

**GLASS, PLASTIC AND METAL CONTAINERS TEAM  
VIRGIN ISLANDS RECYCLING PARTNERSHIP (VIRP)**

**MONDAY, MARCH 25, 2013 10:00 AM**

**Via teleconference line**

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE VIRP:**

- The Virgin Islands Recycling Partnership was created in an effort to establish a sustainable solid waste strategy—based on an aggressive program of waste reduction, recycling and composting—and moving toward a sustainable materials economy. The partnership includes government (at all levels), non-profit organizations, citizens, environmental groups, and the private sector. The Environmental Finance Center at Syracuse University (EFC) is using its solid waste management and recycling expertise to assist in facilitating the partnership. The VIRP is comprised of commodity-based teams, including this Glass, Plastics and Metal Containers Team. Learn [more](#).

**ATTENDEES:**

- Charmin Springer, VI Waste Management Authority
- Emaline Simmons, VI Waste Management Authority
- Geoff Garrison, US Environmental Protection Agency
- Keshema Webbe, US Environmental Protection Agency
- Laura Cardoso, Environmental Finance Center at Syracuse University
- Susan Parten, Community Environmental Services, Inc.

**AGENDA:**

- Establish goals of the team
- Discuss the progress of current team initiatives

**DISCUSSION OF TEAM GOALS AND CURRENT INITIATIVES:**

- **Hold monthly meetings** (Webbe)
- **Start with small scale recycling** (Simmons)
  - o Challenges:
    - obtaining and shipping recyclables off island
    - expense of the process
    - lack of businesses or initiative to do this
    - not enough recyclables generated on a regular basis
  - o Possible response to challenges:
    - encourage entrepreneurship on a small scale to open the doors to larger operations.
    - Task: Research if there are programs already exist and how we could save money. Could you add plastics or glass ..etc.
- **Ensure VIRP communciation** to get more people engaged in the team (Cardoso)

- My role is to make team information available to VIRP members via:
  - Website: [www.virecycles.com](http://www.virecycles.com)
  - Email
  - EFC Sustainability in the Caribbean eNews
  - VIRO Wiggi group
- **Idea for a glass recycling pilot program for businesses**
  - Distribute recycling containers to businesses and color code them for each type of recyclable
- **Hotels outreach (Springer)**
  - WMA is developing a survey for hotels (then eventually bars, restaurants)
    - Collect data and information
    - Ask questions such as: *What type of investments would your hotel make to reduce trash?*
    - Try to convey that it costs them more to have more trash
  - WMA has a database of hotels in the territory
    - Will WMA be able to share this database?
    - WMA will share the results of the survey
  - Contact the VI Hotels and Tourism Association – go through them to get hotels more involved with the VIRP
    - Representatives: Lisa Hamilton + Valerie
  - Only a few hotels have met the standards for recycling (ie: “Green Key”: the 2<sup>nd</sup> part of the “hotel law”)
    - Charmin Springer would like to get more involved
      - Develop contacts at each hotel
  - Susan Parten has a contact with a large hotel/restaurant chain that is very willing to recycle
  - Create a “sub-committee” for hotel outreach.
    - Geoff Gariison can help with hotel outreach for St. Croix
- **Waste characterization Study**
  - Last study was conducted in 2009
  - This may need to be updated
    - Target group: hotels and restaurants
    - Pilot project = WMA hotel survey
    - Should be territory- wide
- **Territory-wide efforts:**
  - Which island would be ready to start recycling? (Webbe)
    - There is lots of small , independent production
  - On a larger scale, would it make sense to establish recycling on a few islands at the same time or one at a time? (Webbe)
    - In the past, simultaneous efforts on all 3 islands has worked. (Springer)

Successful programs included representatives on each island to assist.

This is also cheaper and more efficient (one advertisement)

- **Example of a successful school recycling campaign:**

School recycling program for aluminum cans

- Details of the program:

- o started in Nov 2012 and ends in May 2013-03-25
- o The school that collects most cans received funds (if place 1, 2, or 3<sup>rd</sup> they will receive 300, \$200, \$100 + a championship banner for their school)
- o Partner with *Preserving Paradise*
- o Gets teachers, parents + parents and community involved!

- WMA does collection

- o Tues and Thursday pick ups (depends on quantity of recyclables..etc.)
- o Taken to recycler (info below)

- **St. Thomas recycler: Sanitary Trash Removal Services (STS)**

- o They pay 20 cents/ lb
  - St. Croix. Fernando Scrap Metal (35 cents/lb)
- o They have been the only aluminum recycler for years
  - There are other scrap metal recyclers but only scrap (not cans)
- o They have been approached for plastics- concerned but said that it's not profitable

- **Additional potential recycling programs:**

- Possibility of WMA partnering with Coca Cola Co. (unconfirmed)

- Recycling on UVI campuses

- o UVI program: an annual program in which students are required to select a green initiative or project and then implement
  - le: on campus recycling programs.. [There is lots of interest](#) 😊
- o Charmin Springer has spoken to the dean who supports green initiatives 100%
- o Connection with VIRP Education Team and the UVI
  - Chinet Bernier at the Caribbean Green Technology Center
    - Her goals include:
      - o incorporate a recycling program at UVI
      - o create displays for teachers
      - o take recycling a step forward by establishing territory-wide contacts for educational outreach

- **Create an database of educational contacts**

- Have an environmental educator on each district
  - o Charmin Springer = St. Thomas

- Kesha Wallace = St. John
- \_\_\_\_\_TBD\_\_\_\_\_ = St. Croix
- Develop specific tasks in order to develop this education network
- **Relocate and restore glass pulverizer sitting at the Westin Resort (Parten)**
  - Background: The pulverizer was originally purchased by a non-profit under a grant, but has been sitting on this property for approx. 10 years and is essentially 'up for grabs.' It is a \$35,000 piece of equipment. It needs an estimated \$10,000 - 12,000 in repairs (not including shipping costs to have it relocated)
  - Relocation:
    - The pulverizer could be relocated to the eastern part of St. Thomas
    - Centralized waste water plant = suitable location
      - Treat it with reuse water and use water to rinse glass
      - Need 3 phase power + feed hopper + conveyor
      - Charmin Springer will talk to WMA Waste Water Division
  - Permission + arrangements
    - How to establish where it should be relocated?
    - How to set it up?
      - Doug White (Citizen's Advisory Committee, St. John) is familiar with the equipment
      - Gary Rae Can assist with the logistics
    - How to staff this (especially long term..)?
  - Have organics on site as well
    - Composting and glass pulverizing could occur at the same location
  - 1<sup>st</sup> step = meet with WMA
- **Team leaders to participate in VIRP Steering Committee**

SUMMARY OF FOLLOW-UP TASKS:

- Research if there are recycling programs that already exist and how we could save money by teaming with already existing infrastructure.
- Create a "sub-committee" for hotel outreach and develop personal contacts at hotels and restaurants..etc.
  - Susan Parten invite contact with hotel chain to join VIRP
  - Geoff Garrison will help with hotel outreach for St. Croix
  - Contact representatives from VI Hotels and Tourism Association: Lisa Hamilton + Valerie
  - Charmin Springer will ask whether she can share the hotels contact database
- Create an database of educational contacts
  - Charmin Springer will be an education contact on St. Thomas
  - Kesha Wallace will be an education contact on St. John
  - Establish an education contact on St. Croix
- WMA will meet with all interested in discussing restoring the glass pulverizer

- Charmin Springer will talk to WMA Waste Water Division
- Update the waste characterization study (Longer term project)