



AUGUST BULLETIN

We're looking for volunteers to join our 'Marine Protected Areas' Team

Are you interested in the health of our oceans? Do you believe Bermuda has a big part to play in safeguarding the Sargasso Sea? Are you concerned about ocean pollution and overfishing? BEST is looking to restart the public conversation around the creation of a marine reserve around the island.

We believe Bermuda has a vital role to play globally and needs to do its part to protect the marine resources within our Economic Empowerment Zone (EEZ). This will involve educating the public about the concept of a marine reserve in our waters, and highlighting the long-term benefits that the island might enjoy economically and socially as a result. Given the scale and importance of this initiative, BEST is looking for volunteers to form a group to spearhead this project. We could use writers, marketers and individuals familiar with government policy, but indeed anyone who has a passion for Bermuda's beautiful bit of ocean blue, preserving it for current and future generations.



WELCOME TO BESTnet!

BESTnet

The Bermuda Environmental Sustainability Taskforce (BEST) has a network of BEST Friends who, we believe, are interested in making Bermuda a beautiful place for our current and future generations. It's often because of our BEST Friends that we first learn about issues that impact the environment. We are calling upon our friends to be our eyes and ears in the community when it comes to environmental issues that need addressing.

BESTnet is like a 'neighbourhood watch' system, set up to empower the community to identify and report on any environmental concerns in their area. This is a pioneering project being spearheaded by the BEST Management Team with the aim of increasing the level of environmental awareness in the community. It will help us to be informed about issues, general and specific, that affect all of us and need resolving. BESTnet is not intended to act as a complaints hotline, but as an easy way for people to make their concerns known to us, so that we may pass them on to the proper local authority and have them actioned.

Issues we would encourage you to report in to us could be:

- abandoned vehicles
- evidence of illegal fishing
- evidence of illegal dumping of trash
- evidence of construction without there being a building permit posted

BESTnet will only work with your participation. We invite you to send an email to bestnet@best.org.bm with information on any of the above or on your personal concerns. In the Subject line of the email please put BESTnet and then, in the body of the message, provide us with the following details:

Nature of the Issue:

Place:

Date:

If you prefer, you can call the information in to the BEST office on 292-3782.

'Every single person can make a difference, so imagine the difference we can make together!'

Bermuda's Energy Future

by Nick Hutchings

The Regulatory Authority of Bermuda will shortly conclude their public consultation, with all proposals for Integrated Resource Plans (IRP) to be submitted by the extended deadline of August 17th.

See: <http://rab.bm/documents/irp-proposal-consultation-extended-deadline/?wpdm=12736&refresh=5b69922e78a681533645358>

Just as Flora Duffy has come to represent the gold standard for performance, Hawaii's Kauai Island Utility Cooperative (KIUC) has come to represent the highest standard of excellence for modern, small-island utilities.

<http://website.kiuc.coop/content/about-us>

The sad truth is, BELCO doesn't even qualify for the race. The following is from the KIUC web site and every Bermudian should at first be embarrassed by the comparison then inspired by their example.

Kauai Island Utility Cooperative (KIUC) represents the gold standard of small island utilities and in November of 2002 they purchased Connecticut-based Citizens Communications' Kauai Electric.

KIUC operates as a not-for-profit organization that is owned and controlled by the people it serves. While most co-ops purchase electricity from large coal-fired power plants and huge hydroelectric power stations that can be hundreds of miles away, KIUC must generate all of its power on the island of Kauai. These smaller generating plants are powered by imported fossil fuel - which is less efficient and more expensive than mainland power sources.

In an effort to reduce its power cost, decrease its use of imported fossil fuels and increase the amount of energy generated from Kauai's own resources, KIUC has launched a strategic initiative to generate 50 percent of its electricity from renewable sources by 2023.

Some will be quick to point out that Kauai has 5 times the land mass of Bermuda and, that we do not have the land required for utility scale solar. While this is true, what we do have is very dense distributed energy resources (DER) including distributed (rooftop) solar, energy efficiency and energy conservation potential.

The Government GIS (geographical information system) shows that Bermuda's total roof area is 5 km². Just 20% of that space can provide 170 MW of solar which, when converted to average daily production, is 40% of Bermuda's demand. Industry experts estimate that switching to energy efficient appliances (AC in particular), putting hot water heaters on timers, using led light bulbs and switching off lights, TVs and computers, etc. when not in use can reduce residential demand by 30%. The savings for large commercial space are even higher.

The true potential of DER in Bermuda is at least 70% of our demand and it is cleaner, more affordable and more secure than fossil fuel generation. The only resource of any significance that Bermuda has in abundance and that we do not, is inspired leadership in the energy sector. Bermudians deserve a plan that fast-tracks clean, affordable and secure renewable energy.

KIUC by the numbers

- * 33,562 – Number of meters (electric accounts) served by KIUC.
- * 24,745 – Number of active member-owners
- * 562 – Number of square miles in KIUC's service area
- * 1,400 – Miles of 57.1kV transmission and 12.47kV distribution lines owned and maintained by the co-op
- * 151 – Employees delivering safe and reliable electricity to the citizens of Kauai
- * 40+ – Percent of KIUC's electricity that comes from renewable energy sources
- * 70 – Percent of electricity KIUC is committed to generating from renewable resources by 2030
- * \$26 million – Amount of money returned to members as patronage capital and refunds since the co-op was established
- * 125 – Total generating capacity (in megawatts) of KIUC's existing power plants
- * 3,273 residential solar rooftop systems in service
- * 99.96 percent system reliability each year from 2014-2016* 90 percent or more renewable power utilized in daylight hours on most sunny days

BEST 'Lunch & Learn' Series

BEST is working to partner with the Bermuda College to hold 'Lunch & Learn' sessions once a month during their Fall and Spring semesters (on the last Thursday of September, October and November 2018 and again in January, February and March 2019). The series will focus on environmental issues and highlight environmental projects in our community. Details will be advertised soon.

Our Summer Volunteer & Intern

Caroline Alexander signed-on as a BEST volunteer for the month of July. Kim consulted with Dr. Robbie Smith on marine-type issues that she might work on. Given that a number of his students are engaged in projects dealing with the issue of plastic pollution, he suggested we look at the ban of specific sun-screen products recently-announced for 2020 in Hawaii. Should Bermuda consider a similar ban? What are the offending ingredients in the banned products and how do they damage coral reefs? What steps would need to be taken to support a proposal for Bermuda to also call for a ban on those specific sun-screen products? Caroline's project will consider all of these questions... and more.

Hayat Shazad is a student at Bath-Spa University and approached BEST to spend a 10-week placement working on a BEST project. The question of pesticide use in Bermuda is one that we believe would benefit from an in-depth assessment and so Hayat will research current regulations/policies and practices associated with pesticide use in Bermuda and will build a complete binder of all supporting and related materials, and develop recommendations to improve on those policies and practices so as to increase effectiveness while reducing pesticide use... including efforts on natural soil remediation and the formal introduction of an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM).

Invitation to Partner with BEST

BEST works on behalf of all Bermudians to *preserve and enhance the quality of life in Bermuda for present and future generations*. As advocates for our local environment, we spearhead campaigns that ensure that any impact of development, to land and marine areas with protective zonings, receive on-going and thorough examination.

BEST relies entirely on the community's donations and generosity as we work toward our vision for a **sustainable Bermuda for future generations**. We invite your support and endorsement of our work so we can continue as a campaigner for the environment and for the protection of Bermuda's limited and diminishing conservation zones.

Will you partner with us? Please [click here](#) for more details.

Call us on **292-3782** or email office@best.org.bm should you have any questions.

Want to have a look at our BEST Accomplishments over our first 10 years (2007 and 2017)? Please visit [our website](#).

THANK
you



Visit our website