



Virgin Islands Recycling Partnership (VIRP) Meeting
Monday, September 16, 2013 from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM (Atlantic Time)
Montessori School & International Academy at 6936 Vessup Lane, St Thomas
Call in Number: 1-866-299-3188 Code: 340 714 2333

MINUTES

Introductions & Meeting Details

Mark Lichtenstein and **Laura Cardoso**, Facilitators, Environmental Finance Center (EFC)

Remarks

Judith Enck, Region 2 Administrator, EPA

May Cornwall Adams, Virgin Islands Waste Management Authority

Updates

VIRP Teams

- Laura Cardoso and Keshema Webbe addressed the need to establish up-to-date team chairs for each team and to perhaps consolidate teams with common goals. This discussion will continue with individual teams and is open for comment.

Puerto Rico Market Development

- Mark Lichtenstein discussed the development of recycling markets in Puerto Rico.

Summary of Organics Intern Project **Laura Cardoso**, Syracuse University Environmental Finance Center (EFC)

Website and Social Media Updates **Laura Cardoso**

Other Associated Projects and Updates

VIRP Members

- **Composting at the Bordeaux Market:** Ms. Benita Martin announced that there is an annual compost workshop at the Bordeaux Market. The workshops are conducted by UVI Agricultural Extension Services. She also asked that we create flyers- perhaps through the UVI Sustainability Club- requesting the collection of 5lb yogurt containers and other similar containers. Ms. Martin is able to reuse these materials to plant seedlings.
 - Amad Martin added a suggestion of using a composting video that he has with any events that may be programed.
 - Andre Malone suggested posting information and videos to the Government Channel.
 - Jason Budsan recommended showing this video at the November Ag Fair at the UVI- St. Thomas campus. He also suggested have a 2nd “ABCs of Composting Workshop” similar to the event held last Spring at Mandahl Bay. He would like it to be larger, build more bins and possibly even sell them. Could it be done before the November Ag Fair so that they could be ready for purchase at the Ag Fair?

this region is well positioned geographically between major recycling importers such as Florida and Venezuela and that other countries like Brazil are becoming interested in tire imports. Brazil is looking at technologies that utilize rubber in road construction.

- **Reduction of Plastics and Plastic Bag Ban:** Peggy noted that we should also address how to reduce the use of plastics in bars and restaurants. The whole group supported the idea of a plastic bag ban or at least a charge at larger stores for each plastic bag. 15 cents would be an appropriate amount.
 - Charlotte McDevitt of Green VI will share a Memorandum of Understanding that community members on Tortola have with larger local supermarkets.

VIRP Business and Next Steps

- EFC will look at possible locations for as well as the possibility of funding a 2nd “ABCs of Composting Workshop” and request that the UVI Sustainability Club assist with flyers and on campus outreach for any related activities.
- EAST will show a composting video at the November Ag Fair.
- VIRP Members interesting in an Adopt-a-Bin Program should contact Jason Budsan from EAST.
- Mr. Malone will invite representation to the November VIRP Meeting
- WMA will share information about any upcoming “Reusable Bag Days” or events related to November as Recycling Month. WMA will also continue participating in plastic bag outreach with supermarkets.
- EFC will identify funds to purchase composting containers and communicate with Benita Martin.
- EFC will assist the Island Green Building Association develop a proposal.
- EFC will help Montessori identify funding sources for purchasing a commercial composter.
- EPA will reach out to Andre Malone and discuss how to bring a plastic bag ban to the table.
- Green VI will share a Plastic Bag Memorandum of Understanding with local supermarkets in the BVI.

Adjourn