



ISLAND GREEN LIVING

US Virgin Islands

Founded in 2004, ISLAND GREEN LIVING ASSOCIATION is a registered 501 (c)(3) nonprofit on St. John dedicated to advancing sustainability throughout the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI). Its aim is to transform the USVI into a net zero waste, carbon-neutral territory in order to protect the environment, support food security and ensure the community's health, welfare and economic security.



IMPACT REPORT

JULY 2023

**RETHINK, REDUCE,
REUSE, RECYCLE!**



Recycling Potential

According to a recent study, 62% of the USVI's waste stream is made up of recyclable or compostable materials, highlighting the potential for significant waste reduction and resource conservation.

Lack of Municipal SMM



Despite the amount of recyclable and compostable content in the waste stream, the absence of municipal sustainable materials management (SMM) infrastructure has led to overflowing landfills, waterway pollution, and extensive littering in public areas. This is exacerbated by the one million visitors to our territory annually.



Food Supply Dependency

According to the UN Food and Agricultural Organization, 97% of the USVI's food supply is imported, leading to increased waste generation and carbon emissions, as well as compromised freshness and nutritional value.



Environmental Justice Concern



The combination of sustainability issues, particularly the mismanagement of waste and food supply dependency, poses significant environmental justice challenges for the local community.



Solutions and Initiatives

To combat these pressing environmental concerns, Island Green Living has implemented vital reuse/recycling programs, advocacy/education campaigns and food security efforts. These initiatives are critical to realizing positive change in the USVI - but we can't do it without you!



**ISLAND GREEN LIVING IS ONE OF
THE MOST IMPACTFUL **NONPROFITS** IN THE TERRITORY**

ADVOCACY

resulting in ban of plastic straws, bags, toxic sunscreen, etc.

Mulching/composting pilot program earned a Clinton Global Initiative **“CALL TO ACTION”** designation

“Ban the Burn” contributed to the territory’s excellent **AIR QUALITY**, one of only three regions in the world meeting WHO’s standards

Green education launch of **AQUAPONICS** and hydroponics at Giff Hill School

Nearly
**2.7
MILLION**
aluminum cans
crushed

ReSource Depot:
888,000+ LBS
of building and
household material
diverted from the landfill

**47,500+
LBS**
of ocean-bound
plastic recycled

**3,172
HOURS**
of volunteer
work per year

ISLAND GREEN LIVING PROGRAMS

ReSource Depot

A Habitat for Humanity ReStore-style thrift shop operating since 2013, the ReSource Depot is the only facility of its kind on St. John. It provides a clearinghouse for donated building, household and other materials that would otherwise waste away in the landfill, extending the life cycle of these items while selling them at affordable prices to the community.

Aluminum Recycling Program

St. John's only aluminum can recycling program began in 2014 and has grown exponentially, with 1.5 million cans collected since the start of 2022 (nearly 2.7 million since inception). It is vital as it reclaims this valuable resource while reducing the mining of virgin materials.

Ocean-Bound Plastics Recycling

Launched in February 2022, St. John's only single-use plastics recycling program allows #1, 2 and 5 plastics a new lease on life while keeping it out of the landfill. AVOID SINGLE USE PLASTICS! But once plastic is part of the waste stream, this program mitigates and salvages this material.

Recycling Collections and Recycling Business Partners

In May 2022, through a collaboration with VI Waste Management Authority, Island Green's recycling bins were stationed at popular trash sites around the island, significantly increasing community participation. Our dedicated truck makes regular pickups, then we process materials. Additionally, to date 16 local businesses have become Recycling Business Partners by signing on to have their recyclable "waste" collected directly by Island Green Living.



Green Advocacy and Community Education

Island Green is at the forefront of advocacy and education related to sustainable initiatives including our involvement with the "Share the Sun" solar energy affordability program; crucial bans of toxic sunscreen, plastic straws, plastic bags and vegetative debris; importance of environmental assessments and removal of toxins at Caneel Bay; significance of the "Four Rs" and so much more.

Food/Agricultural Sustainability Initiatives

In addition to serving on the Governor's Agricultural Plan Task Force, charged with developing a plan to promote food security and sovereignty in the territory, Island Green sponsors aquaponics and hydroponics and related curriculum at Giffit Hill School and encourages agricultural education throughout the territory. We also partner on events and community workshops to educate and expand composting, home gardening and food security.



Left to right: Senator Steven D. Payne; Island Green President Harith Wickrema; Congresswoman Stacey E. Plaskett; Governor Albert Bryan Jr.; Senate President Donna Frett-Gregory; Island Green Living Executive Director Kelly McKinney; Gary Barnett, CEO, Plastics Division, PADNOS



ISLAND GREEN IS
INTERNATIONALLY
RECOGNIZED
FOR ITS ACCOMPLISHMENTS
AND EFFICIENT MANAGEMENT

ISLAND GREEN LIVING OPERATES ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY THROUGH DONATIONS

For 19 years, non-profit Island Green Living's work has focused on turning what many would consider "waste" into a resource. Accolades include an EPA Environmental Champion Award in 2017 and a CGI "Commitment to Action" designation by the Clinton Foundation in 2020.

Members of the Board

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WE CAN'T DO IT
WITHOUT YOUR HELP

Please help us continue our critical work with a tax-deductible contribution to Island Green Living today:

www.islandgreenliving.org/donate

Or scan here:



You may also send a check to:

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US Virgin Islands

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!