

Declaration Press Release A&B ReefFix 2018

Capacity building, public education and awareness through swimming, beach cleaning and knowledge of value of the oceans with a focus on children/youth that promotes alternative livelihoods in the NEMMA and Barbuda.

REEFFIX: AN ICZM CORAL REEF RESTORATION, WATERSHED MANAGEMENT AND CAPACITY BUILDING DEMONSTRATION PROJECT FOR THE CARIBBEAN

Given that A&B is an accredited agency with the Green Climate Fund and is creating the Surf Fund and that the Surf Fund is being reviewed for approval by the Government of A&B to be gazetted in March 2018
and given that A&B is assisting Grenada and Dominica to establish similar Surf Funds
Revolving Loan between 2-4% up to EC\$300,000

The Organization of American States teamed up with the Antigua Barbuda Environmental Awareness Group (EAG), the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, through the Fisheries Division and the Environment Division to strengthen effective management of the North East Marine Management Area (NEMMA). Activities include capacity building, public education and awareness with a focus on children/youth, and supporting alternative livelihoods in the NEMMA and Barbuda. The focus on children and youth promotes the Blue Economy to include safety at sea activities and beach clean-up -- allowing the children and youth to come together to discuss and form a part of the governance structure, engage in research and innovation that supports resilience, food security, and healthy oceans -- leading to economic diversification and shared prosperity.

Youth engage in advocacy of the blue economy with various government departments that provide internship and exchange programs to build a skilled work force. The *Seeing Blue-Youth Program* is made up of children coming to the beach for swimming, beach cleanup, discussion and includes art, essay writing, creative videos, thereby creating a wide and fully inclusive education of the ocean. Competitions for inclusiveness knowledge, empowerment and immersion-diving activities are promoted. The *Seeing Blue* promotes a *Young Ocean Champions Award* and related outreach to mainstream the SDG's. The events include minimizing beach litter to reduce 90% plastics, speaking with fisherfolk around ocean issues, connection to a hot line to report infractions and hear the voices of the stakeholders. The outputs include swimming lessons, kayaking and snorkeling. Scaled up leadership training and mentoring is provided and information disseminated through press blogs and media speaking opportunities, sponsorship and support using social media. Outcomes are reduced beach rubbish, plastics, styrofoam, face washes, sunscreens, toothbrushes in marine areas.

Partnerships with the MEPA Trust, South Coast Horizons, Galley Bay and other hotels are supporting marine conservation and educational activities and promote the *Adopt a Coastline* program in collaboration with the Department of the Environment, the Fisheries Division, the

Community Development Division and the Barbuda Agricultural Community Development Organization

Overall, the project enhances coastal zone management policies and practices in NEMMA and Barbuda. Local managers in cross cutting activities build on local interest in, for example, sea turtle conservation and local sustainable tourism.

Press Release OAS & Government of Antigua Barbuda

ReefFix 2018

An intensive 2 day workshop called *Zero Waste 2025: Reduce. Replace. Revolutionize* is underway (February 15-16, 2018) with the Antigua Barbuda Environmental Awareness Group (EAG), a cross section of civil society, Government agencies, and NGOs that discussed emerging waste technologies and policies to approach Zero Waste by 2025:

- Smarter collection processes, enabled by radio frequency identification (RFID) tags
- Advanced processing techniques for recovering materials of value. extracting gold, silver, copper from computer waste
- waste-to-energy, waste-to-fuel and landfill gas recovery options.
- Improved disposal methods, such as "sanitary landfilling," bioreactor landfills

The goal was to plan out a Zero Waste Strategy that lays the groundwork to:

- Establish convenient source separation programs
- Provide generator and service provider incentives
- Conduct extensive outreach
- Adopt policies and enforce
- Develop advanced processing and new markets.

Success stories in the Caribbean include:

1. Grenada – OAS project on Fish Waste to Poultry Feed.
2. Falmouth, Jamaica – Vegetable market recycle and composting – purchase carts and brooms to clean up organic waste and compost.
3. Plastic and bottle deposit-refund – Reduce plastic bottle use. Barbados is evaluating legislation to improve policies and incentives.
4. Caribbean Waste Collective – Analysis to address economies-of-scale and co-manage Caribbean wide recycle, reduce and retrofit.
5. Antigua & Barbuda, Aruba, Dominica and Trinidad plastic bag ban - Antigua & Barbuda, Aruba and Dominica have successfully secured the support of a plastic bag ban amongst retailers.
6. Saint Lucia and Grenada used oil-to-energy - Countries in the region constantly receive unsolicited proposals for Waste 2 Energy technologies that can convert all of their waste to electricity, eliminate the need for landfills.

Successful policy initiatives and market based instruments include:

- Deposit Refund and Monthly User Fees – Deposit refund for bottles and plastics. Grenada and Nevis have established a mechanism where solid waste management is treated like a utility where customers pay a monthly fee for service.
- Facility Tipping Fees – Islands such as Belize, Aruba and Barbados are charging commercial customers fees to use transfer stations and landfills.
- Tax Credits and Deductions - Tax incentives to make alternatives to Styrofoam cost equivalent or promote duty free import of waste-to-energy technology, biogas, or solar panels and solar hot water heaters.
- Environmental Levies – Numerous islands in the region of both a value added tax (VAT) and assess an environmental levy on products entering the country. Nevis applies a 1% environmental tax.

Declaration of Antigua Barbuda

Zero Waste Working Group 2018

Given that an intensive 2 day workshop called *Zero Waste 2025: Reduce. Replace. Revolutionize* was held February 15-16, 2018 with a cross section of civil society, Government agencies, and NGOs that discussed emerging waste technologies and practices, behavior, and conducive policies to approach Zero Waste by 2025:

- SMART collection processes
- Advanced, appropriate processing techniques for recovering materials of value (e.g. extracting gold, silver, copper, plastics, and organics)
- Appropriate waste-to-energy, waste-to-fuel, and landfill gas recovery options.
- Improved disposal methods such as volume minimization, methane capture landfills

And noting that the goal was to plan out a Zero Waste Strategy for Antigua Barbuda that lays the groundwork to:

- Establish convenient source separation programs (three bins: green for compost, blue for recycle, and black for landfill). Refer to Ministry of Health/National Solid Waste Management Authority.
- Provide generator (home, hotel, restaurant, business) and service provider incentives (tipping fees)
- Conduct extensive outreach and educational awareness (door to door canvassing, documentaries, jingles, social media, infographics)
- Adopt policies and legislation and enforce them
- Develop appropriate products and eco-friendly markets.

And highlighting success stories in the Caribbean that include:

7. Grenada – OAS project on Fish Waste to Poultry Feed.
8. Falmouth, Jamaica – Vegetable market recycle and composting – purchase carts and brooms to clean up organic waste and compost.
9. Plastic and bottle deposit-refund – Reduce plastic bottle use. Barbados is evaluating legislation to improve policies and incentives.
10. Caribbean Waste Collective – Analysis to address economies-of-scale and co-manage Caribbean wide recycle, reduce and retrofit.
11. Aruba, Dominica and Trinidad plastic bag ban - secure support of a plastic bag ban amongst retailers.
12. Antigua and Barbuda plastic bag ban (shopping plastic bags) and Styrofoam ban (expanded polystyrene food service containers) legislation

13. Antigua & Barbuda, Saint Lucia and Grenada used oil-to-energy - Countries in the region constantly receive unsolicited proposals for Waste 2 Energy technologies that can convert all of their waste to electricity, eliminate the need for landfills.
14. Antigua & Barbuda biofuels (algae, vegetable, and organic oil)
15. Antigua & Barbuda metal recycling (aluminum, brass, lead, copper, iron scrap, vehicle batteries, jewelry, art and crafts, and motors)
16. Antigua & Barbuda e-waste collection and recycle (computers, TV, microwave, smart phones)
17. Antigua & Barbuda repurposing wooden and plastic pallets (furniture and decorations)

The Antigua Barbuda Zero Waste Working Group recommends further work in successful policy initiatives and market based instruments that include:

- Deposit Refund and Monthly User Fees – Deposit refund for bottles and plastics. Grenada and Nevis have established a mechanism where solid waste management is treated like a utility where customers pay a monthly fee for service.
- Facility Tipping Fees – Belize, Aruba and Barbados are charging commercial customers fees to use transfer stations and landfills.
- Tax, Duty Credits, Levies and Deductions - Tax incentives to make alternatives to Styrofoam cost equivalent or promote duty free import of waste-to-energy technology, biogas, or solar panels and solar hot water heaters.
- Earmarked Environmental Levies – Numerous islands in the region of both a value added tax (VAT) and assess an environmental levy on products entering the country. For instance, Nevis applies an earmarked 1% environmental tax.

Given that Antigua & Barbuda is an accredited agency with the Green Climate Fund and is creating the SIRF (Sustainable Island Resource Fund) which has been approved by the Government of A&B (to be gazetted in March 2018). The Zero Waste Working Group recommends that a proposal to finance pilot waste management projects be submitted that will put Antigua and Barbuda on the road to Zero Waste 2025.