



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT  
CAYMAN ISLANDS GOVERNMENT

# SDU News

## Sustainable Development Unit Newsletter

### Issue 7 — Working Together for Sustainability



This issue focuses on partnerships for sustainable development. The concept of sustainable development is one that speaks to community action and working together to achieve common goals. In this issue we take a look at the partnership between the DOE and Deloitte for sustainability initiatives, as well as participation of the Cayman Islands in the 2009 International Coastal Clean Up and the 350 Climate Change campaign.

## DOE & Deloitte bring together corporate “Green Teams”



Gina Ebanks-Petrie, Director Dept. of Environment and Alee Fa'amoe, Chief Operating Officer at Deloitte Cayman sign the MOU. Courtesy of Deloitte

**implementation of environmental projects and green initiatives.** Director of the Department of Environment, Mrs. Gina Ebanks-Petrie said that she was delighted to be able to work cooperatively with a company such as Deloitte to promote sustainable development principles and projects.

“I think it is critical that **government and private sector corporations begin to work jointly** to ensure the continued viability of the resources and environmental systems on which our future well-being depends and I am grateful to Deloitte for their foresight and commitment,” she said.

The partnership will allow Deloitte and DOE to work together to **identify, prioritize and provide technical assistance** and funding to implement activities relating to the environment and to actively seek to **network with other corporations who have similar green initiatives.**

**The Sustainable Development Unit of the Department of Environment and Deloitte have partnered for sustainability.**

In December 2009 the SDU and Deloitte signed a memorandum of understanding to work together to **promote, assist and support increasing awareness and**

In fact, the partnership has allowed just that, as the SDU and Deloitte have together **set up a network for corporate green teams in the Cayman Islands.** Both recognized that many companies were trying to do their bit for the environment, but often were working in isolation, so a network was started to provide a **platform to come together, connect, coordinate efforts** and ultimately work towards the same goal - the **sustainability of the Cayman Islands.**

The “Corporate Green Team Network” aims to **facilitate sharing and learning** about experiences in putting in place **environmentally responsible and sustainable practices in the workplace,** to generate **new ideas** and to pool efforts in sharing these experiences with a **wider audience.** Members are also committed to pursuing **particular sustainability issues** as a network outside of their company “Green Team” programs, which could encourage **environmental responsibility and sustainability** in the **community as a whole.**

The first network project is a **plastic bag reduction campaign,** which has been launched with the support of the **three major local supermarkets.** We use **over a million plastic bags a month** from these stores alone on Grand Cayman, which will all end up in one place—the landfill, or even worse, in our marine environment. The **Cayman Become** campaign aims to **promote the use of reusable shopping bags,** and to encourage members of the community to **bring their own reusable bags** when they shop. To support the campaign Foster’s, Hurley’s and Kirk supermarkets are replacing non-degradable plastic bags with **biodegradable** plastic bags, and introducing a **charge of 5 cents** for these bags. For more information go to [www.caymanbecome.ky](http://www.caymanbecome.ky).



**Did you know** Plastic bags and bottles made up 17% of the 2,000 pieces of trash collected for International Coastal Clean Up Day on Grand Cayman. Plastic persists in the environment—a plastic bag can take hundreds of years to breakdown. In the mean time they are often swept into the marine environment from the landfill or from being discarded on the beach and become a hazard to marine life.



# International Coastal Clean Up Day 2009



September 19<sup>th</sup> was International Coastal Clean-Up Day and to mark this 7 groups participated in beach, waterway and underwater clean-ups around Grand Cayman. The clean-up is an Ocean Conservancy initiative, which works in partnership with organizations and individuals across the globe on this event to engage people to remove trash and debris from the world's beaches and waterways, identify the sources of debris, and change the behaviors that cause marine debris in the first place ([http://www.oceanconservancy.org/site/PageServer?pagename=icc\\_about](http://www.oceanconservancy.org/site/PageServer?pagename=icc_about)).

Held on the third Saturday of September every year, this is the world's largest volunteer effort of its kind for the ocean—volunteers scour areas for trash to collect, and fill in data cards describing what and how much was collected. This data is then submitted to the Ocean Conservancy and used to create their Marine Debris Index—the only state-by-state, country-by-country measure of trash in our waterways and ocean. The idea is that better data leads to better decision making on how to tackle the problems created by debris in our oceans and their causes—more information means attention can be focused on target sources



Left, The Boddan Town Beach Clean-Up crew from Price Waterhouse Coopers and Megsystems and right, the Cayman Eco group at the Hyatt Canal, where they collected trash using kayaks donated by Cayman Kayaks. Courtesy of Scott Murray, Megsystems and Tammy Kelderman, Cayman Eco

## In Depth: Coastal Clean Up Facts

Marine debris is yet another strain on a system already beleaguered by many other human-caused stresses including coastal development, pollution, over fishing and now climate change.

Results from the International Coastal Clean up of 2008 are shown here to the right – as you can see, the top 10 debris items are pieces of trash that are all generated from recreational activities that we as individuals have direct control over.

RANK	DEBRIS ITEM	NUMBER OF DEBRIS ITEMS	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL DEBRIS ITEMS
1	Cigarettes/Cigarette Filters	3,216,991	28%
2	Bags (Plastic)	1,377,141	12%
3	Food Wrappers/Containers	942,620	8%
4	Caps, Lids	937,804	8%
5	Beverage Bottles (Plastic)	714,892	6%
6	Bags (Paper)	530,607	5%
7	Straws, Stirrers	509,593	4%
8	Cups, Plates, Forks, Knives, Spoons	441,053	4%
9	Beverage Bottles (Glass)	434,990	4%
10	Beverage Cans	401,412	4%

that are proving to be the most harmful and abundant. According to Ocean Conservancy, nearly **400,000 volunteers** from 104 countries and locations around the globe took part in clean-up activities in 2008, picking up **6.8 million tons of trash** that has a major impact on ocean health. Of the 43 items tracked during the clean-up **the top three items** found in 2008 were **cigarette butts, plastic bags and food wrappers/containers**.

In Grand Cayman the SDU helped to coordinate **5 teams** that formed to carry out **beach and canal clean-ups** over the weekend of the 19<sup>th</sup> September. Anna Alleyne of ICCI organized a team of students for **Seven Mile Public Beach**, Price Waterhouse Coopers and Megasystems got volunteers together to clean up the beach at **Bodden Town**, Racquel Jackson from Walkers got friends and family to cover **Spotts dock**, the SDU and friends tackled **Colliers beach** and Cayman Eco took on the **Hyatt Canal** using kayaks courtesy of Cayman Kayaks.

Altogether an estimated **700lbs of trash** was collected, covering just over **3 miles of coastline and 1.5 miles of canal** area. A whopping **250 caps & lids, 246 plastic bottles, 173 glass bottles, 143 beverage cans, 125 cups, plates and pieces of cutlery and 120 plastic bags** were collected as the top 6 items, as well as another 53 categories of trash. Unsurprisingly **Styrofoam and food wrappers and containers** also scored highly although there were some other more unexpected items found - a discarded 12ft aluminum boat, a boat seat, a windsurf boom, various children's toys and a saline drip bag to name a few. All in all the teams collectively picked up **just over 2000 pieces of trash** over a total of 15 hours - good work everyone!

CITA also did their bit by coordinating **underwater clean-up activities** with local dive operators. **Divetech** ran clean ups at both Cobalt Coast and Lighthouse Point, and **Ocean Frontiers**



## Overseas Territories Corner

### BVI & Turks & Caicos Coastal Clean Up

The British Virgin Islands and Turks and Caicos were also involved in the International Coastal Clean Up this year. According to the Department of Environment & Fisheries in BVI, the first clean up for this project in their islands was organized 19 years ago and has been going ever since. In Turks and Caicos the Department of Environment and Coastal Resources (DECR) with the aid of a number of groups removed just over 120 bags of trash over a two-day period from a number of beaches.

<http://www.environment.tc/info--ID--228.html>

at Compass Point Dive Resort did similarly out in East End.

All this data has been submitted to the Ocean Conservancy for their **2009 Global Ocean Debris report**, and we hope this will assist them in getting a better idea of the coastal trash problems in Caribbean Islands. We will also share the data with the CI Department of Environmental Health for their records.

Apart from this, the clean-up activities were **enjoyed by all** and left everyone feeling like they had gone a little way to helping the local environment and highlight the un-sustainable practices that lead to problems in the marine environment. We thank everyone for their participation.



Right; Anna Alleyne and her volunteers from the International College of the Cayman Islands (ICCI) tourism class take a well-earned break on Seven Mile Public Beach. Left ; The group at Colliers on their clean up activities. Courtesy of Sophie Halford, SDU and Anna Alleyne, ICCI

## Cayman supports 350

Another event to occur at the end of last year was the participation of the Cayman Islands in the 350 campaign. Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> October was International Day of Climate Action, and the “350” campaign ran around the globe to recognize this and raise awareness of climate change. The campaign asked those concerned about climate change to **make a statement** by taking a photo in an iconic place and somehow **including “350”** - the significance is that **350 parts per million is the level of carbon dioxide** gas in the atmosphere that scientists recommend the global community should be aiming for to keep climate change in check and avoid the worst impacts - **we are currently at 387ppm and**



rising. A number of individuals got together over this weekend to take action— **Cayman Eco** formed a **human “350”** at Camana Bay while others utilized SMB as a venue. The **DOE** took **underwater** photos of the 350 logo juxtaposed with examples of **coral bleaching**. There was a massive bleaching event in Grand Cayman and Little Cayman last year, and unfortunately if sea surface temperatures continue to rise as predicted, we could see this **happening more and more frequently** – to the detriment of the reefs. To **view photos** of demonstrations from around the world go to [www.350.org](http://www.350.org).



Far left; Cayman Eco and friends at Camana Bay. Left; 350 photo from Darren Bowyer at a sea swim, Seven Mile Beach. Above; DOE underwater photos showing coral bleaching.

## Business Bite — Deloitte doing their bit

A number of corporate companies on Grand Cayman are striving to make their office operations more environmentally responsible, and Deloitte is making great strides.

As one of the first signatories to the Chamber of Commerce Environmental Pledge in 2007, Deloitte has since continued to **educate their staff and the public** on the importance of being environmentally responsible and has committed to **reducing its carbon footprint by 50%**. Deloitte has focused on all aspects of **good environmental management** in achieving these aims, incorporating measures that not only help the environment but also **make good economic sense** by improving the efficiency of their office operations and ultimately their bottom line.

**Energy saving measures** have been put in place, which **saved an estimated 11%** on electricity consumed for the 2009 fiscal year compared to 2008. These measures

included placing **reminders to turn off lights** on light switches, fitting **new blinds** in selected offices, installation of **lock boxes on selected A/C thermostats**, adjustments to **A/C timers and temperatures** have been set to 75° F throughout.

Sorting bins for **glass, plastic and recycling bins for aluminum** have also been placed in the lunch rooms at both Citrus Grove and One Capital Place locations. To reduce waste further, **double sided printing** is always encouraged, **toner cartridges** from various printers are recycled and paper used in printers contains **30% post consumer materials**.

Another big achievement in reducing the offices' waste stream is the **elimination of Styrofoam** based products. Cups provided are made from **biodegradable corn based materials** and plates from **biodegradable bamboo based material** (shown left). Staff have also been given **reusable corn based plastic mugs** (also shown left) for personal use, as well as **reusable grocery bags**. Cleaning supplies used are also **environmentally friendly**.



Examples of sustainable products being used in the Deloitte Offices. Courtesy of Deloitte