



CGTC Newsletter

Caribbean Green Technology Center

What's in this edition: ● *Rethinking Waste: creative solutions to clean up the VI* ● *CGTC ramps up focus group on energy topics* ● *CGTC to present at the Island Policy Lab workshop* ● *Trash to treasure: UVI students work to create SMM database and more...*



USVI Comprehensive Energy Strategic Plan initiates steering committee and focus groups to incorporate community input

In order to include the input of the community in the VI Energy Strategic Plan, the leadership team has brought together a Steering Committee consisting of relevant governmental agencies, senators, local businesses and the VI general public. Focus groups were formed within the areas of power generation & electrical grid, transportation and sustainable buildings. All focus groups have the sole aim to create a resilient, equitable, and sustainable energy sector that promotes innovation and economic development while reducing environmental impact for generations to come. The results of these focus groups will be shared with the general public in the coming months. Visit www.vienergypathways.org.

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What happens when you bring together 30 passionate VI community members for 6 months and allow them to work together creatively to find innovative solutions to our waste management crisis? In early February we found out during the Rethinking Waste presentation hosted by the CGTC. We were presented ideas for how the Virgin Islands

can reduce waste, reuse materials, recycle plastics and organic waste, education and raise public awareness and build community to tackle the challenge of sustainable materials management. We would encourage you to watch on [YouTube](#) and please reach out to Ariel Stolz, ariel.stolz@uvi.edu, if you would like to become more involved in this initiative.

Peter Larsen
Scientist / Leader, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory
Keynote Speaker

Gregory Guannel
Director, Caribbean Green Technology Centre, USVI

Rebekah Shirley
Director of Research & Innovation, World Resources Institute

John Byrne

Phillipp Blochinger

ENERGY INNOVATION FOR ISLANDS' SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Dr. Gregory Guannel will represent the Virgin Islands at an online symposium on Wednesday, March 9th at 10am AST, hosted by the Island Policy Lab at the Biden School of Public Policy and Administration at the University of Delaware. The symposium, titled "Science, Technology and Innovation for Sustainable, Post-Pandemic Recovery in U.S. Island Territories", features

various relevant sessions on about energy innovation, the blue economy, the environment and climate change. To register for the events please visit: <https://sites.udel.edu/island-policy-lab/events/>

Other updates:

- UVI student, Lianni Gardner works to characterize shorelines in the USVI.
- CGTC attended Island Green Living Ocean-Bound Plastic Recycling launch event. Read more [here](#).
- CGTC presenting at Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands Climate Change In The Caribbean Conference - April 19-20th

Student Spotlight

TRASH TO TREASURE GUIDE! COMING SOON!

CGTC will be working with UVI students to create a Trash to Treasure platform for Virgin Islanders to identify local entities which collect materials to reuse, resell, repurpose, repair, and recycle. This platform will inform Virgin Islanders on pickup or drop-off spots for particular materials, finding a service which can repair or replace items, correct disposal for hazardous waste and other important information. The goal is to understand the current landscape to give VI residents a roadmap to utilize our materials better. We also hope to identify future opportunities by determining local capabilities for prioritizing regenerative resources, stretching out the lifetime of the products and treating waste as a resource.

Upcoming Events:

- 3/9: Island Energy Innovation webinar
- 4/19-4/20: Climate Change in the Caribbean
- 4/22: Earth Day!
- 4/26-4/28: Caribbean Renewable Energy Forum

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