



July News & Updates



"Anything else you're interested in is not going to happen if you can't breathe the air and drink the water. Don't sit this one out. Do something." - *Carl Sagan*

Here's the latest news on the work we do to strengthen awareness of environmental issues in Bermuda and connect with our community.

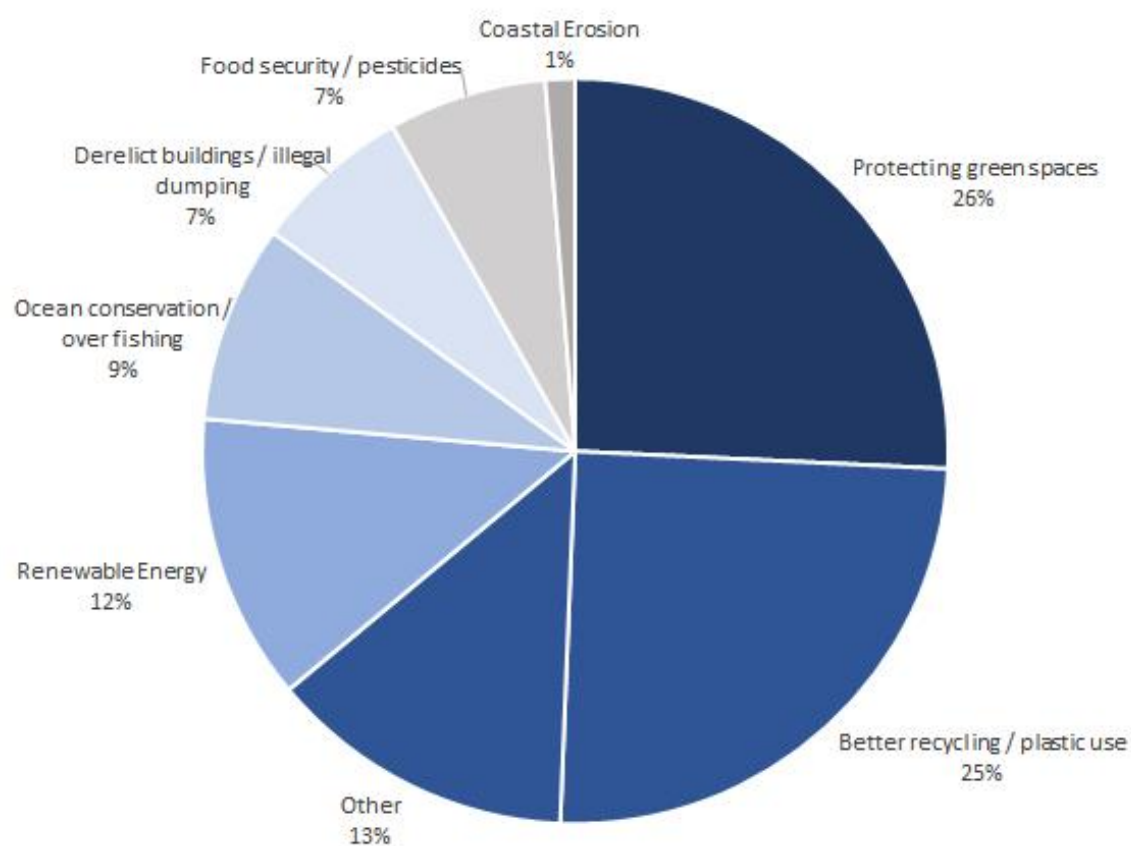
- SURVEY OF OUR BEST FRIENDS -

A recent survey of our BEST Friends indicated that they felt that 'Protecting green spaces' and 'Better recycling / plastic use' were the top environment sustainability issues facing Bermuda. Below is a chart showing the breakdown of results.

The survey garnered 234 responses.

Thank you to everyone who participated! These results will shape BEST's strategy and planning in the year(s) to come.

What is the top environmental sustainability issue facing Bermuda?



- BEST UPDATES -

BEST reviewed almost 100 planning applications in the past three months and submitted **37 objections** based on things such as planned development activity within conservation zones and other important considerations that BEST takes into account.

Engaging with the Community. BEST is working to raise awareness in the community to highlight pressing environmental issues and to empower our citizens to

create positive change where it's needed. To that end, we are working to identify and develop regular (monthly) opportunities for 'Lunch & Learns' or other presentations to groups like Lions, Rotary, and Kiwanis.

- ACTIVE CAMPAIGNS -

Trash on Horseshoe Beach. Photos of trash littering Horseshoe Beach were recently shared with BEST. We have consulted with KBB and other groups to ensure our prized beaches are kept pristine. We understand that the issue is not new and are hopeful that there can be an improvement by shared responsibility being assumed by both Parks and the concessionaire.

We invite you to follow us on **Facebook** (www.facebook.com/BEST.Bda) and **Instagram** (www.instagram.com/bestinbermuda/) to report any environmental concerns ... or send an email to bestnet@best.org.bm.

Railway trail ATV Proposal. BEST is working with other concerned citizens to stop the commercialisation of Bermuda's largest open park reserve. It stands to reason that ATV tours will not only cause annoyance to residents in the west end, it will also set an unfortunate precedent for other parts of the Railway Trail which is being developed to provide a quieter, continuous off-road path across the Island

Overfishing by free-divers. It recently came to our attention that a group of highly-skilled free-divers may be impacting Bermuda's fragile large fish populations, such as snappers, groupers and hog fish, by potentially overfishing. While we understand that recreational and commercial fishing is a part of Bermudian tradition, we are carrying out research to understand whether current rules and regulations are simply not equipped to deal with a new threat to protected species.

One-use plastic ban. The team is passionate about ending the practice of providing one-use plastics (straws/bags/cutlery) that is prevalent on island. BEST is in talks with other environmental groups to join forces and make a difference in this area.

- RECRUITING VOLUNTEERS -

We are looking for individuals to join our Management Team. Any persons with an interest in the environment and the sustainable development of Bermuda should contact Kim Smith at office@best.org.bm.

- WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT -

As you may be aware, BEST relies entirely on donations and our work would not be possible without your contributions. Thank you for considering making a donation to BEST to allow us to continue to work for the public benefit. Donate to keep our environment thriving: www.best.org.bm/donate

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