

Blue Economy Case Study: 2007-2009

Virgin Gorda, British Virgin Islands

SustainWDN™ Pathway: Environment Stewardship



Our Partners

- BVI Premier Orlando Smith
- BVI Minister of Education & Culture
- H. Lavity Stouff Community College
- Caribbean Media Exchange
- Counterpart International
- Bitter End Yacht Club and A Dream Come True Villa

Impact

- VGYLI youth Feliza Fenty spokesperson & produced reports:
- *BVI is first to launch financing framework for climate change issues*
- *BVI Conservation and Fisheries Dept. Sargassum Seaweed Returns:*
- Rotaract Club of Tortola: 2016 Featured Young Professional

[Website](#) • [Report](#) • [Video](#)

The Institute was invited by BVI Premier Smith to develop a leadership program to empower Virgin Gorda youth to become environmental stewards and future leaders.

Strategic Implementation

- Economic Development Mission with Vieques Mayor and youth
- Year-round program developed workforce development skills
- Training with Institute's Black faculty: Baltimore & St. Louis
- Develop transferable communications, collaboration, and leadership skills to enhance employability with island companies.
- Sustainability Field Trips: coral restoration & tree-planting
- Hosted the Institute's Sustainability Summit.
- Multiplier effect: youth recruit and train others.
- Job Shadow Day mentors
- Youth representatives presented at conferences:
 - Caribbean Media Exchange in San Juan and St. Lucia
- Sister Island Exchanges: Martha's Vineyard, Vieques, Hawaii
- Hurricane relief: collaboration between VGYLI and Vieques

Community Engagement Process

- Youth participated in Caribbean Youth Exchange Conference
- Annual Taste of the Islands: coordinated with local chefs and restaurants to involve youth in culinary events.
- Increases pride, self-esteem, self-sufficiency, strong work ethic, critical thinking, problem solving skills.

When I first left high school, I never imagined that someone like me would get to go away and study something so fun, interesting and worthwhile. I want the future youth of our territory to always put their best foot forward in whatever job or study they may have. Build a reputation of 'responsibility' and 'reliability' Make it so that if there is anything people can say about you it is that, you always do the very best you can.

Feliza Fenty, BVI Public Relations Officer

