

PRESS RELEASE

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VI Public Urged To Properly Dispose Electronic Waste

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The Department of Waste Management has reported that there has been a recent increase in unsafe dumping practices and is urging the public to properly dispose of their electronics.

Acting Director of the Department of Waste Management, Mr. Ahdan Doward, said while the department routinely reminds residents about safe disposal, they must be especially mindful of how they discard items such as mobile phones, laptops, LCD screens, modems, and video game consoles as many of these devices contain lithium batteries, which pose a fire risk when disposed of improperly.

“After collection, electronics are landfilled separately to reduce hazards,” Mr. Doward explained, adding, “Our long-term vision is to partner with markets that can buy back certain electronic items and recycle them on an industrial scale.”

The Acting Director added that the department continues to explore responsible and sustainable waste management options for the Virgin Islands and that proper disposal of electronic waste plays a vital role in keeping the Territory clean, green, and pristine.

To that end, Mr. Doward is reminding residents to take electronic items directly to the Pockwood Pond Dumpsite. He said items may also be placed in a clearly separated bag next to a community recycling bin. Businesses are reminded that they are required to dump waste directly at the Pockwood Pond facility.

Members of the public are also encouraged to report improper dumping and stay up to date with proper disposal guidelines by following the Department of Waste Management’s official Facebook page. Persons found illegally dumping face a \$150 fine.

For more information, persons may contact the Department of Waste Management at 284-468-4934.