



Island Green Invites Public to “Backyard Composting” Workshop

St. John Community Event Sponsored by VIWMA in Cooperation with Iowa State University’s EARTH PROGRAM, Gifft Hill School & Island Green

Saturday, November 23, 2019, 10 am – 12 Noon
EARTH Program Gardens at Gifft Hill School Upper Campus

St. John, USVI – November 14, 2019 – In honor of VI Recycles Month, [Iowa State University EARTH Program](#), [Gifft Hill School](#) and [Island Green Living Association](#) have teamed up with VI Waste Management Authority on a **“Backyard Composting”** workshop offered free to the public. Taking place November 23 from 10 am – 12 noon at St. John’s Gifft Hill School Upper Campus, the event will provide live demonstrations and all the basics for a variety of composting techniques that can be carried out right in the kitchen and backyard. Tours of the expansive EARTH Program gardens at Gifft Hill School will also be available. The public is invited to share their composting experiences and have gardening and composting questions answered by local experts.

“Studies show that nearly 80% of our waste stream is either compostable or recyclable,” said Harith Wickrema, Island Green Living President. “Given the current state of the territory’s landfills, it is imperative that we utilize these resources rather than continue to toss them away. Please consider your household food scraps a resource that will provide nutrients for your home gardening.”

“VI Recycles Month highlights the importance of keeping recyclable resources out of our landfills; it emphasizes community involvement including participation in outreach programs such as the compost workshop,” said Wade Taylor, VIWMA Interim Executive Director. “We thank our partners on St. John and throughout the territory for making our events and workshops a success and applaud them for being active Preserving Paradise Partners.”

“The great thing about composting is everyone can do it relatively easily with a minimum of space and the result can truly make a difference,” said Dr. David Minner, coordinator of the Iowa State University EARTH Program and Island Green board member. “The

Backyard Composting workshop provides our community with the information they need to be part of the solution.”

The following backyard composting methods will be demonstrated:

- Hot Composting
 - One cubic yard and greater pile composting
- Cold Composting
 - Small cages composting
 - Crank and tumbler composting
 - Gallon bucket composting
 - Bokashi anerobic composting
- Vermiculture worm composting

Both ISU EARTH Program interns and Gifft Hill School students will assist with demonstrations and activities.

Refreshments will be available at the Backyard Composting workshop and there will be a drawing for a variety of giveaways including a tumbler composter and kitchen counter compost bins. The event will take place rain or shine, and will move indoors should there be inclement weather. For more information, the public can contact VIWMA Communications Management at 340-513-4171 or email communications@viwma.org.

Established in 2004, Island Green Living Association is a registered 501 (c)(3) not for profit organization on St. John dedicated to sustainability throughout the USVI. www.islandgreenliving.org.

Iowa State University (ISU) is a land grant university with world renowned programs in agriculture, the environment and global service learning. The ISU EARTH Program at Gifft Hill School (GHS) was established in 2010 and offers on-island internships for ISU and UVI students. All of the gardens at GHS were developed and are managed by the ISU EARTH Program and funding supports GHS agricultural educational programs where teachers and student learn about agriculture in the experiential outdoor classroom. Interns also commit to community service with local organizations. www.hort.iastate.edu/undergraduate-experience/international-experience/e-a-r-t-h/.

Gifft Hill School offers K – 12 and preschool instruction with the mission is to educate, challenge, support and empower students to ignite their passion for learning in preparation for college, careers, and their roles as stewards of the island and global community. The school is committed to academic rigor through experiential learning and compassionate community in an enriched environment. <https://www.gifffhillschool.org/>

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MEDIA CONTACT: Lisa Herbst, 347-393-2948, lisagherbst@gmail.com