



# CGTC Newsletter

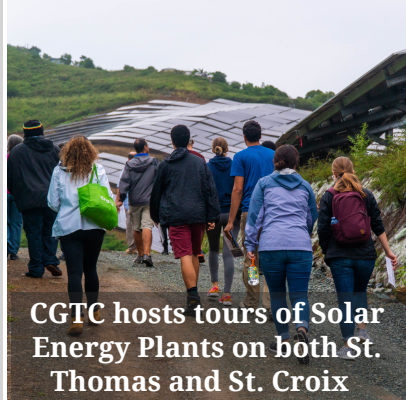
## Caribbean Green Technology Center

**What's in this edition:** ● *Energy and Sustainability Fair* ● *Solar Plant Tour with BMR Energy* ● *Presenting at the VI EPSCoR Ridge to Reef Conference* ● *CGTC awarded grants to study organic waste and purchase EV charging stations and more...*



**CGTC and VIEO host inaugural VI Energy and Sustainability Fair**  
The Virgin Islands Energy Office and Caribbean Green Technology Center hosted an Energy and Sustainability Fair on St. Thomas and St. Croix on October 15th and 30th.

The event gave Virgin Islanders an opportunity to learn about how they can be more energy independent and increase their household resilience through workshops, panel discussions and a chance to interact with local vendors and exhibitors in renewable energy and sustainability. With over 300 attendees across the Territory this inaugural event was a success and we are looking forward to having it again next year. Read more here: <https://cgtc-usvi.org/blog>



**CGTC hosts tours of Solar Energy Plants on both St. Thomas and St. Croix**

In the last week of October as part of Energy Awareness Month, the Caribbean Green Technology Center in partnership with BMR Energy organized an educational tour of the two solar facilities in Donoe on St. Thomas and in Spanish Town on St. Croix. The tours were run by David Perri, the Director of Engineering of BMR Energy who travelled to

the Territory for this opportunity. Tour attendees learned about how solar power is produced from the plant and supplied to the WAPA grid through a substation, the different solar plant components, as well as the design and installation considerations necessary for developing utility-scale solar energy in a hurricane prone region.



**CGTC awarded grants to study organic waste and for sustainable transportation**

CGTC was awarded two grant, the first from the US Department of Agriculture as part of their Solid Waste grants program to understand organic materials in the Territory though conducting a waste audit, feasibility study and

market analysis of different processing technologies such as composting and anaerobic digestion. The second grant is for Energizing Insular Communities and will allow UVI to replace the patrol vehicles of the UVI Security Department with electric golf carts, install EV public charging stations on campus, and test a pilot program for electric bicycles to encourage walkability on campus.

### Student Spotlight



VI EPSCoR which stands for Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research hosted their annual conference in person on St. Thomas. This event shared the progress of research performed under the

Ridge to Reef grant awarded to the University of the Virgin Islands. The conference theme was "Our Islands, Our Youth, Our Future." The Caribbean Green Technology Center is involved in the Emerging Research Area: Shoreline Response.. Greg Guannel gave a talk at the conference and Nikita Beck and Joleen Buchanan presented a poster. A report will be coming out at the end of this year.

### Social Vulnerability in the USVI

Socially vulnerable communities suffer the most from external stresses, such as natural disasters, disease outbreaks, or human-caused hazards. People who are more socially vulnerable are more susceptible to losses, from disruption of livelihood to injury and death, during and after such events. Greg Guannel, CGTC Director, alongside Hilary Lohmann and Joe Dwyer hosted an informational webinar presenting their work on calculating a Social Vulnerability Index for the Virgin Islands. The webinar touched upon the public health implications of their results. Watch the recording here: <https://youtu.be/2TvAQvrEGYc>