

BEST (Bermuda Environmental Sustainability Taskforce)
Registered Charity # 858

BULLETIN – Issue 17 - August 2015

America's Cup 35:



BEST is very supportive of the 35th America's Cup. Unfortunately despite considerable effort, numerous meetings, and our willingness to compromise, WEDCo proved intransigent and would not uncouple "present" versus "future" developments in their application for Planning Permission for a range of substantial, far-reaching developments at the West End. Also, of great concern, is that WEDCo's promised public meetings on proposed end uses failed to materialize. Full details of the reasons for BEST objections can be found at <http://www.best.org.bm>

Somewhat ironic that a local quarrying business had it's planning application and subsequent appeal refused on the grounds that in regard to end uses "A comprehensive application could have been prepared, submitted and processed ... The details associated with this ... must be finalized through a further tion" <http://www.royalgazette.com/article/20150807/NEWS/150809761>

The BUZZ:

Very pleased that representatives from BUZZ were invited to be part of the focus group, announced by the Environmental Minister, looking into the use of pesticides in Bermuda. A very productive meeting was held with members from the Department and we look forward to further work in this area. Interestingly, Reno, USA, has undertaken a pesticide free pilot programme in its Parks. Details available at: http://www.mynews4.com/news/local/story/City-of-Reno-beginning-pesticide-free-pilot/DjzP_8LT6kStMYeJN8ruOQ.csp

In the meantime, when you are preparing for your next planting please remember our pollinators and use bee-friendly plants, seeds and pesticides. If buying seedlings, check that these have not been treated with neonicotinoids. More information available at <http://bermudabees.weebly.com/about.html>

A BUZZ representative has once again been in contact with The Soil Association in the UK. Go to their website www.soilassociation.org for lots of good information and look under Our Campaigns tab for additional detail.

Congratulations to:

The Department of Conservation Services on the launch of their new website - it contains much useful and interesting information. See <http://www.conservation.bm>

Andrew Dobson, Bermuda Audubon Society President, on his presentation in Gibraltar, at the 2015 Conference "Sustaining Partnerships" on Conservation and Sustainability in the UK Overseas Territories, Crown Dependencies and other small island communities

<http://www.royalgazette.com/article/20150803/NEWS07/150809946>

Energy Consumption:

Open conversation on draft Electricity Bill -

<http://www.royalgazette.com/article/20150804/NEWS01/150809892>

The event will be held at Heritage Hall, 59 Dundonald Street on August 11 at 6pm. All documents can be downloaded from www.energy.gov.bm

This is an area of critical importance to every one of us, and given that ‘our per capita greenhouse gas emissions of 14.44 metric tonnes are currently more than twice the world average and over 14 times the sustainable level suggested by climate scientists.’ (Blueprint for Environmental Sustainability - www.best.org.bm). It is something we must deal with urgently.

How do you conserve energy? Please let me have your suggestions to share with other readers in our next bulletin.

Southlands:

Pleased to note that approximately 2 acres at Southlands has been earmarked for Community Gardens.



Beaches:

BEST has been approached by members of the public regarding the uses and abuses of Bermuda’s iconic beaches. With the threat of piecemeal development haphazardly eating away at the most important and fragile areas of Bermuda it is felt that an overarching plan for the entire beach/waterfront properties is much needed.



Volunteering:

A reminder about the areas of work that BEST undertakes - and an invitation to you to volunteer with us as we strive to create a sustainable Bermuda for future generations. Please contact Kim Smith in the BEST office to let us know that you are interested in getting more involved. Email to

office@best.org.bm

The BEST Action Areas are:

- Communication & Outreach
- Responding to Events
- Influencing Policy
- Building Capacity

BEST regards
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