targeted in IGLA's Preserve St. John mission.

As a non-profit organization and the only organization working on island-wide issues, our funding comes from members and generous donors like yourself. To date, your support has enabled IGLA to help St. John in many ways, and now, more than ever, we

need your support to reach higher to fund critical initiatives which include island resource recovery, glass and can recycling, composting, green villa and green business membership programs, and green living education. Contact us today to be part of the Preserve St. John mission; get the word out to friends, family, neighbors and visitors; together we can enable St. John to move toward a sustainable future and preserve our island for the continued enjoyment of all.

Please donate, join, and volunteer.



## ***IGLA, NOAA and DPNR Partner On, Complete USVI Green Construction Training***

In 2013 and 2014 IGLA, NOAA and DPNR completed three comprehensive workshops on green construction practices in the Virgin Islands. The purpose of these workshops was to distribute educational materials developed by IGLA and others; encourage discussion and implementation of green building successes and challenges in the USVI amongst local residents, agencies, and building community; and to support local implementation of a long-term green building education program.

The workshops helped to provide recommendations for DPNR's efforts in education and outreach. Funding for the workshops came from NOAA's Coral Reef Conservation Program.

Five workshops were conducted on St. John, St. Thomas and St. Croix. More than 100 people attended, and 43 who completed the trainings were given IGLA memberships and assistance as incentives.

The workshops distributed information to four target audiences —agencies, designers, implementers, and homeowners—and included classroom and field training on each island, with visits to residential construction sites, a green residence on St. John, the RT park, the substation/solar array construction projects, Springline Architects, the Montessori School, and Smith Bay Beach.

The educational materials developed prior to and distributed at the workshops included:

- [Our Island, Our Future training modules](#), field manuals, and checklists for green design and construction practices.

- Four short videos by IGLA showcasing local practitioners and agency representatives discussing various aspects of green building in the USVI including:

- Over 100 DVDs containing the modules and videos were distributed to

workshop attendees and DPNR.

- Spanish translations were developed by NOAA for the implementers and designers field guides and checklists.

- Three Public Service Announcements (PSAs) were developed by IGLA concurrent to the workshops on planning, building, and living green.

These workshops were coordinated in partnership with NOAA, DPNR, Horsley Witten, and IGLA. The V.I. Waste Management Authority, Energy Office, DPNR Historic Preservation Office, Springline Architects, Magens Bay Authority, J. Benton Construction, RT Park/Aireko, the Montessori School, and Elissa Runyon were also important contributors to the workshops.

If the Virgin Islands and St. John environments, natural resources and economies are to become sustainable for future generations, the way we care for and steward our beautiful part of the planet must be a central focus.

