

Green Pledge Guide



***Making it easy for
businesses and
organisations to
make a pledge
for the
environment***



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ABOUT THE GREEN PLEDGE PROGRAMME

The Green Pledge Programme encourages all businesses and organisations, including NGOs, service groups and church groups in The Virgin Islands, to “Go Green” by reducing their environmental impact and increasing their environmental stewardship.

The Green Pledge Programme was launched by the former Conservation and Fisheries Department in June 2012 in celebration of Environment Month. Over 50 businesses and organisations made a Green Pledge in 2012. The Green Pledge Programme is now managed by the [Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change](#) in partnership with [Green VI](#).

The Government is also partnering with Green VI to further develop and establish a [Green Certification Programme](#) for The Virgin Islands through which businesses and organisations can achieve Bronze, Silver, Gold and Leadership levels of certification which will deliver greater benefits and rewards.

WHY MAKE A GREEN PLEDGE?

There are many benefits to making a Green Pledge:

- Reduce operating costs through energy and water savings and waste reduction
- Reduce the amount of waste produced for incineration or landfill
- Attract new customers who care about your environmental footprint
- Improve your public image and reputation
- Create a healthier workplace, resulting in a healthier and more productive workforce
- Help to protect The Virgin Islands' environment which serves us all!
- Get promoted on the Government's website and social media platforms
- Benefit from other rewards that may be provided to participating businesses and organisations from time to time

WAYS TO GO GREEN

There are many ways to Go Green. You can take action in the areas listed below and others. Your Green Pledge can be specific to just one of these areas or can cover as many areas as you wish. This Guide provides actions that you can take to go green in each of these areas.

1. **Energy** – reduce energy use and/or integrate renewable energies
2. **Water** – reduce water use
3. **Waste** – reduce waste production and reuse, recycle or dispose of waste in an environmentally friendly manner
4. **Responsible Purchasing** – purchase “green” products that use fewer natural resources, energy or water in their production or use, contain fewer hazardous or toxic materials, have a longer life span and can be reused, recycled or disposed of easily and safely;
5. **Eco-friendly Development / Practices** – develop and operate in areas and with methods that do not impact critical natural ecosystems like ghuts, salt ponds, mangroves, beaches and coral reefs and that generally minimise impact to the environment
6. **Eco-Action** – support events, projects, programmes and organisations that work towards environmental protection and restoration
7. **Eco-Education** – encourage environmental awareness and good practice within your business/organisation and among the public
8. **Advocacy** – advocate for environmental protection and action

MAKING A PLEDGE IS EASY!

Making a Green Pledge is easy! Be part of the 2024 Environment Month Green Pledge Drive by following the simple steps below!

1. Register your Green Pledge by June 30, 2024

- a) Identify a Green Ambassador for your business/organisation that will serve as your Green Pledge focal point. This person will be responsible for coordinating implementation of your Pledge and serve as the point of contact for the Ministry / Green VI.
- b) Decide on a Green Pledge for your business/organisation and develop an Action Plan to achieve it.

Your Green Pledge should be SMART – specific, measureable, attainable, relevant and time bound. This Guide provides examples of SMART Pledges.

Your Action Plan is a simple document outlining exactly what you will do to achieve each commitment under your Pledge, the persons responsible for each action and resources required. Your Action Plan will help to make sure your Pledge becomes a reality!

This Guide provides an Action Plan template and several “greening” actions and links to resources to help you keep your Pledge.

- c) Submit the [Green Pledge Registration Form](#) to the Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change, including your Green Pledge and Action Plan by June 30, 2024. Email to menrcc@gov.vg with the subject line GREEN PLEDGE – Business/Organisation Name.

Note: The Green Pledge is an ongoing programme. Businesses and organisations are encouraged to sign up during the Green Pledge Drive but can make a Green Pledge at any time in the future following the instructions above.

2. Display your Green Pledge Seal at your business/organisation!



The Green Pledge Seal lets the public know that your business / organisation has made a commitment to greening its operations. The public will be able to learn more about your Green Pledge at the Ministry's website.

Pledgers who sign up as part of the 2024 Environment Month Green Pledge Drive will receive their Green Pledge Seals at the end of Environment Month. Businesses/organisations renewing their 2012 Green Pledge will receive the new, rebranded Green Pledge Seal.

3. Implement your Pledge!

Implement your Action Plan to keep your Green Pledge, monitor progress and report achievements for public recognition and other rewards. For instance, pledgers should keep a log and other records of operational changes made, reductions in energy and water use, savings on purchasing paper and other consumables and other improvements.

DEVELOPING A SMART GREEN PLEDGE

Your Green Pledge should capture the “what” and “when” of your greening goal. Your Action Plan will capture “how” you will achieve your Pledge.

Your Green Pledge should be SMART - that is, specific, measureable, attainable, relevant and time bound. The graphic below describes these attributes.

Setting SMART goals

BiteSize Learning



Some examples of SMART Green Pledges in each Pledge Category are provided below. These are just examples. There are no constraints or limits on what you can Pledge. Your Pledge can be different from the examples listed and can be more ambitious. Your Green Pledge can be as specific as just one of these areas or can cover as many areas as you wish.

- ✓ **Energy** – Reduce total energy use by 15% by the end of 2024
- ✓ **Water** – Reduce total water use by 15% by the end of 2024
- ✓ **Waste** – Implement a recycling system for plastic, glass and aluminum within 2 months
- ✓ **Responsible Purchasing** – Eliminate purchasing of single-use plastics by the end of 2024
- ✓ **Eco-friendly Development / Operations** – Ensure new hotel suites in our real estate portfolio are appropriately setback from the beachfront to prevent beach erosion and ensure resilience to sea level rise
- ✓ **Eco-Action** – Ensure all staff volunteer for at least two environmental service projects in 2024.
- ✓ **Eco-Education** – Sponsor an environmental education initiative or activity for at least one primary school class in 2024
- ✓ **Advocacy** – Advocate for the passage of the Environment and Climate Change Bill before the end of 2024

GREEN PLEDGE ACTION PLAN TEMPLATE

Download and complete the **Green Pledge Action Plan Template** and attach it to your Green Pledge Registration Form.

An example of a completed Green Pledge Action Plan for a typical office-based business is provided below for guidance purposes only. Please note that figures included are fictitious for illustrative purposes only.

Pledge Commitment	Actions Required	Responsible Person	Deadline	Resources Required*
Energy Reduce total energy use by 15% by the end of 2024	1. Replace all light bulbs in the office with LED bulbs	Office Manager	Within 1 month of Pledge	\$100
	2. Create and share a company energy policy requiring all staff to: • Turn off computers at the end of each business day and set computers to hibernate after 30 minutes of inactivity • Turn off air conditioning units at the end of each day • Keep air conditioning at the recommended indoor comfort temperature of 78 degrees Fahrenheit	Human Resources Manager	Within 2 weeks of Pledge	IT to send automated reminders to staff close to the end of each day
	3. Update company procurement rules to ensure all new devices purchased are energy efficient	Finance Manager	Within 2 weeks of Pledge	5% increase in procurement budget (cost recovered in energy savings)
Water Reduce total water use by	1. Upgrade all faucets to low flow faucets that use a maximum of 1.5 gallons per minute	Office Manager	Within 3 months of Pledge	\$600

15% by the end of 2024	2. Upgrade all toilets to low flush toilets that use a maximum of 1.6 gallons per flush	Office Manager	Within 3 months of Pledge	\$1,200
	3. Fix all leaky toilets and faucets	Office Manager	Within 2 weeks of Pledge	\$100
Waste Implement a recycling system for plastic, glass and aluminum within 2 months	1. Set up a 3-compartment recycling bin station in the office kitchen	Office Manager	Within 1 month of Pledge	\$100
	2. Designate staff to dispose of recyclables at the We Recycle Center at Paraquita Bay, Tortola or The Valley, Virgin Gorda. Please call 443-1775 for instructions and directions. <i>*For guidance in setting up recycling stations and collection options through Green VI, please contact 346-4040.</i>	Office Manager	Within 1 month of Pledge	N/A
Responsible Purchasing Eliminate purchasing of single-use plastics by the end of 2024	1. Purchase a 5-gallon water cooler for the office	Office Manager	Within 1 month of Pledge	\$250
	2. Contract supply of water and cleaning of cooler	Office Manager	Within 1 month of Pledge	\$100/month
Eco-friendly Development / Practices Ensure new hotel suites in our real estate portfolio are appropriately setback from the beachfront to prevent beach erosion and ensure resilience to sea level rise	1. Develop a company policy for new development requiring: Consulting with the Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change at the beginning of conceptual development planning to ensure plans are best fit for the surrounding environment	General Manager	Within 2 months of Pledge	N/A

	Hiring an environmental expert to ensure the environment is best factored throughout development planning and recommended environmental mitigation measures are strictly adhered to during development			
Eco-Action Ensure all staff volunteer for at least two environmental service projects in 2024.	- Organise a mangrove clean up activity for International Coastal Cleanup Day - Write to all environmental NGOs offering a staff volunteer day in 2024	Human Resources Manager Human Resources Manager	September 21, 2024 Within 2 weeks of Pledge	\$150 N/A
Eco-Education Sponsor an environmental education initiative or activity for at least one primary school class in 2024.	Reach out to a local environmental agency or NGO to sponsor a school education programme	Finance Manager	Within 2 weeks of Pledge	\$500
Advocacy Advocate for the passage of the Environment and Climate Change Bill before the end of 2024	- Write a letter of support to the Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change - Write a letter of support to the editors of local newspapers	General Manager General Manager	Within 1 month of Pledge Within 1 month of Pledge	N/A N/A

RECOGNITION FOR MAKING A GREEN PLEDGE

- ✓ All Pledge takers will be awarded the official Green Pledge Seal, which bears the logos of the Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change and Green VI, for display at their place of business / operations.
- ✓ All Pledge takers and their Pledges will be posted on the websites of the Ministry and Green VI.

MAKE AN ENERGY PLEDGE!

- ✓ **TO REDUCE ENERGY USE THROUGH CONSERVATION PRACTICES AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY**

Sample Actions

1. Conduct an energy audit of your business / organisation to understand where most energy is being used and how you can cut back.
2. Switch out standard lights bulbs with compact fluorescent energy efficient bulbs (CFLs). Each ENERGY STAR qualified CFL will save more than \$30 over its lifetime, use 75% less energy and last about 10 times longer than a regular incandescent bulb.
3. Turn off lights when not in use.
4. Power down all computers and machines at the end of each work day. Set computers to hibernate after 30 minutes of inactivity.
5. Turn off AC units when not in use and set to the recommended 78°F to keep cool while being energy efficient.

6. Install smart devices to turn off lights, air conditioning units etc. when a room is not in use.
7. Switch out regular applications such as refrigerators, washers, dryers, dishwashers, air conditioning units etc. with Energy Star or other energy efficient labeled appliances.
8. Reduce travel to meetings by encouraging online meetings and teleconferencing.
9. Plan deliveries and other transportation activities carefully to reduce the need to drive.
10. Keep business vehicles well serviced to maximise gas mileage.
11. Purchase vehicles with a high gas mileage (i.e. drives many miles on each gallon of gas/diesel).
12. Encourage employees to walk instead of drive to conduct business activities whenever practical.
13. Wash linens, dishes etc. on a cold wash cycle; heating the water requires a lot of energy.
14. Dry linens on a clothes line instead of a dryer when possible.

Resources to help

[Green VI](#) – Contact Green VI for local assistance with energy audits and energy efficiency

[Business Energy Audits: A Small Business Guide](#)

[Energy Saver](#) (U.S Department of Energy)

[101 Easy Ways to Save Energy](#) (Alliant Energy)

[Energy Star](#) (Energy Star Certified products: CFL light bulbs; Energy Star Products; programmable thermostats, etc.)

[5 Free Online Meeting Tools](#) (Web-Conferencing and Text-Based)

[Drive More Efficiently](#) (U.S. Department of Energy)

[Improving your gas mileage](#) (U.S. Department of Energy)

[Energy 101 Video: Energy Efficient Commercial Buildings](#) (U.S. Department of Energy)

[23 Key Features of an Energy Efficient Building](#)

✓ TO INTEGRATE RENEWABLE ENERGIES

Sample Actions

1. Invest in a solar water heater.
2. Use solar-powered yard lighting.
3. Install solar panels and investigate other options to incorporate solar or wind energy.
4. Support efforts to move The Virgin Islands towards renewable energy.

Resources to help

[BVIEC - Renewable Energy Application Process](#)

[Green VI](#) – Contact Green VI for recommendations for local renewable energy providers and installers

[Solar Water Heaters](#)

[Solar Energy Industries Association](#) - Offers a directory of solar hot water manufacturers, distributors, contractors, and design consultants

[The Renewable Energy Hub UK](#)

MAKE A WATER PLEDGE!

✓ TO REDUCE WATER USE THROUGH CONSERVATION PRACTICES AND WATER EFFICIENCY

Sample Actions

1. Use water wisely while washing hands – turn off the tap while you lather and run the tap at a low flow.
2. Fix any leaky faucets, showerheads or toilets immediately.
3. Replace standard 3.4-gallon-per-flush toilets with low-flush toilets that use 1.6 gallons per flush to save 1.8 gallons per flush!
4. Replace standard faucets with aerated faucets to reduce water use by 30% or more without sacrificing performance.
5. Replace standard showerheads with low-flow aerated showerheads. This provides the same water pressure, but uses half a gallon less water a minute.
6. Replace regular washing machines with a water-efficient model to cut down water use by 50% per load!
7. Use water saving practices and systems in your landscaping, such as selecting drought-resistant native plant varieties and using drip irrigation instead of sprinkler watering systems.

Resources to help

[Green VI](#) – Contact for recommendations for purchasing water-efficient devices locally

[Commercial Water Savings Calculator](#)

[Water Audit Guidance for Commercial Buildings](#)

[Your DIY Water Efficiency Audit](#)

[How to check for a water leak](#)

[Water Efficient Landscaping](#)

[EPA WaterSense labeled faucets, toilets and other products](#)

[Ultimate Guide to Low-Flow Toilets](#)

MAKE A WASTE PLEDGE!

✓ TO REDUCE OUR WASTE FOOTPRINT BY MINIMISING WASTE PRODUCED, REUSING AND RECYCLING

Sample Actions

1. Plan operations carefully to use the minimum inputs/materials possible.
2. Have clearly defined operational procedures and standards and train staff in order to reduce unnecessary/careless errors or use of materials.
3. Avoid unnecessary purchases for the office/business; all purchases eventually become waste.
4. Find ways to reuse or refurbish old materials. E.g. Little Dix Bay Hotel made garbage bins from waste wood. Old tires and glass bottles can be used in landscaping.
5. Build partnerships with other businesses to share and reuse materials and supplies.
6. Refurbish and buy refurbished office equipment.
7. Purchase products packaged in minimal or biodegradable packaging.
8. Buy materials in concentrate or in bulk when possible to reduce on packaging waste.

9. Buy products that are reusable, returnable or refillable.
10. Reuse and refill toner cartridges and ribbons.
11. Buy recycled office products that contain post-consumer recycled material.
12. Use flexible interior features, such as movable walls, to reduce renovation waste.
13. Choose durable materials/furnishings to reduce the cost/waste associated with replacement.
14. Reduce use of plastic cups by providing employees with their own reusable cups.
15. Use a water cooler or fountain instead of purchasing individual plastic water bottles for staff.
16. If your office is purchasing giveaways, choose green giveaways, such as reusable shopping bags and mugs that encourage reuse and reduce plastic waste.
17. Purchase reusable containers to avoid zip lock bags, aluminum foil and polystyrene containers.

Resources to help

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

[BVI We Recycle Programme](#)

[Set Up a Recycling System with Green VI](#)

[Green VI](#) – Contact for guidance on how to end use of single-use plastic water bottles in your business / organisation

[Waste Management Explained: A Comprehensive Guide for Businesses](#)

[How to Develop a Waste Management Plan for Your Business](#)

[A Complete 10-Step Guide to Waste Management Planning](#)

[Waste Management Policies](#)

[Green Your Business – CalRecycle](#)

[10 Cost Effective Waste Management Solutions for Business](#)

[Commercial Waste Prevention](#)

[Waste Not, Want Not: Practical Tips for Reducing Waste in Your Workplace](#)

[Purchasing guide: The new eco-friendly products for offices and warehouses](#)

[How to recognise eco-friendly and buy recycled products](#)

[Local Facebook pages for used goods](#)

[BVI Freebies](#)

[VI Buy Sell Trade](#)

[BVI Bring & Buy](#)

[Bvi Bring and Buy](#)

[BVI Sell & Buy](#)

[BVI Market Place](#)

[Sell BVI](#)

[Waste Audits](#)

[Waste Audit](#)

[How to Conduct a Waste Audit in Your Business](#)

[How to conduct a Waste Audit to Save Money](#)

[Sector-based Resources](#)

[Sector Waste – Explore waste by sector](#)

[Hotel Waste Management](#)

[How to Reduce Waste in Hotels and Hospitality](#)

[Restaurant Waste Management](#)

[Food for Thought: A Restaurant Guide to Waste Reduction and Recycling](#)

[Construction Waste Management](#)

[Retail Waste Management](#)

[Reducing Waste in Retail Operations](#)

[Retail Waste Guide 2024](#)

✓ **TO REDUCE PAPER USE BY X% BY THE END OF THE YEAR**

Sample Actions

1. Share information through emails and phone calls instead of printed letters/memos.
2. Create an office bulletin board where important staff notices can be shared to avoid printing individual notices.
3. Invest in tints and other aids to make on screen reading easier to reduce demand for printing.
4. Train staff members in using computer tools for highlighting, editing and commenting on documents to minimise the need to print documents for editing by hand.
5. Create a policy to generally require double-sided printing and photocopying. Ensure that the default setting for all computers is set to double-sided printing and that staff members understand how to select the option on printers and copiers.
6. Reduce the margins, line spacing and font size to shorten documents.
7. Reduce mailings. Keep your mailing list updated, delete duplicates, remove those who have requested to be off, and target your necessary mailings to specific audiences.
8. Switch to electronic newsletters, customer notices and billing systems.

9. Keep a stack of used paper next to the printer for use in printing draft/in house documents. If multiple printers are available, dedicate one printer for reused paper only.
10. Switch to an electronic filing system.
11. Revise protocols for keeping records and archiving information to minimise the use of paper. For example, reduce the number of file copies required or archive files and emails in a securely managed electronic system.
12. Encourage staff members to only print documents and emails when absolutely necessary.
13. Encourage paperless meetings and office events. For example, use overhead projection, bulletin boards or announcements for sharing meeting/workshop agendas and event programmes.
14. Instead of printing Web pages, bookmark or save the pages.
15. Use electronic media that reduce paper waste;
16. Use two-way or send-and-return envelopes; outgoing envelopes get reused for their return trip;
17. Reuse old paper for notepads. Cut to custom sizes and bind with a staple.

Resources to help

[How to reduce paper consumption in your office \(and save money at the same time!\)](#)

[Paperless Plan: Reduce Paper Use One Step at a Time](#)

[Turning the Page: A Behavior Change Toolkit for Reducing Paper Use](#)

[How To Measure The Success of Your Paperless Office Initiative](#)

[Paper Saving Case Studies](#)

✓ **TO PRINT GREEN (I.E. IN AN ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE MANNER)**

Sample Actions

1. Use paper labeled totally chlorine-free (TCF) or processed chlorine-free (PCF). Both terms mean that the mill did not use chlorine compounds to brighten the paper. Talk to your paper vendor or printer about the price and availability of TCF and PCF papers. Chlorine bleaching creates a toxic, bio-accumulative waste by-product called dioxin which is dangerous to human health.
2. Request inks with non-petroleum (fossil fuel) based, such as soybeans or linseed.
3. Request inks that emit low amounts of volatile organic compounds (VOCs). Nonpetroleum-based inks are usually lower in VOCs.
4. Use pre-press technologies that eliminate or reduce hazardous materials, such as direct-to-plate printing.
5. Buy paper that is produced by a company with a commitment to environmental stewardship.
6. Purchase post-consumer recycled content papers. This helps reduce the cutting of trees to make paper, divert waste from landfills and incinerators and expand the recycling market.
7. Buy Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified paper and print products.

Resources to help

[Find Forest Stewardship Council \(FSC\) certified papers and printers](#)

[Green Printing Guide with Examples](#)

[5 of the Latest Sustainable Printing Methods](#)

✓ TO REDUCE/ELIMINATE USE OF PLASTIC BAGS

Sample Actions

1. Educate staff and customers about the dangers of plastic bags.
2. Offer customers reusable shopping bags or paper bags with their purchase instead.
3. Offer incentives for using reusable shopping bags or charge extra for using plastic bags.
4. Reuse garbage bags in cubicle bins by emptying all garbage into one bag at the end of the day.
5. Purchase biodegradable plastic bags instead of regular plastic bags.
6. Use reusable, durable containers or bags for storage instead of plastic bags.

Resources to help

[10 Facts about Single-Use Plastic Bags](#)

[15 Serious Effects of Plastic Bags](#)

[Sustainable Plastic Bag Alternatives for Your Business](#)

[5 Biodegradable Alternatives to Plastic Bags](#)

[Six Greener Alternatives to Plastic Trash Bags](#)

[What's the best alternative to a single-use plastic bag? It depends](#)

[What's the real price of getting rid of plastic packaging?](#)

[Top Reusable Bag Manufacturers](#)

[Top 10 Grocery Bags Manufacturers and Suppliers in 2024](#)

[Certified Reusable Grocery Bags and Producers](#)

✓ **TO REDUCE/ELIMINATE STYROFOAM AND PLASTIC DISPOSABLE FOOD CONTAINERS AND UTENSILS**

Sample Actions

1. Provide reusable/washable dishware and cutlery to restaurant patrons eating in.
2. For takeout, offer compostable / biodegradable food containers instead of Styrofoam or plastic containers.
3. Encourage customers to bring their own mugs for coffee or tea.

Resources to help

[Sustainable Packaging for Food: Your Guide to Going Green](#)

[A Guide to Eco-Friendly Food Delivery Containers for Restaurants](#)

[Essential Guide: Eco-Friendly Food Packaging for Delivery & Takeout – Dos and Don'ts](#)

[Takeaway Food Containers Rated From Green To Greenwashing](#)

[Our 2024 Guide to Sustainable Packaging](#)

[Sustainable Takeaway and Delivery Packaging](#) – Responsible Cafes

✓ **TO DISPOSE OF WASTE IN A SAFE, ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE MANNER**

Sample Actions

1. Support the We Recycling programme in The Virgin Islands. When recycling, rinse and separate waste into glass, aluminum and plastics.
2. Build septic tanks and other sewage treatment facilities to the right size/specification and ensure regular maintenance to prevent breakdowns.
3. Yachts – store sewage in holding tanks and empty in open waters at least 3 miles offshore.

4. Where possible, return e-waste (computers and other electronic waste) to the vendor/manufacturer for safe disposal/recycling.
5. Refill ink cartridges instead of throwing them out and buying new ones.
6. Support secondhand stores and online used exchanges instead of purchasing new items.
7. Donate used office equipment and supplies to service organisations, churches, schools or other groups that could use them.
8. Practice composting yard and food wastes for reuse in landscaping.
9. Take cooking waste oil to the incinerator at Pockwood Pond, not public bins.
10. Take all bulk waste to the incinerator at Pockwood Pond; not public bins.

Resources to help

[Department of Waste Management](#) (Office: 468-4934; Incinerator: 468-4069)

[Green VI](#) (email: info@greenvi.org; phone: (284) 346-4040)

[Compost Resources](#)

[The Composting Handbook](#)

Local Facebook pages for used goods

[BVI Freebies](#)

[VI Buy Sell Trade](#)

[BVI Bring & Buy](#)

[Bvi Bring and Buy](#)

[BVI Sell & Buy](#)

[BVI Market Place](#)

[Sell BVI](#)

MAKE A RESPONSIBLE PURCHASING PLEDGE!

- ✓ **TO PURCHASE “GREEN” PRODUCTS THAT USE FEWER NATURAL RESOURCES, ENERGY OR WATER IN THEIR PRODUCTION OR USE, CONTAIN FEWER HAZARDOUS OR TOXIC MATERIALS, HAVE A LONGER LIFE SPAN AND CAN BE REUSED, RECYCLED OR DISPOSED OF EASILY AND SAFELY;**

Sample Actions

1. Purchase items that can be reused instead of disposable options (e.g. purchase reusable dishes and cutlery for the office kitchen).
2. Purchase “green” cleaning products.
3. Avoid cleaning products known to have harmful to the environment or human health.
4. Purchase biodegradable alternatives to plastic and Styrofoam containers.
5. Purchase products in biodegradable or recyclable packaging.
6. Switch to electric vehicles.

Resources to help

General

[What is a Green Procurement Policy?](#)

[Sustainable Purchasing Guidelines](#)

[Green Procurement Guidelines](#)

[Simple Sample Green Purchasing Policy](#)

[StopWaste Sustainable Procurement Policy Template](#)

[SupplyShift](#) - Responsible Procurement - Sustainable Procurement App

[Purchasing guide: The new eco-friendly products for offices and warehouses](#)

[Environmentally Preferable Purchasing \(EPP\)](#)

[How to recognise eco-friendly and buy recycled products](#)

[Introduction to Ecolabels and Standards for Greener Products](#)

[Green Cleaning](#)

[The Sustainable Cleaning Guide](#)

[Green Cleaning Guide](#)

[GreenTok: The Ultimate Guide to Natural and Reduced Waste Cleaning](#)

[Paper, Plastic Bag Alternatives, Takeaway Containers](#)

[Find Forest Stewardship Council \(FSC\) certified papers and printers](#)

[Sustainable Plastic Bag Alternatives for Your Business](#)

[5 Biodegradable Alternatives to Plastic Bags](#)

[Six Greener Alternatives to Plastic Trash Bags](#)

[What's the best alternative to a single-use plastic bag? It depends](#)

[What's the real price of getting rid of plastic packaging?](#)

[Top Reusable Bag Manufacturers](#)

[Top 10 Grocery Bags Manufacturers and Suppliers in 2024](#)

[Certified Reusable Grocery Bags and Producers](#)

[Sustainable Packaging for Food: Your Guide to Going Green](#)

[A Guide to Eco-Friendly Food Delivery Containers for Restaurants](#)

[Essential Guide: Eco-Friendly Food Packaging for Delivery & Takeout – Dos and Don'ts](#)

[Takeaway Food Containers Rated From Green To Greenwashing](#)

[Our 2024 Guide to Sustainable Packaging](#)

[Sustainable Takeaway and Delivery Packaging](#) – Responsible Cafes

MAKE AN ECO-FRIENDLY DEVELOPMENT / PRACTICES PLEDGE!

✓ TO PROTECT THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT AND MINIMISE ECOLOGICAL AND CARBON FOOTPRINTS IN DEVELOPMENT OF NEW FACILITIES / BUILDINGS

Sample Actions

1. Avoid destruction of and minimise impact to ecosystems in development of new facilities / buildings
2. Design energy-smart, LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified buildings
3. Build with eco-friendly and sustainable materials

✓ TO PROTECT THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT AND MINIMISE ECOLOGICAL AND CARBON FOOTPRINTS IN OPERATIONS

1. Develop standard operating procedures with guidance from an environmental expert to ensure business practices have the least environmental impact possible.
2. Use environmentally-friendly cleaning products that are not harmful to the environment or staff.
3. Make an Energy, Water and Waste Pledge!

Resources to help

Development

[Building Green in The Virgin Islands](#)

[Best Management Practices: A Guide for Reducing Erosion in the British Virgin Islands](#)

[Sediment & Erosion Control on Construction Sites Field Guide](#)

[Guide to LEED Certification](#)

[Energy 101 Video: Energy Efficient Commercial Buildings](#) (U.S. Department of Energy)

[23 Key Features of an Energy Efficient Building](#)

[Sustainable construction in hot and tropical climates](#)

[Complete guide to sustainable construction for 2021 and beyond](#)

[A Guide to Sustainable Building Practices](#)

[Guide to Sustainable Building Materials and Costs](#)

[Exploring Sustainable Building Materials: A Quick Guide](#)

Operations

[The Sustainable Cleaning Guide](#)

[The Green Guide to Anchoring and Moorings](#)

[The Green Guide to Coastal Boating](#)

[The Guide on Responsible Boating](#)

[Green Blue Business Directory – Products](#)

[Green Blue Business Directory – Services](#)

MAKE AN ECO-EDUCATION PLEDGE!

✓ TO ENCOURAGE ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS AND GOOD PRACTICE IN EMPLOYEES/ CUSTOMERS

Sample Actions

1. Sponsor a programme/club that educates children about the environment.
2. Sign up for “Green Thinking Training” by Green VI.
3. Post environmental messages/reminders at the workplace.

4. Print environmental messages / tips on company receipts.
5. Organise presentations to staff about eco practices or environmental issues.
6. Post environmental messages and tips for customers at key locations at your establishment. E.g. start an Eco-Tip of the Week at the checkout or post environmental tips next to key products.
7. Stock and highlight environmentally friendly products (e.g. energy saving light bulbs, energy and water efficient appliances, low-flush toilets, composting barrels, etc).
8. Label and promote locally produced products and produce and sustainably caught fish.
9. Label products with environmental dangers and provide mitigation options.
10. Visit a school to educate about being environmentally friendly in your line of business.
11. Encourage customers to use reusable bags (through education and incentives) and make them available at checkout.
12. Plan a field day for staff to get out, explore and appreciate the local environment.

Resources to help

[BVI Marine Awareness Guide](#)

[How to Promote Environmental Awareness in the Workplace](#)

[Toward Engagement 2.0: Creating a More Sustainable Company Through Employee Engagement](#)

[Introduction to Ecolabels and Standards for Greener Products](#)

[Global Stewards – Green Living Hub](#)

Local Environmental Agencies and NGOs

[Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change](#) – (284)468-2147

[National Parks Trust of The Virgin Islands](#) – (284) 393-9284

[Centre for Applied Marine Studies, H. Lavity Stoutt Community College](#) – Susan Zaluski, Director - (284) 852-7166

[Association of Reef Keepers \(ARK\)](#) - (284) 546-0164; info@bviark.org

[Beyond the Reef](#) - (284) 346-1444; 1BeyondtheReef@gmail.com

[Green VI](#) - (284) 346-4040; info@greenvi.org

[Unite BVI](#) - contactus@unitebvi.com

MAKE A PLEDGE OF SUPPORT!

✓ **TO SUPPORT ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL NGOS IN THEIR MISSIONS**

Sample Actions

1. Give monetary contributions to the National Parks Trust of The Virgin Islands and environmental NGOs (see list and contacts under Resources).
2. Help fund environmental projects, such as:
 - *Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change*
 - Operation Restoration - Beach Dune Restoration at Long Bay, Beef Island
 - *HLSCC*
 - Mangrove nursery
 - *National Parks Trust*
 - Marine Conservation Programme
 - Species Recovery
 - Reforestation
 - Environmental Education and Outreach
 - Biodiversity Conservation
 - Mangrove nursery

- *Association of Reef Keepers (ARK)*
 - BVI Sea Turtle Programme
 - Coral Restoration
 - ARK Expeditions
 - *Beyond the Reef*
 - Coral Restoration
 - Tackling "Ghost Fishing
 - Coastal cleanups
 - Whale Research
 - *Green VI*
 - We Recycle
 - BugOut
3. Make in-kind donations (equipment, venue, tools, activity resources etc.) to environment projects.
 4. Volunteer expertise and time to environmental projects.

Resources to help

Local Environmental Agencies and NGOs

<u>Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change</u>	Environment and Climate Change Unit	(284) 468-2147	<u>menrcc@gov.vg</u>
<u>National Parks Trust of The Virgin Islands</u>	Dr. Cassander Titley-O'Neal (Director)	(284) 393-9284	<u>bvinpt@bvinpt.org</u>
<u>Centre for Applied Marine Studies, H. Lavity Stoutt Community College</u>	Susan Zaluski (Director)	(284) 852-7166	<u>szaluski@hlscc.edu.vg</u>

<u>Association of Reef Keepers (ARK)</u>	Dr. Shannon Gore (Managing Director)	(284) 546-0164	info@bviark.org
<u>Beyond the Reef</u>	Chris Juredin; Kendyl Berna (Founders)	(284) 346-1444	1BeyondtheReef@gmail.com
<u>Green VI</u>	Charlotte McDevitt (Executive Director); Sarah Penny (Deputy Director)	(284) 346-4040	info@greenvi.org
<u>Unite BVI Foundation</u>	Sauda Smith, (Executive Trustee); Kim Takeuchi, Foundation Manager		contactus@unitebvi.com

MAKE AN ECO-ACTION PLEDGE!

✓ TO PARTICIPATE IN ENVIRONMENTAL EVENTS/ACTIONS

Sample Actions

1. Organise a coastal cleanup on International Coastal Cleanup Day (September) or another day.
2. Replant mangroves.
3. Plant trees/flowers.
4. Sponsor an environmental challenge/competition for a community (e.g. a Best Yard Contest).
5. Clean a ghut.

6. Volunteer to fight Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease (contact ARK or Beyond the Reef)
7. Volunteer to turtle monitor (contact Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change).
8. Volunteer to participate in the annual bird count (contact National Parks Trust).

Resources to help

International Action Days

[World Wetlands Day](#) – 2nd February

[World Wildlife Day](#) – 3rd March

[Global Recycling Day](#) – 18th March

[World Water Day](#) – 22nd March

[Earth Day](#) – 22nd April

[Stop Food Waste Day](#) – 24th April

[Endangered Species Day](#) – 17th May

[World Environment Day](#) – 5th June

[World Oceans Day](#) – 8th June

[World Refill Day](#) – 16th June

[Plastic Free July](#) – 1st – 31st July

[Second hand September](#) – 1st – 30th September

[International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer](#) – 16th September

[International Coastal Cleanup](#) – 21st September

Local Environmental Agencies and NGOs

<u>Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change</u>	Environment and Climate Change Unit	(284) 468-2147	<u>menrcc@gov.vg</u>
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<u>Centre for Applied Marine Studies, H. Lavity Stoutt Community College</u>	Susan Zaluski (Director)	(284) 852-7166	<u>szaluski@hlsc.edu.vg</u>
<u>Association of Reef Keepers (ARK)</u>	Dr. Shannon Gore (Managing Director)	(284) 546-0164	<u>info@bviark.org</u>
<u>Beyond the Reef</u>	Chris Juredin; Kendyl Berna (Founders)	(284) 346-1444	<u>IBeyondtheReef@gmail.com</u>
<u>Green VI</u>	Charlotte McDevitt (Executive Director); Sarah Penny (Deputy Director)	(284) 346-4040	<u>info@greenvi.org</u>
<u>Unite BVI Foundation</u>	Sauda Smith, (Executive Trustee); Kim Takeuchi, Foundation Manager		<u>contactus@unitebvi.com</u>

MAKE AN ADVOCACY PLEDGE!

✓ TO ADVOCATE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND ACTION

Sample Actions

1. Support environmental legislation, policies or actions.
2. Participate in radio programmes, debates and other fora in support of the environment.
3. Integrate environmental calls for action in company events.

Resources to help

[Responsible Corporate Advocacy](#)

[Raising the Business Voice for Nature](#)

[Business Advocacy: How to Cut Through in a Crisis](#)

[Corporate Leaders Groups: Business leadership for a climate neutral economy](#)

[Care2petitionsite](#)