

BEST Accomplishments - 2015

Responding to Events and Environmental Threats:

- Ongoing review of all planning applications. This year we reviewed 130 application files and objected to 37.
- America's Cup: In January, BEST continued its calls for sustainability to be kept in mind when developing plans for the America's Cup. In this month, BEST also continued with its calls for an EIA and an EIS to be carried out. Worked to develop a Steering Committee (see below for more detail) from the wider NGO community, to examine potential environmental issues and was in touch with the organizers for AC34 to get advice on how to make the America's Cup carbon-neutral.
- Micro-plastics: BEST continued to highlight the environmental destruction caused by micro-plastics, especially to the marine environment.
- South Basin Marina: As WEDCo continued to seek permission to landfill over 11 acres of land BEST continued to call for the development of a national plan that would assess needs, feasibility and sustainability of these types of projects. It was also necessary to note that whilst some of the newly created land is needed for AC35 this was not the case with the proposed Marina.
- Planning Applications: BEST has expressed concern to the Planning Department that the 10 business days provided to review planning applications was insufficient to grapple with the volume of the plans, drawings and reports submitted for large or complex projects, such as Tucker's Point, Grand Atlantic or the South Basin Marina, and that perhaps this time frame should be extended for larger projects, as voiced in the past. Additionally, we would like consideration for additional time to be given when the 10 day period is reduced by up to 2 public holidays at Christmas and over the Cup Match holidays.

Influencing Policy:

- Southlands: In January, BEST was pleased to learn that the cottage at Southlands had been designated a Grade 2 Listed Building.
- Cell Towers: BEST remained concerned about the emissions of cell towers, their proliferation and the potential hazards they pose.
- Pink Beach: In February, the Development Applications Board rejected Pink Beach developers plan to develop zoned agricultural land. BEST then called

attention to the fact that acreage of agricultural land has declined considerably from 1540 acres in 1959 to less than 400 acres today.

- Marine Development Plan: BEST called on the government to establish a Marine Development Plan and coherent zoning policies for all Marine Areas.

Communications & Outreach:

- The BUZZ: BEST continued to support The BUZZ in 2015 and in March, The BUZZ organized workshops and information sessions with North American Organic Beekeeper Ross Conrad.
- America's Cup Steering Committee: BEST formed and met with members of the Steering Committee for the America's Cup and members of the Environmental NGO community. In March, Mike Winfield, Chief Executive, America's Cup, Bermuda, met with the group, in a productive meeting.
- Promoted the UN Year of the Soil.
- The Green Bermuda Cooperative: member organizations continued to work together collaboratively to plan the 2015 Catlin End to End. Members were BEST, Catlin End-to-End, Chewstick, Government's Waste Management, Government's Parks Department, Greenrock, and KBB.
- Took part in promoting and participating in the Earth Hour in March.
- Bermuda Marine Debris Taskforce: As part of the BMDT, BEST facilitated the visit of The Odyssey, a boat taking part in the Swiss-based 'Race for Water'. Furthermore, there was an opportunity for the public to visit the MOD70 R4WO trimaran on Saturday, April 11th.