Treelympics exercise moves to Bequia

ON WEDNESDAY, October 1, professionals who work in the Environmental Management Department of the Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment, the Richmond Vale Academy and Scotia Bank travelled to Bequia to facilitate a tree planting exercise at seven schools on that island.

This exercise is a national initiative which forms part of the Environmental Online (ENO) Treelympics 2014, which is being coordinated by the Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment, the Richmond Vale Academy and Scotia Bank.

The schools involved in the exercise on Bequia are: the Bequia Community High School, the Bequia Seventh-Day Adventist Secondary School, the Bequia Anglican Primary School, the Bequia Seventh-Day Adventist Primary, the Bequia Sunshine Academy, the Bequia Paradise Primary School and the Paget Farm Government School. ENO is a global virtual school and network for sustainable development, which engages children, youth, schools and cities of the world to join a tree planting challenge.

With a total of 157 countries having joined since the launch in 2000, schools around the world are committed to the challenge.

To date, the Environmental Management Department, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Education, the Richmond Vale Academy and Scotia Bank, has successfully registered more than 100 schools and groups in SVG to participate in the programme. Each school registered will plant at least 15 trees, including 10 moringa and five ornamental/fruit trees. The initiative is designed to build awareness among Vincentians about the importance of trees for life.

Among the benefits of trees are: to filter pollution from the air, to sequester carbon (1/5 of CO2 is tied by world’s forests), to help recycle water, to prevent soil loss, to create shade, to provide homes for animals, to make food for human and wildlife, inter alia.

Trees have so far been planted in all schools on the Leeward side of the island and the Belle Isle Correctional Facility in North Leeward. In the coming weeks, trees will be planted in schools in Kingstown, on the Windward side, and also in the Southern Grenadines, prior to the deadline of 24th October, 2014.

In the light of climate change, with biodiversity loss and land degradation being the major environmental issues affecting SVG, planting a tree is a small step towards protecting the environment and sustaining life.

Coreas Hazell’s Inc donates to Campden Park Technical Institute

THE CAMPDEN PARK Technical Institute is the latest beneficiary of generosity from Coreas Hazell’s Inc.

They recently received a quantity of supplies which include plumbing, electrical and other light hardware items. The donation, which carries a total value of ECS$4,000 was made by Ace Hardware, a department of Coreas Hazells Inc.

The Campden Park Technical Institute is an institution which conducts various programmes for students at two levels. They are level one, CQL - Caribbean Vocational Qualification and level two, CXC - Caribbean Examination Council.

On receiving the items at Ace in Kingstown, much gratitude was expressed by David Penniston, deputy principal and Communications instructor and Morris Prescott, Electrical and Mechanical installation instructor. They stated that the items donated by Coreas will assist in their students’ skills training, as they prepare either for entry into the job market at the basic level or for tertiary level education.

Debbie Huggins, divisional manager at Ace, said “We take seriously our corporate and social responsibility to assist persons, communities and organizations in many different ways.” She continued, “This donation is one of very many and we felt that the Campden Park Technical Institute performs a vital role in educating persons at a technical level. We had the products and we know they could be utilized to benefit these students.”