



ISLAND GREEN LIVING
US Virgin Islands

IMPACT REPORT

JUNE 2025

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.



**RETHINK, REDUCE,
REUSE, RECYCLE**



RECYCLING POTENTIAL

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



LACK OF MUNICIPAL SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS MANAGEMENT

Despite the amount of recyclable and compostable content in the waste stream, the absence of municipal sustainable materials management infrastructure has led to overflowing landfills, waterway pollution, and extensive littering in public areas. This is exacerbated by the 2 million+ visitors to our territory annually.



FOOD SUPPLY DEPENDENCY

According to the UN Food and Agriculture 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.



CLEAN AIR, WATER, AND LAND

The combination of sustainability issues, particularly the mismanagement of waste and food supply dependency, poses significant challenges for the local community. Island Green has initiated programs that are helping to move the needle. With more funding, we can scale up our initiatives.



SOLUTIONS AND INITIATIVES

To combat the 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!



Collaboration with Governor Bryan

WMA Collaboration Hosted by RapierMed

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

ADVOCACY resulting in the ban of plastic straws, bags, toxic sunscreen, etc.
We are working on styrofoam, elimination of single-use plastic amenities, etc.

Mulching / composting pilot program considered the **ROAD MAP** for territory-wide expansion

"Ban the burn" contributed to the territory's excellent **AIR QUALITY**, one of only three regions in the world meeting WHO's standards



Planet Green Force's
"Seeds of Security" agriculture and greening education launch in partnership with Virgin Islands Department of Education

Nearly
4.4 million
aluminum cans
crushed

ReSource Depot
1,000,087+ lbs
of building
material diverted
from the landfill

125,000+ lbs
of ocean-
bound plastic
recycled

3,223 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 3.9 million cans collected since the start of 2022 (nearly 4.4 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 the 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 the materials. Additionally, to date, 12 local businesses have become Recycling Business Partners by signing on to have their recyclable “waste” collected directly by Island Green Living.



FOOD/AGRICULTURE SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES

In addition to serving on the Local Food & Farm Council, charged with overseeing the implementation of the territorial Agricultural Plan, Island Green sat on the Governor's Agricultural Plan Task Force, which developed the plan to enhance food security and sovereignty. The board president is also on the Virgin Islands Conservation District board, responsible for conserving and developing the territory's natural resources. Island Green sponsors aquaponics, hydroponics, and related curricula at Giff Hill School and encourages agricultural education throughout the territory through “Seeds of Security” initiatives in partnership with VIDE. We also partner on events and community workshops to educate and expand composting, home gardening and food security. The organization's one-year brush chipping and composting pilot was designed as a model to manage vegetative debris in the territory in the future.



GREEN ADVOCACY AND 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 the burning of vegetative debris; importance of environmental assessments and removal of toxins at Caneel Bay; significance of the “Four Rs,” and so much more.

ISLAND GREEN LIVING OPERATES ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY THROUGH DONATIONS



Sponsored by PADNOS

For 21 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 and a CGI "Commitment to Action" designation by the Clinton Foundation.

IslandGreenLiving.com

340-473-7870



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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



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

www.islandgreenliving.org/donate

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You may also send a check to:

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