

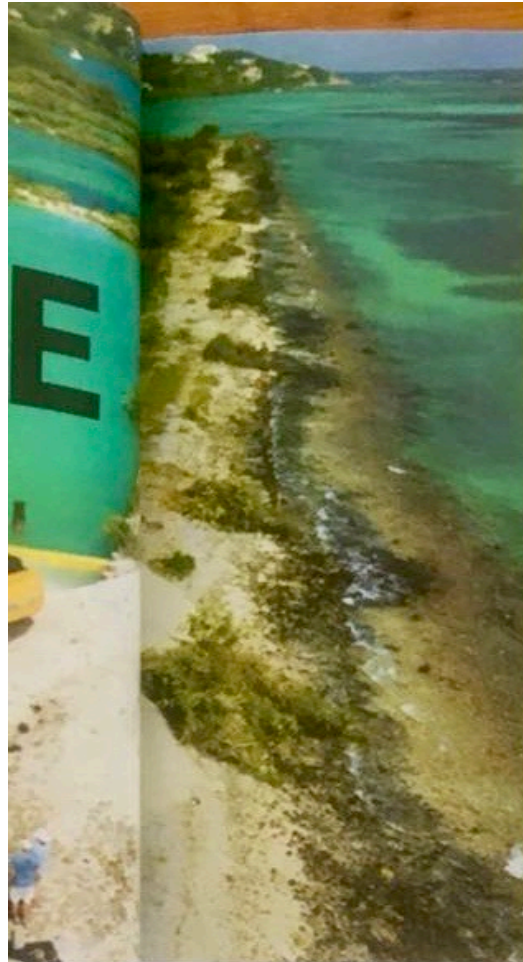


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St Vincent & the Grenadines Directory

2018/19

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practices for water taxi operators, and working with the fishers' organisation on livelihood projects such as sea-moss farming and honey production.

"Every year we have coastal clean-up, international migratory bird day and Caribbean Endemic Bird Festival," noted Orisha.

People can also get involved in SusGren's activities by becoming volunteers and interns.

SusGren makes use of Facebook, community meetings, newsletters, radio interviews and press releases in its quest to educate the public on the need to be more environmentally-friendly.

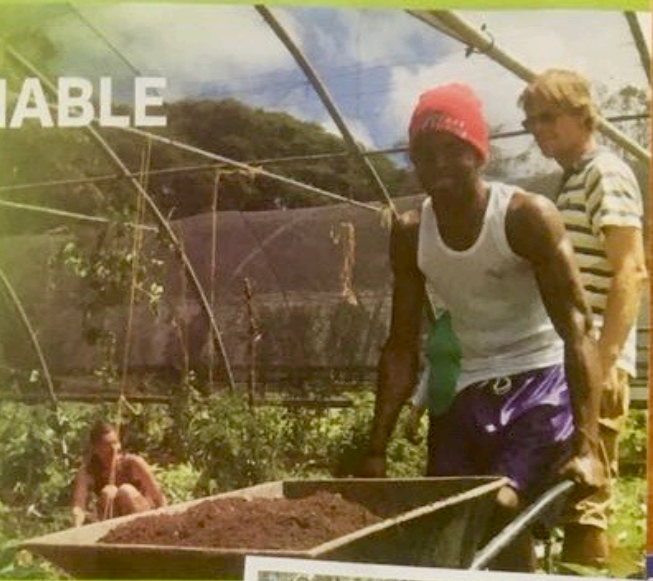
The group's philosophy is to "have sustainable development of the Grenadine Islands area for the social and economic well-being of the people who live there," shared Orisha.

The hope is to help St Vincent and the Grenadines develop resilient communities that can bounce back after a climatic event. And, a society that is aware, can take action, and have the resources to do so for change.

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A SUSTAINABLE SCHOOL

The Richmond Vale Academy, located in northwest St Vincent, is talking the talk and walking the walk when it comes to sustainability.



A pivotal moment in the academy's environmental journey came in 2010, in the form of the devastating Hurricane Tomas.

"At that time we were growing a lot of bananas and all the bananas came down. We were using chemicals that depleted the soil so when the heavy rains came it just washed away the soil. We had no trees to protect the crops and no root crops to protect the soil," said the director of the Richmond Vale Academy, Stina Herberg.

Global warming is resulting in the development of more super strong storms and changing weather patterns cause floods and droughts.

"As it gets warmer it's easier for hurricanes to form. More and more water evaporates and when the water comes down it will come down heavier. It's happening all over the Caribbean," noted Stina.

The 2010 hurricane pushed the team at Richmond Vale to think more about climate change and sustainable development. Out of that disaster came the 10-year the St Vincent Climate Compliance Conference, launched in 2012.

"This conference invited people from around SVG and around the world to work, study, research, and action in three areas: food and water security, energy security and preparation for climate change," said the Richmond Vale Academy director.

Today, the school employs a number of sustainable practices.

"At the academy, we produce a large part of our own food and we're working with a number of farmers in nearby villages who are growing their own organic food," shared Stina.

Two of the school's three buildings operate off the grid. Water at Richmond Vale Academy is heated by thermal solar collectors and solar pumps are used for the water harvesting and watering systems for their vegetable garden. There is also a biogas unit which provides cooking gas for the kitchen.

"We have installed five such biogas units on farms and households in St Vincent and have installed a small off-grid PV system at a community project in Rose Hall," said Stina.

"We have planted about 30,000 trees, trees for food and nutrition, trees for shade, and trees to protect against rising seas. In 2014 and 2015, we planted trees with all the schools on the island."

Richmond Vale Academy also offers classes and workshops geared towards sustainability.



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