



2021 BEST YEAR IN REVIEW

2021 proved to be another very productive year at BEST, despite the challenges of living and working in a pandemic. The year began with the amalgamation of the BEST Board and Management Team and a renewed commitment from individual members to a more robust level of engagement.

Our new mantra, 'greater collaboration for greater impact', inspired the creation of our first large-scale collaborative initiative which began in early 2021 and resulted in the launch of Beyond Plastic Bermuda (BPB) in June. BPB was formed to support the Bermuda Government's proposed elimination of single-use plastic by 2022 and to raise awareness of the impacts of plastic pollution.

BEST's future will rely upon strengthening our reach in the community and in further developing these collaborative relationships. BEST's overall goal for 2021 was to bring synergy to environmental activism and advocacy by bringing others to the table around significant environmental issues so that there is more efficient use of resources and improved overall impact.

Going forward, BEST plans to engage in one large-scale collaborative initiative each year, while expanding collaboration for all of our existing, smaller-scale projects.

Some examples of current BEST collaborative projects are:

- Engaging with the plans and policies concerned with land use and with the preservation of the protected areas of open space, agricultural, coastal, woodland and nature reserves.
- Promoting marine conservation to protect Bermuda's valuable marine resources particularly around reef health and fisheries stocks.
- Creating and presenting Lunch and Learn opportunities, in collaboration with the Bermuda College, in an effort to raise awareness and generate discussion, particularly around local environmental issues.
- Continuing to highlight the need for increased renewable energy.
- Lobbying for the elimination of single-use plastic products.

- Understanding and influencing practices for the reduced use of pesticides in Bermuda.

Presently environmental concerns are over-shadowed by the threats from climate change. BEST continues to urge the Bermuda Government to formalize a national strategy so that we can identify specific ways to contribute through our work.

BEST recognizes that for many people looking out of their window in (beautiful) Bermuda, it is unlikely that they see the many signs of potential environmental disaster. Critically, humans need to exist in harmony with nature, not in conflict or competition with it. A clean, healthy environment is not only vital to our own healthy living, but to the survival of all living things.

We encourage everyone to consider ways to reduce the impact of our own lives. Perhaps start by curbing excesses, reducing waste and considering the impact we have through our purchasing power. We may be right in questioning how we alone can make a difference but just imagine what could happen if each one of the 7 billion others that share this planet with us commits to making positive changes.

“Our natural world is under greater pressure now than at any time in human history, and the future of the entire planet – on which every single one of us depends – is in grave jeopardy”, said Sir David Attenborough in a recent news release.

It has been said that . . . “the best way to predict the future is to create it”. This is what BEST is working toward, with an overriding goal of ‘greater collaboration for greater impact’.

To learn more about our work, please watch our video:

https://youtu.be/Uk_yawQBadgan