

# CARIBBEAN CONNECT

CIRCULAR ECONOMY NETWORK & COORDINATION



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**Dr. Chaney St. Martin**

ACE FACILITY  
COMMITTEE MEMBER

# FOREWORD

Welcome to the third edition of Caribbean CONNECT - the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund's virtual publication that shines a light on circular economy work happening across our region. Each issue brings together stories, ideas, and lessons from people on the ground, and is made possible through the Advancing Circular Economy (ACE) Facility, financed by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) through the German Development Bank (KfW).

I have followed this publication since its first issue, and what stands out to me each time is how much is happening across our islands, often without the recognition it deserves. The circular economy isn't an abstract concept for the Caribbean - it is already showing up in how our communities manage waste, how entrepreneurs rethink materials, and how institutions are reworking old systems into something more sustainable. But beyond the systems and materials, this work is ultimately about people, the livelihoods it supports, and the transformation needed for a more resilient Caribbean. Caribbean CONNECT exists to make this visible, and to connect those driving it forward.

Behind every story in this issue is a person who saw possibilities where others saw waste - farmers turning food scraps into feed, communities building composting habits, entrepreneurs manufacturing products from recycled plastic, and an innovator turning waste into energy for farmer resilience. Together, these stories capture circularity as it is lived and practiced across the region.

What strikes me most, serving on the ACE Facility Committee, is how much untapped potential still exists for collaboration across our islands. Our human talent is simply amazing! We don't lack ideas or ambition - what we need more of is exactly what this publication offers: a shared space to learn from one another, and to keep designing solutions rooted in Caribbean ingenuity and vibrancy.

I hope this issue leaves you with a few new ideas, resources, and a renewed sense that the work happening around you is part of something bigger that is right within your reach.



## DID YOU KNOW?

The ACE Facility — Caribbean CONNECT's own funding engine — awards grants of US\$400,000 to US\$2 million to circular economy projects across nine Caribbean nations: Cuba, Dominica, the Dominican Republic, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

Source: Caribbean Biodiversity Fund



# WHAT IS **CARIBBEAN CONNECT?**



Caribbean CONNECT is a regional knowledge-sharing and coordination mechanism designed to strengthen circular economy efforts across the Caribbean. It brings together governments, businesses, civil society, and communities to share knowledge, align efforts, and unlock opportunities for collaboration.

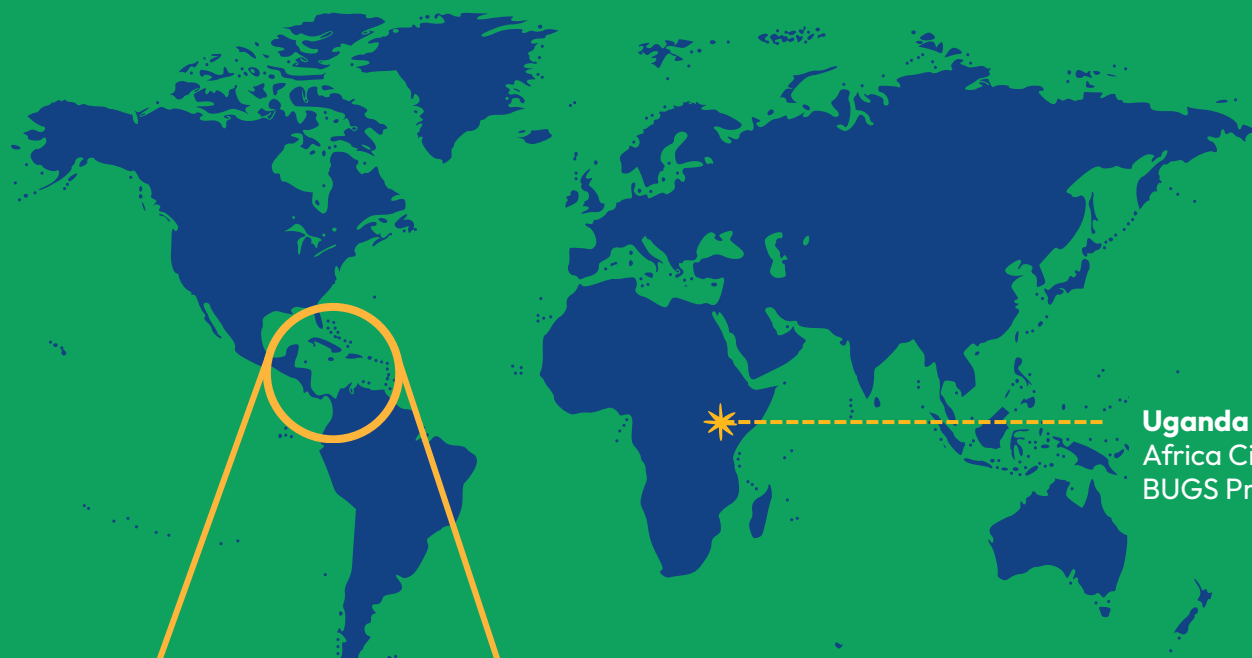
Standing for Circular ecONomy NETwork and CoordinaTion, CONNECT creates a structured space where stakeholders can highlight successes, and exchange lessons learned from across the Caribbean and beyond, such as other Small Island Developing States and developing countries.

We also hope to spark new ideas for circular businesses and keep readers in the loop with upcoming events to build capacity in the regional circular economy sphere. Caribbean CONNECT can ensure resources are used efficiently, duplication is reduced, and capacity is strengthened, thus building a stronger, more resilient circular economy movement for the Caribbean.



# The Caribbean CONNECT Network in Action

Projects and initiatives advancing the circular economy across the globe



**Uganda**  
Africa Circular:  
BUGS Project

## Circular Initiatives in the Caribbean





## DID YOU KNOW?

A single Black Soldier Fly larva can grow to 10,000 times its egg size in just 14 days, feeding entirely on organic waste. In Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, a city generating 2,500 tonnes of organic waste daily, a Black Soldier Fly project turned that waste into fertiliser sold at half the price of imported alternatives.

Source: FAO

# IT STARTED WITH A FARMER'S QUESTION

How Black Soldier Fly farming is turning food waste into animal feed, fertiliser and new income for smallholder farmers

PIOTR BARCZAK, AFRICA CIRCULAR, BUGS PROJECT LEAD



Piotr Barczak at The Kollekt Village in Uganda.



Across Africa, the Biomass Utilization by Insects for Green Solutions in Africa through **Black Soldier Fly Technology (BUGS)** project, co-funded by the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) and PREVENT Waste Alliance is helping smallholder farmers turn food and organic waste into animal feed and fertiliser by farming a single insect: Black Soldier Fly (BSF). Its larvae convert waste into protein-rich feed and nutrient-rich frass, replacing costly imported products and avoiding greenhouse gas emissions, which would arise from organic decomposition. But BUGS's deeper lesson is about process as much as product; the project was built by listening to farmers first, not by promoting a ready-made technology. That approach, and the food security, income and climate benefits it unlocks, offers lessons that resonate far beyond Africa – not least across the Caribbean.

### A Different Kind of Morning

As the first light reaches The Kollekt Village in Uganda's Wakiso District, the day begins with a routine that would seem ordinary almost anywhere else. Buckets are filled with vegetable peelings, fruit scraps, and leftover food. Children weave between homes on their way to school. Gardens slowly come to life. But here, those buckets are not waiting to be emptied into a landfill. They are the starting point of something new.

For Nirere and the community behind The Kollekt Village, organic waste is no longer something to dispose of; it is the beginning of another cycle. Food scraps become a resource that can nourish soils, support local agriculture and create new economic opportunities.

That way of thinking did not happen overnight. It grew through conversations, practical learning and a willingness to question long-held assumptions about waste.

Thousands of kilometres away, in another part of the Global South, communities across the Caribbean are asking similar questions. How can islands reduce dependence on imported agricultural inputs? How can food waste be integrated into local food systems rather than ending up in landfills? And how can the circular economy create opportunities for farmers, entrepreneurs and communities alike? The answers will differ, but the starting point is the same: looking at waste differently.

## Looking Beyond the Bin

Organic waste is one of the world's most overlooked resources. Across many countries, biodegradable waste is still dumped or burned, releasing methane emissions while valuable nutrients are lost. At the same time, many farmers face rising costs for animal feed and fertilisers, making agricultural production increasingly difficult.

The BUGS project was created in response to this paradox. Rather than seeing organic waste as a disposal problem, the project explores how it can become part of a circular system that strengthens agriculture, reduces greenhouse gas emissions and creates new livelihoods.

Its approach is based on an unlikely ally: **the Black Soldier Fly**.

At first glance, insects may seem an unusual starting point for conversations about the circular economy. Yet Black Soldier Fly larvae can consume large quantities of organic waste and convert it into products that have value for agriculture. The larvae become a protein-rich ingredient for animal feed, while the remaining material, known as frass, can be returned to the soil as an organic soil improver. In this way, nutrients that might otherwise be lost are kept in circulation. The insects are impressive. But they are not the real story.



Participants at a Living Soils session in Grand Bassam, Côte d'Ivoire.

## It Began by Listening

Many innovation projects begin with a technology and then search for places where it might work. BUGS took the opposite approach.

The project was born from listening to farmers rather than promoting a technology. Across several African countries, smallholder farmers repeatedly described the same challenge: the rising cost of animal feed and fertilisers alongside growing amounts of organic waste that remained largely unused.

Existing Black Soldier Fly models often focused on large, capital-intensive facilities that were beyond the reach of most farmers. Those conversations sparked a different idea. Through discussions within the [PREVENT Waste Alliance](#), practitioners, researchers and circular economy experts recognised the need for a simpler, decentralised approach tailored to local realities. Africa Circular partnered with Eawag, Eclose GmbH, Carbon Turnaround and Living Soils to develop practical, low-cost systems that farmers could realistically adopt and replicate. With initial support from PREVENT Waste Alliance and later funding from the [Climate and Clean Air Coalition \(CCAC\)](#), the BUGS project was launched in Uganda, Ethiopia and Côte d'Ivoire to combine hands-on farmer training with policy engagement. The lesson was simple but powerful. Innovation works best when it begins with people.

“The future of black soldier fly farming will not be built by one company, one project or one model. It will be built by a community willing to learn, adapt and collaborate. Our experience through BUGS has shown that successful circular economy solutions start by listening to local needs and adapting technologies to fit the realities of farmers, communities and ecosystems.”

— Piotr Barczak, BUGS Project Lead



This philosophy has shaped every aspect of the project. Rather than asking communities to adapt to complex technology, BUGS adapts the technology to the communities that will use it. What continues to impress is the versatility of Black Soldier Fly systems, not in the sense that they work everywhere without constraints, but in how these systems can be adapted to very different market contexts where the basic climate conditions are met. While BSF requires a warm and humid environment to thrive, the system itself can be shaped to fit local realities, through scale, decentralisation, and modalities, finding its place across a wide range of operational and economic settings.



## Why This Matters for the Caribbean

BUGS began in Uganda, Ethiopia and Côte d'Ivoire, not the Caribbean — and that is the point. This is South-South learning: one developing region adapting another's solution to fit its own constraints. Many islands face the same underlying questions: how to reduce food waste, strengthen local agriculture, create new green businesses and improve resilience to climate change. Organic waste is often abundant, yet its potential remains largely untapped. The value of the BUGS approach therefore lies not in offering a model to copy, but in demonstrating a principle: the circular economy succeeds when solutions fit local realities.

As Dr. Daniela A. Peguero of Eawag puts it: **“Scale is not the goal. Fit is the goal.”**

That is the lesson worth adapting: not the technology, but the discipline of designing for what a community can understand, own and sustain.

## When Learning Becomes Change

For Nirere (Founder / Team Leader at Kollekt Village, a civil society initiative in Wakiso District, Uganda), participating in the BUGS workshops in Kajjansi and Jinja was not simply an opportunity to learn about a new technology. It was an opportunity to rethink what a circular community could look like.

At The Kollekt Village, composting had already become part of everyday life. Organic waste was collected and returned to the soil, supporting gardens and reducing the amount of waste sent elsewhere. Yet the BUGS workshops introduced another possibility: what if those same food scraps could create even greater value? Rather than replacing the community's existing approach, the project offered a way to build upon it.

“Our participation in the BUGS Workshops in Kajjansi and Jinja was a pivotal moment for our organic waste management strategy. The policy and practical training have directly influenced our on-the-ground operations at The Kollekt Village in Wakiso. We are now actively transitioning our zero-waste facility beyond composting to integrate a Black Soldier Fly (BSF) rearing unit, using the Simplified BSF approach (SIMBA) [1] as our core guiding model.”

— Nirere, The Kollekt Village



The workshops demonstrated that the circular economy is rarely about replacing one solution with another. For The Kollekt Village, Black Soldier Fly farming became the next step in an already established zero-waste journey.

[1] SIMBA design is fit for small farms (around 250-300 kg of organic waste, with minimum labour needed (a couple of hours a week); minimum capex, and low tech.

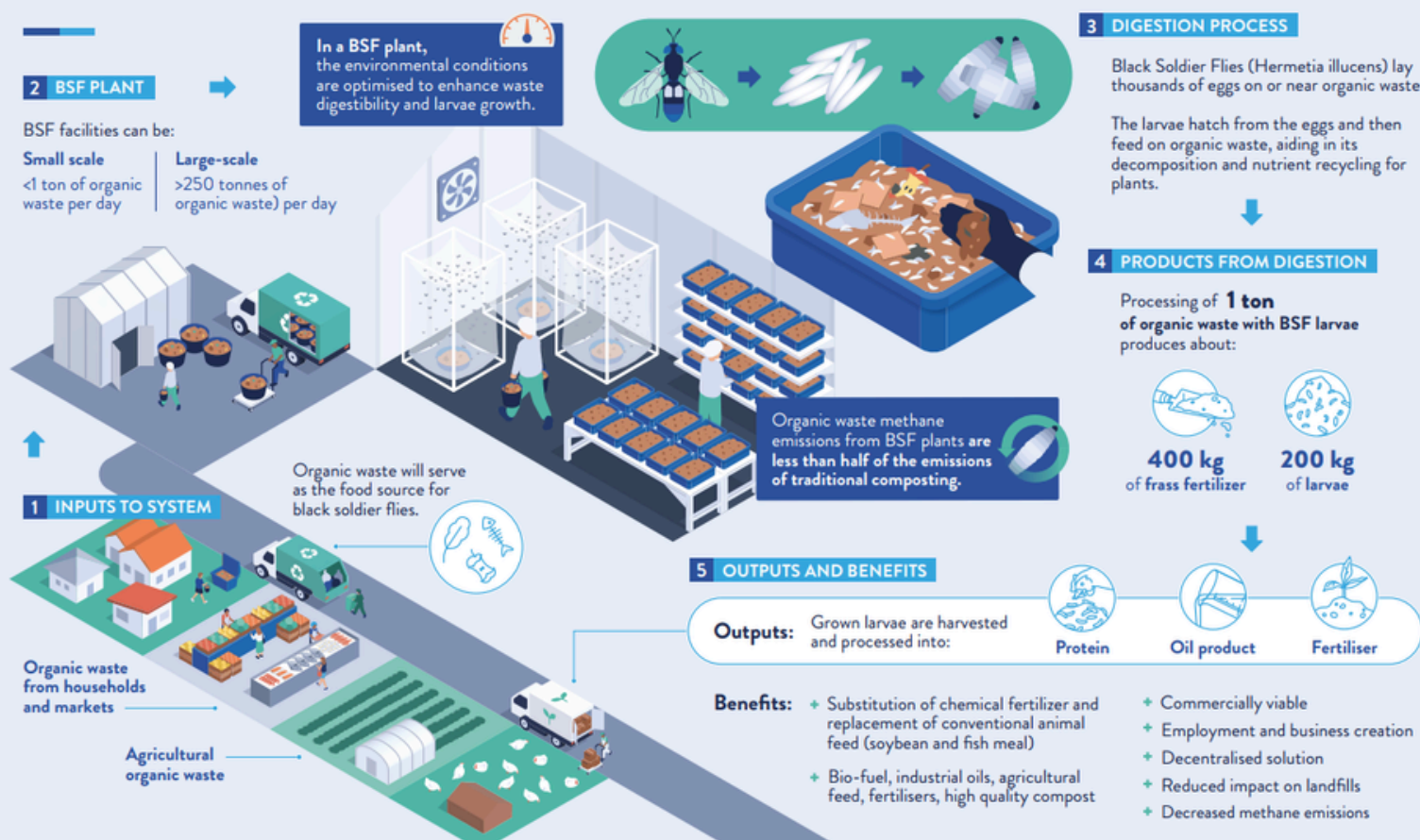
## Measuring Progress

The success of BUGS is reflected not only in stories like Nirere's but also in the partnerships it has helped create. To date, approximately 105 farmers and entrepreneurs have participated in hands-on practitioner workshops, while around 210 representatives from government institutions, academia, civil society and the private sector have engaged through policy dialogues exploring how supportive frameworks can enable BSF systems as a circular solution.

These figures matter. Not because they represent an endpoint, but because they represent people who can now take ideas back to policymaking or to their own communities, adapting them to different contexts and sharing them with others. As the project has evolved, one lesson has become increasingly clear: lasting change depends less on the size of an initiative than on the strength of the relationships it creates.

## BLACK SOLDIER FLY TECHNOLOGY

Using nature to valorise organic waste and create circular economy emissions mitigation.





Black Soldier Fly larvae, the insect at the centre of the BUGS composting process.

## Returning to The Kollekt Village

As another day comes to an end in Wakiso District, the buckets of food scraps are no longer simply household waste. They are the beginning of another cycle. Some of those nutrients will support Black Soldier Fly larvae. Others will return to the soil. Some will help produce feed for livestock. Others will contribute to healthier crops.

## The biggest lesson from BUGS is not about insects

It is about listening. By listening first to farmers, entrepreneurs and communities, the project developed solutions that people could adapt, improve and ultimately make their own. The circular economy begins not when new technology arrives, but when people begin asking different questions.

### Impact at a Glance: BUGS Initiative



Multi-country collaboration across **Uganda, Ethiopia, and Côte d'Ivoire**



**105** farmers and entrepreneurs trained through practitioner workshops



**210** stakeholders engaged through policy dialogues



International Community of Practice connecting over **1,800** members

Supporting decentralised circular solutions for organic waste management through practical tools and guidance materials, including Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for BSF production, a policy guide for governmental actors, greenhouse gas and business calculators, and technical training resources [2].

[2] Through the SIMBA approach, each farmer is expected to collect and treat approximately 250 kg of organic waste per week using BSF. On its own, this may not seem like a large quantity. However, when multiplied across a decentralised network of farmers operating at national scale, the cumulative impact becomes significant. If hundreds or thousands of farmers each treat around 250 kg per week, the network can help divert substantial quantities of organic waste from conventional waste-management systems. It is not intended to solve the entire waste-management challenge, but rather to address a meaningful fraction of organic waste locally collected and locally treated, while also creating useful outputs for agriculture.



### Caribbean CONNECT Takeaway

The Caribbean's circular economy journey will not follow the same path as Uganda, Ethiopia or Côte d'Ivoire. Nor should it. Every island faces its own opportunities and challenges, from tourism-driven waste streams to limited landfill space and the need to strengthen local food systems.

The BUGS project does not provide a blueprint, and that is exactly the point of South-South exchange. Instead, it offers something far more valuable: confidence that practical, locally adapted solutions emerge when communities learn together, experiment and build on what they already have.



Piotr Barczak speaking with farmers of the BUGS initiative.

#### Learn More

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That same spirit can already be found across the Caribbean. In Belize, communities are showing that organic waste does not need sophisticated technology to create value. Through neighbourhood composting, schools, local organisations and community partnerships, food scraps are being transformed into healthier soils, stronger local connections, and new opportunities for environmental stewardship. The story continues there.

# CHANGING A COMMUNITY, ONE COMPOST BIN AT A TIME

How schools, seniors and local entrepreneurs are building a culture of circularity in Corozal, Belize

TARA HOISINGTON, FOUNDER OF CLEAN LAND, AIR AND WATER

When Tara Hoisington founded CLAW (Clean Land, Air and Water) in 2024, her goal extended far beyond reducing waste. She wanted to help Corozal rethink its relationship with discarded food, recyclables, and the environment. By connecting schools, households, seniors, and local entrepreneurs through composting and recycling, the initiative is demonstrating that lasting circular economy solutions begin with everyday habits, and with communities willing to learn together.





## It Starts in the Schoolyard

The lunch bell rings. Children finish their meals. Banana peels. Fruit skins. Leftover rice. For years, these scraps would have followed a familiar path. Into a rubbish bin. Eventually, to an unmanaged dumpsite where waste is routinely burned, contributing to air pollution and health concerns in the community.

Today, something different happens. Instead of throwing everything away, students carry food scraps to a compost bin on their school grounds. It is a small action that takes only a few seconds. Yet it represents something much larger. Those children are learning that waste is not simply something to get rid of. It is a resource. And perhaps more importantly, they are learning this before they become adults. That simple idea sits at the heart of CLAW – Clean Land, Air and Water, a grassroots organisation founded in Corozal by Tara Hoisington.

## Building Change from the Ground Up

When Tara Hoisington founded Clean Land, Air and Water (CLAW) in 2024, the organisation was never intended to be another environmental project. It was created as a community movement.

Living in Corozal, Tara had seen first-hand how unmanaged waste affected neighbourhoods, ecosystems and public health, while opportunities to recover valuable resources went untapped. Rather than focusing only on clean-up, CLAW set out to change the habits and systems that produced the waste in the first place – starting in homes, schools and neighbourhoods.

## Compost as a Conversation Starter

For many people, composting is simply a way of reducing food waste. For CLAW, it has become something much bigger. Every compost bin creates an opportunity to talk about soil, food production, climate, waste and responsibility. Every household that begins separating food scraps starts asking new questions about what can and cannot be reused. Every school that introduces composting creates a new generation of children who see waste differently. In this way, composting becomes less about managing organic waste and more about changing mindsets.

**"Our long-term goal is to create a cultural shift in how waste is viewed and managed, starting with education in schools and expanding outward into the wider community."**

— Tara Hoisington, Founder, CLAW



## Learning Across Generations

One of the defining characteristics of CLAW is the diversity of people it brings together. Children learn about composting through school activities. Families begin separating food waste at home, learning from their children. It now sparks a conversation across generations, whereby senior citizens contribute practical knowledge and gardening experience and help to rediscover what we already knew. It spills over to local businesses and entrepreneurs, who explore new opportunities for recycling and resource recovery. Each group contributes something different. Together, they create a community where environmental stewardship is shared rather than assigned.

CLAW's partnership with local produce vendors is also helping support two local entrepreneurs. Five-gallon buckets were provided to collect produce waste from produce vendors. The entrepreneurs collect the buckets directly from the vendors and put the food waste to productive use. One entrepreneur uses organic material for his composting business. Another uses it as feedstock for Black Soldier Fly larvae that are used as insect protein to feed chickens.



Painted compost and recycling bins, part of CLAW's community outreach in Corozal, Belize.

## Partnerships that Multiply Impact

Although CLAW is rooted in local action, its work is strengthened through collaboration. The organisation partners with schools, community groups, local authorities, entrepreneurs and environmental organisations to expand its reach and ensure that circular practices become embedded within existing community structures. These partnerships allow educational activities, composting initiatives and recycling programmes to reinforce one another instead of operating in isolation.

This collaboration reflects an important lesson for the initiatives. Communities are more likely to embrace new practices when they are developed with them rather than for them. Instead of asking residents to participate in a project, CLAW invites them to become part of a shared vision for their town.



## Impact at a Glance: CLAW – Clean Land, Air and Water



Annually, more than **30,000 pounds of food waste** is diverted from disposal between schools, **2 entrepreneurs** that pick up from produce vendors, restaurants, community composting centres and residents with backyard composters.



Annually, more than **30,000 recyclable items** are collected from **6 collection sites**



Over **4,000 students from 25 schools** are engaged in school composting



HelpAge Senior Center compost and garden programme supports **45 seniors**. The seniors bring their food waste from home to the senior centre to make compost for their raised garden beds built by CLAW.



**200 compost bins** distributed across four Belizean towns in partnership with Recycle Organics.



Raised garden beds built by CLAW at the HelpAge Senior Center in Corozal, Belize, where seniors grow produce using compost made from their own food waste.



## Looking Ahead

Although CLAW has grown rapidly since its launch in 2024, Tara Hoisington sees this as only the beginning. The organisation hopes to expand its school programmes, strengthen food-waste collection, increase recycling infrastructure and deepen collaboration with regional partners working on waste reduction and climate resilience. Achieving that vision will require continued partnerships and financial support allowing successful community-led approaches to be strengthened within Belize and adapted elsewhere in the Caribbean.

That ambition reflects one of the most important lessons emerging from Corozal. Communities do not need to wait for large-scale infrastructure before taking action. They can begin with the resources they already have. A compost bin. A classroom. A neighbourhood garden. A conversation with a local business. Those small beginnings can grow into lasting systems.

## Caribbean CONNECT Takeaway – Culture changes one habit at a time.

CLAW shows that the circular economy does not begin with large investments or sophisticated technology. It begins when communities decide that everyday actions, like separating food waste, composting, recycling and learning together, are worth making part of daily life.

When those habits spread from schools to homes, from senior centres to businesses, the circular economy becomes more than an environmental initiative. It becomes part of a community's identity.



The CLAW and HelpAge Corozal team at the senior centre's raised garden beds in Corozal, Belize.

### Learn More

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The story of CLAW demonstrates that healthier communities can grow from better waste management and stronger local partnerships. In Haiti, another organisation is asking a related question, but from a different starting point. What if one of society's most overlooked waste streams could improve public health, restore soils and create dignified livelihoods at the same time? That is the question driving the work of SOIL, where circular economy begins with sanitation and ends with healthier communities.







Miselie meets with EkoLakay clients and waste collectors as part of SOIL's container-based sanitation network in Haiti.

# DIGNITY STARTS AT HOME

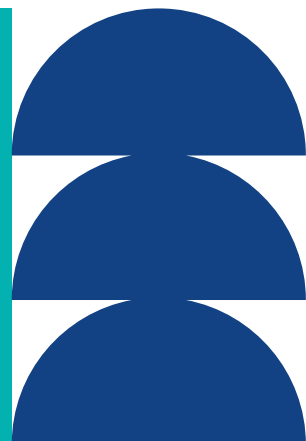
How a US\$ 2-3 / month toilet service collects, treats and turns Cap-Haïtien's household waste into compost, and why Haiti's government, not only philanthropy, is now helping to pay for it.

MAYA LUBECK-SCHRICKER, DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH AND INNOVATION  
MISELIE FANOR-PIERRE, SOIL RESEARCH PROJECT MANAGER  
BRIDJ OZERIS, SOIL RESEARCH PROJECT MANAGER





What does it take to bring safe sanitation to a city with no sewers? In Cap-Haïtien, Haiti, the non-profit **Sustainable Organic Integrated Livelihoods SOIL** runs EkoLakay: a household toilet service that transforms 100% of collected waste into agricultural compost, sold under the brand Konpòs Lakay. Subscribers in northern Haiti pay about US\$ 2.50 a month for the collection service while compost sales, results-based financing (RBF), and a first-of-its-kind government contract help cover the rest. Recent peer-reviewed research shows the system also delivers something harder to price: a measurable rise in people's sense of safety, privacy and dignity at home.



### Home Should Be a Place of Dignity

Home is where people should feel safe — where children grow up, families gather and everyday routines unfold. Yet safe sanitation, one of the most basic parts of daily life, remains out of reach for billions of households worldwide. When it's missing, the effects reach beyond hygiene into privacy, security and dignity: deeply personal experiences that conversations about infrastructure often overlook. **For SOIL, human dignity is the starting point.**

### Looking Beyond Infrastructure

For two decades, SOIL has worked alongside communities in Haiti to design, test, and implement safe, dignified, and sustainable sanitation solutions. Its mission has been not only to improve access to sanitation in urban Haiti but also to develop approaches that can be adapted and replicated in other contexts facing similar challenges. One of these approaches is EkoLakay, a container-based sanitation service operating in Cap-Haïtien.



Containers stacked and ready for transport at SOIL's depot in Tilor, Haiti.

## How EkoLakay Actually Works

The mechanics are deliberately simple. Each household receives a container-based toilet: a sealed removable container in place of a pit latrine or open defecation. Once a week, a SOIL collection team exchanges the full container for a clean, empty one and leaves fresh cover material behind. The full containers are loaded onto modified collection vehicles, known locally as “PoopMobiles,” and driven out of Cap-Haïtien’s dense, flood-prone neighbourhoods, to a centralised treatment facility outside the city. In this context, conventional sewer networks are impractical due to space constraints and the high cost of building and maintaining large-scale infrastructure. SOIL’s nimble, off-grid approach ensures that safe sanitation reaches the people who need it most, wherever they are.

At the treatment facility, 100% of the waste SOIL collects is processed using thermophilic composting: a controlled, high-heat biological process that kills pathogens while breaking the materials down. SOIL treats more than 1,500 metric tonnes of waste this way each year and turns it into roughly 375 metric tonnes of pathogen-tested compost annually, sold under the brand Konpòs Lakay to farmers, agricultural cooperatives and reforestation projects across Haiti. Revenue from those compost sales is fed back into the cost of running the treatment facility, and valuable nutrients collected from household wastes are transformed and recycled back into the soil that grows Haiti’s food.



A PoopMobile stationed at the EkoLakay container depot. Photo credit: Sakapfet Okap



Windrow piles actively composting at a SOIL treatment site in Haiti.





Hands holding finished compost at a SOIL site.

### How does improved sanitation change everyday life?

To answer that question, researchers Maya Lubeck-Schricker, Miselie Fanor Pierre and Bridj Ozeris followed households as they enrolled in the EkoLakay service. Their study, published in PLOS Water, examined changes in people's **Sanitation Quality of Life (SanQoL)**, a research tool designed to capture the personal and social dimensions of sanitation, including comfort, privacy, dignity and peace of mind.

This represents an important shift in perspective. Instead of asking only whether sanitation systems function technically, the research asks whether they improve people's lives. That distinction lies at the heart of SOIL's work.

The results were striking. Across 291 households surveyed both before and after joining EkoLakay, the average cumulative SanQoL score rose from 5.87 to 13.87 on a 15-point scale, a gain of 8 points. Households that had previously practiced open defecation saw the largest change, gaining 10 points on average, while households that already owned a private toilet still improved, just by less. The single biggest jump was in the “shame” category, followed closely by “disgust” – a reminder that for many families, the value of a safe toilet can be measured in how people feel after using it.

"These findings confirm that container-based sanitation is meeting needs our sector has historically undervalued, including safety, privacy, and freedom from shame. For SOIL, this strengthens the case we make to funders and government partners that EkoLakay's value extends well beyond disease reduction. For the sanitation sector more broadly, it's a call to measure what we say we care about, wellbeing, rather than defaulting to infrastructure and health metrics alone."

— Maya Lubeck-Schricker, Director of Research and Innovation



# Testimonials



EkoLakay team out for collection during intense flooding in Cap-Haïtien. Photo credit: Sakapfet Okap

**"Some people have latrines that smell really bad and have a lot of cockroaches, which forces them to close it or switch to EkoLakay services. Because for some of them, when you come out of it, you feel like you need to bathe because of the smell."**

**(Karakol community leader)**

**"EkoLakay brings a beautiful alternative because in Limonade it was a situation that caused many problems before. You used to walk in the streets and had difficulty breathing because of the bad odors of human waste. But now, things are not the same, even if it is not completely resolved yet."**

**(Limonade community leader)**

A street in Karakol, Haiti, one of the communities served by SOIL's EkoLakay sanitation service.



## Funding a Service, Not Just a Project

Container-based sanitation only works long-term if someone keeps paying for the weekly collection, transport and treatment. SOIL uses a blended finance approach to cover the costs of sanitation, operating as a nonprofit deliberately transitioning from traditional donor funding toward a finance model anchored in results-based financing (RBF) and government contracts. Subscribing households cover part of the cost directly, at roughly US\$ 2.50 a month and compost sales bring in additional revenue that is reinvested in treatment operations. Climate revenue contributes roughly 6-8% through carbon-offset partnerships at about \$30 per metric ton. The remaining costs of sanitation services are covered through results-based financing (RBF), whereby funders pay for verified sanitation outcomes, such as the number of new households joining the service and the number of households actively enrolled each month. In 2023, SOIL formalised this RBF mechanism in partnership with the Vitol Foundation and IDB Lab, helping to build a pathway toward durable public financing while de-risking early government participation.

January 2026 marked a pivotal moment for Haiti's sanitation sector. SOIL and Haiti's national water and sanitation authority, DINEPA, signed the world's first government-funded results-based financing contract for off-grid sanitation. Public funds assigned by the Haitian government, with budgetary support from the Inter-American Development Bank, now pay SOIL for verified sanitation outcomes, covering an estimated 1,400 households through 2027, with payments released quarterly once independent monitors confirm households are receiving the service. It is a small contract by national budget standards, but it marks a structural change: sanitation is funded as an ongoing public service, the way a government pays for electricity or waste collection, rather than as a time-limited aid programme that ends when the grant does.



Compost quality testing underway at the SOIL laboratory.

## About: SOIL – Safe, Dignified and Sustainable Sanitation



Container-based sanitation service operating in Cap-Haïtien since 2013, now serving more than **4,500 households**.



**Peer-reviewed research** published in PLOS Water, Nature, International Water Association, and more.



Households followed over time to understand changes in quality of life.



Treats **1,500+ metric tonnes of waste a year into roughly 375 metric tonnes of Konpòs Lakay compost**, sold to farmers and reforestation projects.



Funded by household subscriptions (about US\$ 2-3 / month), compost sales, results-based financing, and, since 2026, a results-based financing contract with the Haitian government.



Focus on safe, dignified, and sustainable sanitation.



Demonstrates how sanitation can form part of a **circular resource management system**.

### Caribbean CONNECT Takeaway – Circular economy begins with dignity.

SOIL reminds us that the transition to a circular economy is not measured only in tonnes of waste diverted or nutrients recovered. It is measured in healthier communities, greater privacy, stronger public health and the confidence that essential services allow people to live with dignity. When we place people at the centre, circular solutions become more than environmental interventions. They become investments in quality of life.



Louidor, an EkoLakay collection agent, sitting in a 'PoopMobile' vehicle. Photo credit: Alyson Lucas

Learn More

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DID YOU KNOW? DID YOU KNOW? DID YOU KNOW? DID YOU KNOW? DID YOU KNOW?

Globally, 1.5 billion people still lack even a basic private toilet, and 419 million practice open defecation. Unsafe sanitation contributes to more than 560,000 deaths a year from diarrhoeal disease alone — most of them among children under five.

Source: World Health Organization





The stories in this special feature have shown that organic circularity takes many forms. In Uganda, farmers discovered new opportunities by transforming food waste into valuable resources. In Belize, communities demonstrated that lasting change begins with everyday habits. In Haiti, safe sanitation became a pathway to dignity, healthier environments and the recovery of valuable nutrients. Together, these stories remind us that nature's cycles offer more than environmental solutions – they strengthen people, communities and local economies. The next question is a natural one. How can these same principles help farmers produce more while wasting less?

Our next story explores how one initiative is helping farmers close the loop by turning agricultural by-products into new opportunities, demonstrating that the circular economy is not only about managing waste, but about building more resilient food systems from the ground up.



# THE HOME STRETCH

One entrepreneur's journey to turn organic waste into energy and build resilience for Jamaica's farmers.

CAROL LUE, FOUNDER AND CEO, AGRISHARE



The anaerobic biodigesters at AgriShare's demonstration site in Trelawny, Jamaica, which survived Hurricane Melissa.



When Hurricane Melissa swept across Jamaica, it left communities without power and many farmers facing renewed uncertainty. In northern Trelawny, Carol Lue watched the storm pass directly over AgriShare's demonstration site, where years of work were coming together around an ambitious idea: using sargassum and food waste to produce biogas that could power off-grid cold storage for small farmers. The digesters, a core piece of equipment, survived. The journey continued. Today, AgriShare stands at a pivotal moment, demonstrating how the circular economy can strengthen agriculture, improve energy resilience, and reduce waste through one integrated system.

### **When the Lights Went Out**

When Hurricane Melissa crossed Jamaica, electricity disappeared long before hope did. Across affected communities, families waited for power to return. For many, the prolonged outage meant more than inconvenience. It interrupted businesses, delayed recovery efforts and highlighted just how dependent everyday life remains on a centralised electricity grid. For farmers, the consequences were particularly severe. Without reliable power, harvested produce quickly becomes vulnerable to spoilage. Days of hard work in the field can be lost before crops ever reach a market.

For Carol Lue, founder and CEO of AgriShare, the storm carried another layer of uncertainty. After years of research, partnerships and perseverance, her team was approaching one of the most important milestones in the company's history: commissioning a biogas-powered cold storage demonstration designed to support small farmers. Then the hurricane arrived.

### **Holding On Through the Storm**

AgriShare's demonstration site sits in northern Trelawny, directly in the path Hurricane Melissa would take. The company had spent years developing a system capable of transforming sargassum and food waste into biogas, with the goal of powering an outdoor cold storage unit independently of the national electricity grid. The demonstration represented much more than a technical achievement. It was intended to show that agricultural waste could help solve one of farming's persistent challenges: reliable access to energy for preserving fresh produce.

As the storm passed, there was every reason to expect the worst. Although the hurricane delayed progress, the core infrastructure remained intact. Within months, AgriShare's operations were back on track, preparing to restart the digesters and complete the demonstration that had been years in the making. For Carol, that moment represented more than relief. It reaffirmed why resilient, decentralised systems matter.

### The Entrepreneur Behind the Vision

Every circular economy initiative has a technical component. But every successful one also has a human story. For Carol Lue, the journey has never been a straight line. She describes this moment as "the home stretch" – the final months before completing a demonstration that has required years of persistence, adaptation and problem-solving. Rather than focusing only on the technology, Carol hopes to reflect on the entrepreneurial journey itself: the setbacks, the lessons learned and the determination required to keep moving forward despite repeated challenges.

That perspective makes AgriShare's story particularly relevant. Innovation is rarely defined by a single breakthrough. More often, it is shaped by the willingness to continue when progress becomes difficult.

### Connecting the Dots

For many people, sargassum is simply a nuisance. Each year, large quantities wash ashore across the Caribbean, affecting beaches, fisheries, and tourism while creating costly clean-up operations. Food waste presents another challenge. Perfectly usable organic material is often discarded, contributing to greenhouse gas emissions while representing a lost resource. Farmers face yet another problem. Without reliable refrigeration, fresh produce can spoil before reaching local markets, reducing incomes and increasing food loss. Traditionally, these have been treated as separate issues. AgriShare asks a different question. What if they could become part of the same solution?



The AgriShare team at the Communal Fertilizer Station in Trelawny, Jamaica.

## From Waste to Energy

At the heart of AgriShare's demonstration is a simple but powerful principle. Organic materials still contain energy. Instead of treating food waste and sargassum as disposal problems, the project combines them within an anaerobic biodigester, where naturally occurring biological processes generate biogas. That energy is then used to power an outdoor cold storage facility designed specifically for smallholder farmers.

The result is an integrated system that closes several loops at once. Organic waste becomes renewable energy. Renewable energy helps preserve harvested crops. Refrigeration means farmers have more time to reach markets and improve returns from their harvests. Rather than solving one problem, the system responds to several interconnected challenges simultaneously. It is about creating systems that improve resilience.

## About: AgriShare Circular Energy Demonstration

- Uses sargassum and food waste as feedstocks for biogas production.
- Renewable biogas powers an off-grid cold storage facility.
- Helps reduce post-harvest losses for smallholder farmers.
- Demonstrates decentralised energy solutions that strengthen climate resilience.
- Integrates waste management, renewable energy and agriculture into one circular system.

## Beyond the Home Stretch

For Carol Lue, reaching the “home stretch” does not mean the journey is over; it marks a new beginning. Having weathered Hurricane Melissa, the demonstration site in Trelawny is ready to show that integrated, locally adapted solutions can become part of everyday agriculture.

## Caribbean CONNECT Takeaway – Resilience is built before the next storm arrives.

AgriShare shows that the circular economy is more than recovering resources; it is about designing systems that help communities withstand disruption and adapt to change. By connecting organic waste, renewable energy, and agriculture, the initiative demonstrates that resilience grows when local challenges are addressed through integrated solutions. For Caribbean farmers, that approach may become one of the most valuable resources of all.

### Learn More

✉ [agrishareja@gmail.com](mailto:agrishareja@gmail.com)

🌐 [agrishareja.com](http://agrishareja.com)

in [Carol Lue](#)





Every story in this special feature has shown, in its own way, that nature wastes nothing. The communities featured are rediscovering that principle, adapting it to local realities and demonstrating that circular solutions can strengthen livelihoods, improve public health and build resilience. Yet every lasting transformation depends on something more than technology or infrastructure. Sometimes it depends on someone willing to act years before the rules require it.

# WHY A TOURISM COMPANY WENT CIRCULAR BEFORE IT HAD TO

How consumer focus invigorated Grupo Puntacana to build a circular waste economy in the Dominican Republic more than a decade before the Dominican Republic had a law requiring it.

JAKE KHEEL, VICE PRESIDENT OF SUSTAINABILITY GRUPO PUNTACANA



Centro de Valorización de Residuos del Este (CENVAREE), Fundación Grupo Puntacana's waste valorisation centre.





Every tourism destination in the Caribbean faces the same problem: more waste than the region knows what to do with. In Punta Cana, Grupo Puntacana (GPC), a sustainable tourism and real estate development company in the Dominican Republic, started tackling that problem in 2007, long before the Dominican Republic had a waste law with an incentive to recycle, or even a market to sell recyclables into. GPC built one anyway, after realising it could avoid nearly \$200,000 a year by diverting waste into recycling and compost. Nearly two decades later, that early bet has grown into Centro de Valorización y Reciclaje (CENVAREE), a licensed waste facility processing roughly 25 metric tonnes of waste per day [3], as proof that a circular economy can work even when no ecosystem is yet in place to support it.



Jake Kheel,  
Vice President of Sustainability, GPC

### It Started with the Trash Cans

The problem was not abstract. Mini-landfills were forming at every bin across the resort, drawing pests next to a luxury property and the country's busiest airport. When Jake Kheel, GPC's Vice President of Sustainability, brought founder Frank Rainieri a spreadsheet-driven financial case for a recycling and sorting plant, Rainieri listened, then cut straight past the return-on-investment analysis.

"Your plan is good. It has to make sense financially. But the real reason we need to do this is for our guests... We have to manage our garbage as well, or better, than our guests do at home. If not, they will go somewhere else." — Frank Rainieri, Founder, Grupo Puntacana

That line has shaped the programme for nearly 20 years. It also traces back further than the waste problem itself: Rainieri and co-founder Ted Kheel built the resort in the 1970s on the belief that a tourism business is in essence the art of selling a place, and that you cannot sell a place you are contaminating.



Centro de Valorización de Residuos del Este (CENVAREE), Fundación Grupo Puntacana's waste valorisation centre.

[3] This includes the municipal solid waste from over 3,000 residences, three hotels, the largest international airport in the country, and close to two dozen restaurants and employee kitchens.



## The Value of Being First

What makes GPC's programme unusual is not the technology; it is the sequencing. For its first decade, the initiative ran entirely voluntarily, with no valorisation payments and no national framework behind it. Rather than wait for regulation, GPC helped shape it: Kheel, then President of the National Association of Businesses for Environmental Protection in the Dominican Republic (Ecored), took part in the private-sector negotiations that led to the Dominican Republic's first national solid waste law in 2020.

By the time the law passed, GPC's facility was already up and running, already saving the company money, and ready to become one of the first authorised centres under the new system. The company formally became CENVAREE — the Waste Valorisation Centre of the East — and was recognised by DO Sostenible, the national waste trust, as an authorised waste manager. A decade of taking the risk on its own had turned into a head start nobody else had.

"Grupo Puntacana is a leading company in the Dominican Republic in sustainability projects aimed at creating protected areas to safeguard the region's flora and fauna... I know firsthand, from their beginnings, their concern for environmental issues." — Armando Paíno Henríquez, Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, Dominican Republic

The programme's visibility has since pushed other Punta Cana hotels and businesses, including large international chains that once dismissed Zero Waste as "a Grupo Puntacana thing", to build their own recycling and composting operations. Its volume has also created a viable regional recyclables market that smaller producers can now sell into as well.

In 2025, GPC added a large-scale Earth Flow composting system, built with Green Mountain Technologies and designed to process 1,400–3,300 tonnes of organic waste a year on top of CENVAREE's existing sorting and recycling operation. "This has been one of the most interesting projects I've worked on," said Van Calvez, the project engineer who helped bring it to life.

As CENVAREE's organic waste operations have matured, Grupo Puntacana is now turning its attention to plastic. With funding from the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund's ACE Facility, Fundación Grupo Puntacana is working with hotels, shopping centres and the airport across Punta Cana to collect and recycle plastic waste, and to explore solutions for the plastics that are hardest to recycle.



The Earth Flow in-vessel composting system at Fundación Grupo Puntacana.

### What It Actually Took

None of this was a straight line. The first decade ran without a legal framework or valorisation payments. An early food-scrap partnership with local pig farms had to be abandoned once GPC audited how those farms actually operated and found food-safety risks, forcing a shift to controlled composting instead. Hauling in the region is dominated by a handful of private companies with sporadic municipal oversight, which keeps tipping fees high. Private residences and short-term rentals remain the least compliant with waste sorting despite years of outreach. And green waste — mostly palm fronds — needs shredding before it can be composted, a bottleneck that currently limits how much organic waste the new Earth Flow system can process, even though the system itself has capacity to spare.

### Lessons for Other Entrepreneurs

**"There's no manual for sustainability"** is how the team sums up nearly 20 years of building this from scratch. Every market's waste stream, regulatory environment and guest expectations are different, and the solution has to adapt to local realities rather than copy a template from elsewhere.

Framing mattered as much as the technology. Reframing food waste in dollar terms, not environmental ones, changed kitchen-staff behaviour in a way that appeals to "save the planet" never did. GPC adopted a waste-tracking tool called Winnow that assigns a cost value to every gram of spoilage.

And it takes patience. "We're trying to run a resort in a developing country, which also means we have to deal with garbage, whether we want to or not," Kheel says. "The government is not going to do it for us, like in other countries. If we want to meet our customers' expectations, we need to innovate."

Asked what he would do differently, Kheel doesn't hesitate: focus most, if not all, of the effort and investment on organic waste first; it is the vast majority of what the facility actually handles.



Employees sorting waste at the Centro de Valorización de Residuos del Este (CENVAREE), Fundación Grupo Puntacana's waste valorisation centre.

## Impact at a Glance: Puntacana Circular — Punta Cana, Dominican Republic



Running since 2007; helped shape the Dominican Republic's first national solid waste law in 2020



CENVAREE processes roughly 25 metric tonnes of waste a day, with a 70–80% landfill diversion goal



Cut nearly US\$200,000 a year in landfill hauling costs



2025 Earth Flow composting system built to process 1,400–3,300 tons of organic waste a year



One of the first facilities formally recognised as an authorised waste manager by DO Sostenible



In addition to the CBF's ACE Facility, which is co-financed by the Federal Republic of Germany through KfW, CENVAREE is also backed by IDB and GIZ, among other donors.



Next target: scaling CENVAREE to 110 tonnes a day and accepting waste from neighbouring businesses

Almost twenty years on, Grupo Puntacana is still building toward that target, demonstrating that in the Caribbean, a circular economy doesn't have to wait for the system that's supposed to make it possible. Sometimes it has to build that system first.

### Caribbean CONNECT Takeaway – Build the system, then let policy catch up.

Grupo Puntacana didn't wait for a policy window to open. It built the system, proved it paid for itself, and let the regulation catch up. Across the Caribbean, where national waste frameworks are still catching up with the problem on the ground, that sequencing may be as replicable as any single technology: prove what works locally, then let it shape the policy that follows.

#### Learn More



[Jake Kheel](#)



[puntacana.org](https://puntacana.org)



[modeloekonomiacircularfgpc.com](https://modeloekonomiacircularfgpc.com)





Grupo Puntacana proved that a circular economy can be built before the policy exists to require it — as long as someone is willing to absorb the risk of going first. Not every circular business starts with an established company's balance sheet behind it, though.

In Saint Lucia, one bakery owner faced a much smaller version of the same problem: no supplier, no support, and no reason to expect one would arrive. What he built instead shows that going circular before you have to isn't only something large organisations can do.

# BUILDING TOMORROW TOGETHER

How Plastic Solutions Ltd. proves that a circular economy can strengthen manufacturing, create jobs, and inspire a new generation of entrepreneurs.

PARIS JUNIOR ROSERIE, MANAGING DIRECTOR, PLASTIC SOLUTIONS LTD.  
LAY PETER ROSERIE, MANAGING DIRECTOR, PLASTIC SOLUTIONS LTD.



Paris Junior Roserie (left) and his father, Lay Peter Roserie (right), at the hydraulic die-cutting press, with pallets of finished bags and raw resin stocked on the racks behind them, at Plastic Solutions Ltd. in Saint Lucia.

For Lay Peter Roserie, it began with a practical problem. As the owner of a bakery in Saint Lucia, he struggled to obtain a reliable supply of plastic packaging from the island's only manufacturer. Rather than accept the limitation, he decided to build a manufacturing business himself, despite having no previous experience in plastics, no grant funding, and no technical team.

That decision led to the creation of Plastic Solutions Ltd., a family-owned manufacturing company that today transforms locally collected plastic waste into new products, demonstrating how entrepreneurship and a circular economy can go hand in hand. Together with his son, Paris Junior Roserie, Lay Peter is helping shape a more resilient manufacturing sector for Saint Lucia.

### **It Started with a Bakery**

Many successful businesses begin with an unexpected problem. For Lay Peter Roserie, that problem was not plastic waste. It was bread bags.

Running a bakery meant depending on reliable packaging, yet at the time Saint Lucia had only one local plastic manufacturer. Limited availability created uncertainty for his business and highlighted how dependent local enterprises were on a single supplier. Rather than waiting for circumstances to change, Lay Peter asked a different question.

What if we made the products ourselves?

It was an ambitious idea. He had never worked in plastic manufacturing. There were no grants. No specialist consultants. No experienced technical team waiting to guide him. Only determination, curiosity and a willingness to learn.

### **From One Problem to a Bigger Vision**

What began as a solution for a bakery gradually evolved into something much larger. Lay Peter established Plastic Solutions Ltd., building the company step by step through hands-on learning, investment and persistence. Over time, the business expanded beyond manufacturing plastic packaging to embrace a broader vision: plastic waste treated not as a problem but as a resource worth keeping in use.

Today, Plastic Solutions Ltd. collects and processes recyclable plastics, transforming them into products used by households and businesses across Saint Lucia. In doing so, the company demonstrates that local manufacturing can create economic opportunities while contributing to more sustainable resource management.

**"I entered this industry without experience, grants, or a technical team to build it for me. I learned by working with the machinery, solving each problem, and refusing to give up. What we built proves that Saint Lucians can manufacture locally and create value from material that would otherwise be discarded."**

**— Lay Peter Roserie**



## A Legacy Continued

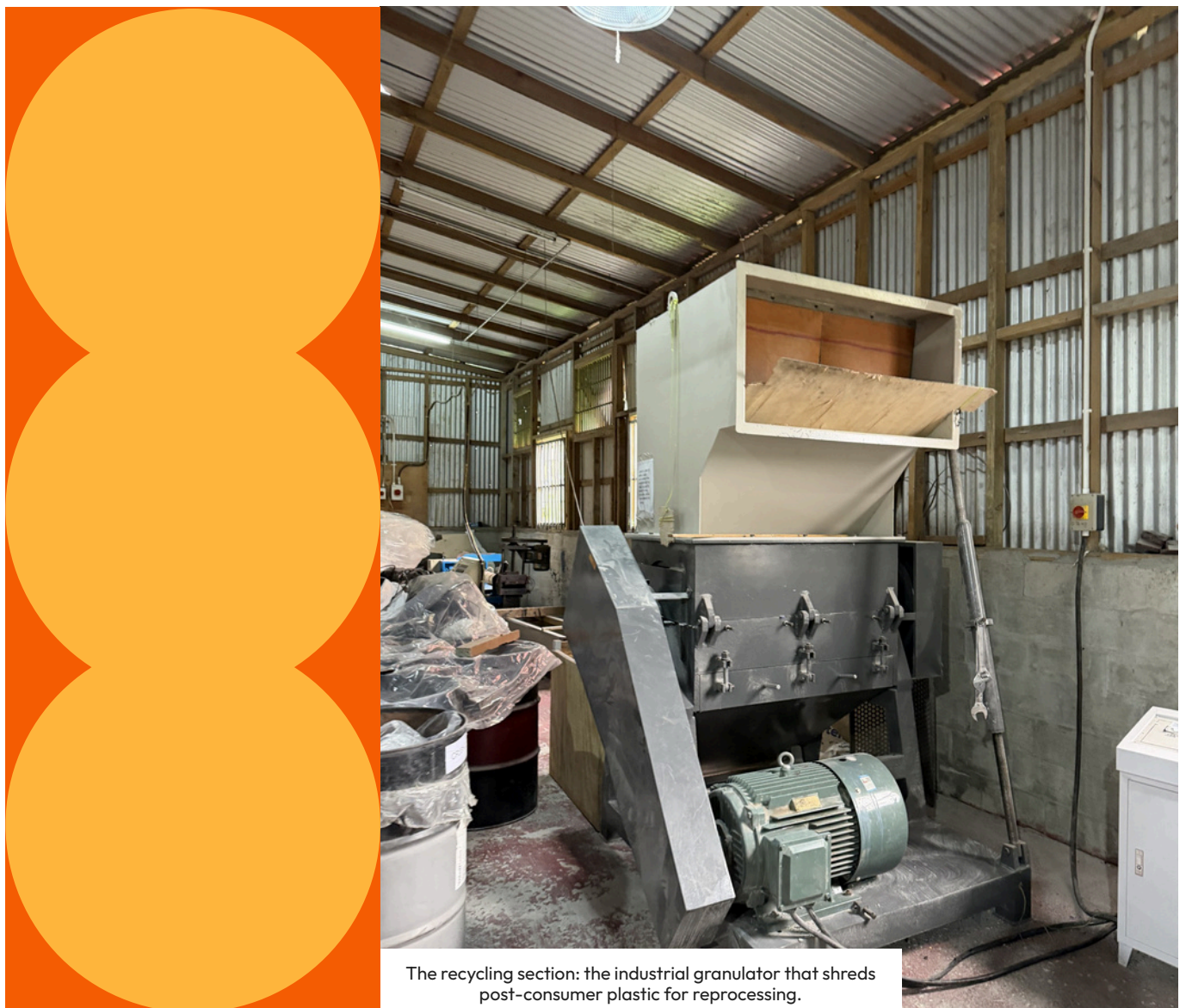
For Lay Peter, Plastic Solutions Ltd. has always been about more than manufacturing. It is about creating something that lasts.

Today, his son, Paris Junior Roserie, is helping lead the company's next chapter. Building on the strong manufacturing foundation established by his father, he is expanding Plastic Solutions' work through recycling initiatives, public education, partnerships and community engagement, demonstrating how the business continues to evolve alongside the Caribbean's growing circular economy movement.

## Giving Plastic a Second Life

Plastic has become one of the defining environmental challenges of our time. Across Small Island Developing States, discarded plastics place increasing pressure on landfills, threaten marine ecosystems and represent a lost economic resource. Yet Plastic Solutions Ltd. sees the material differently.

For the company, plastic is a resource that can remain in circulation again and again – transformed into items that businesses and households use every day, while reducing waste and strengthening local manufacturing capacity.





Twin blown-film extrusion lines running side by side, with film rolls staged on the floor.

### **Closing the Loop at Home**

One of the defining features of Plastic Solutions Ltd. is its commitment to keeping value within Saint Lucia. Rather than relying solely on imported raw materials, the company incorporates locally recovered HDPE and LDPE plastics into its production process, manufacturing products such as shopping bags, bread bags, bin liners, ice bags and commercial packaging.

This creates benefits that extend beyond waste reduction. Materials remain in the local economy. Manufacturing skills are strengthened. Businesses gain access to locally produced goods. Employment opportunities are created. The result is a practical example of what a circular economy can look like on a small island where resources are limited and making better use of existing materials becomes increasingly important.

### **Building Partnerships for Change**

Plastic Solutions Ltd. has also recognised that the circular economy cannot be achieved by one company alone. Success depends on collaboration. Father and son also team up with schools and community groups, encouraging people to recycle and showing what locally made recycled products can do. These partnerships also strengthen collection systems and help build greater understanding of how plastic can remain in productive use rather than becoming waste.

For Paris Junior Roserie, these partnerships represent an important part of the company's evolution. Manufacturing remains the foundation. But education, collaboration and community engagement are helping create the conditions needed for a stronger circular economy.

### **More Than Manufacturing**

Walking through the Plastic Solutions facility, one quickly realises that the company produces more than plastic products. It produces confidence.

- Confidence that manufacturing is possible within the Caribbean.
- Confidence that local entrepreneurs can compete through innovation.
- Confidence that materials once regarded as waste still have economic value.



## Impact at a Glance: Plastic Solutions Ltd. – Saint Lucia



Collects and processes recyclable HDPE and LDPE plastics.



Manufactures products including bread bags, shopping bags, bin liners, ice bags and commercial packaging.



Demonstrates the value of local manufacturing and resource recovery.



Works with schools and community partners to strengthen recycling awareness.



Supports jobs and circular enterprise by keeping materials in productive use.

### Caribbean CONNECT Takeaway – Local manufacturing is circular infrastructure.

Plastic Solutions Ltd. shows that a circular economy needs somewhere for recovered material to go. Lay Peter Roserie built that somewhere from scratch, and Paris Junior is now building the next generation of people who will use it. For islands with limited manufacturing capacity, that combination – a market for recycled material and the entrepreneurs willing to create it – may matter as much as the recycling itself.



Learn More



@ecoshellslu





## DID YOU KNOW?

Global resource extraction has tripled over the past 50 years to 100 billion tonnes a year, and is projected to grow another 60% by 2060 — with high-income countries consuming six times more materials per person than low-income ones. Even if every recyclable material on Earth were recovered, global circularity would still only reach 25%, which is why the Circularity Gap Report calls for structural change, not just better recycling, across housing, mobility, food and consumer goods.

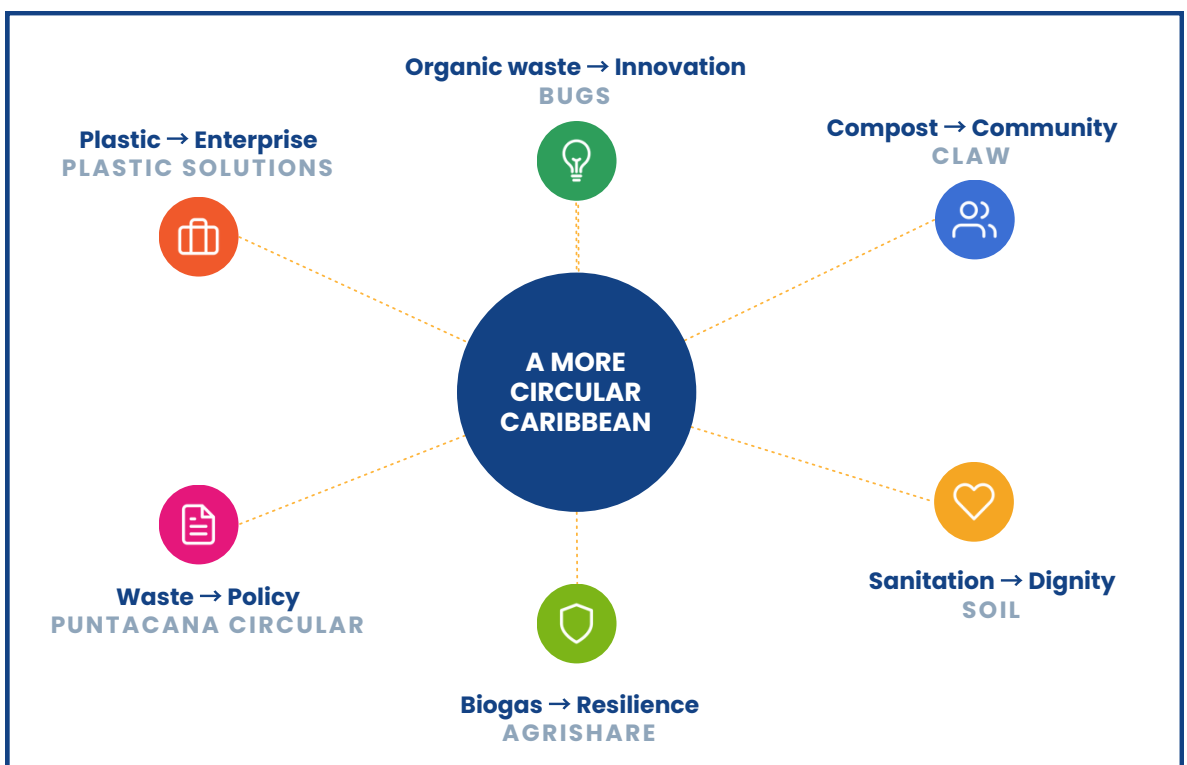
Source: Circularity Gap Report

As this edition of Caribbean CONNECT comes to a close, one message stands above all others. Circular economy is not defined by a single technology, policy or business model. It is a way of thinking. It asks us to recognise value where others see waste. To design systems that work with nature rather than against it. To strengthen communities while protecting the environment. And to believe that local ideas, local leadership and local partnerships can create solutions with regional significance. **Circular economy begins with people who choose to see possibility where others see waste.**

Read side by side, these lessons rhyme. BUGS shows that solutions take root when they start with listening to the people who will use them. CLAW shows that culture changes one habit at a time, built on what communities already have. SOIL shows that putting people, not just infrastructure, at the centre turns a service into dignity. AgriShare shows that resilience is assembled before the next storm, through partnerships that outlast any single setback. Puntacana Circular shows that a circular economy doesn't have to wait for permission — sometimes the business case has to come first, and the policy follows. And Plastic Solutions shows that local enterprise, carried from one generation to the next, is how the circular economy becomes a livelihood rather than a project. Different resources, different islands, the same underlying principle: nature wastes nothing, and neither should we.

The six stories in these pages offer different answers to the same question. How do we build a more resilient Caribbean? Not through one initiative alone. But through thousands of people – farmers, teachers, researchers, entrepreneurs, students and community leaders – who choose every day to turn challenges into opportunities. That is the Caribbean's circular future. And, as these stories show, it is already taking shape.

## The Caribbean Circular Journey



# UPCOMING CIRCULAR ECONOMY EVENTS

**Oct 30, 2026**

## **Call for Proposals for Regional MSME Matching Grants Programme**

Event Type: Webinar  
[oecscommission.org](https://oecscommission.org)

**Nov, 2026**

## **Plastic Deposit Return Schemes**

Modality: Webinar  
[wastewise.be](https://wastewise.be)

**Nov, 2026**

## **Redesigning Textile Waste**

Modality: Webinar  
[wastewise.be](https://wastewise.be)

**Nov 3-6, 2026**

## **Ecomondo 2026 – The Global Stage for the Circular Economy**

Location: Rimini, Italy  
Event Type: Exhibition  
[iswa.org](https://iswa.org)

**Nov 3-6, 2026**

## **4th ISIE Americas & the Caribbean Conference: Advancing a Circular Economy in the Global South**

Location: Bogotá, Colombia  
Event Type: Conference  
[uniandes.edu.co](https://uniandes.edu.co)

**Nov 5, 2026**

## **Plastic Pollution Action Dialogues: Implementing Extended Producer Responsibility**

Event Type: Webinar  
[unep.org](https://unep.org)

**Nov 9-11, 2026**

## **ISWA World Congress 2026**

Location: London, UK  
Modality: In-Person  
[iswa2026.org](https://iswa2026.org)



**Nov 11-12, 2026**

**The 2nd European Steel Scrap and Circular Economy Forum 2026**

Location: Düsseldorf, Germany  
Modality: In-Person  
[greensteelhub.com](https://greensteelhub.com)

**Nov 12-13, 2026**

**3rd International Conference on Cleaner Production and Circular Economy**

Location: Rome, Italy  
Event Type: In-Person  
[crgconferences.com](https://crgconferences.com)

**Nov 12-13, 2026**

**Conference On The Economy 2026**

Location: St. Augustine, Trinidad & Tobago  
Modality: Hybrid  
[sta.uwi.edu](https://sta.uwi.edu)

**Nov 16-20, 2026**

**UNEP – First International Conference of the Global Framework on Chemicals (GFC IC-1)**

Location: Geneva, Switzerland  
Modality: In-Person  
[unep.org](https://unep.org)

**Nov 23, 2026**

**From Wardrobe to Waste: Rethinking the Global Textile Journey**

Modality: Webinar  
[wastewise.be](https://wastewise.be)

**Nov 25, 2026**

**Plastic Pollution Action Dialogues: The role of product design to reduce plastic pollution**

Event Type: Webinar  
[unep.org](https://unep.org)

**Nov 26, 2026**

**CSIRO Circular Economy Conference: From Frameworks to Practice**

Location: Acton, Australia  
Modality: In-Person  
[csiro.au](https://csiro.au)

**Dec, 2026**

**Circular Product Design in Africa**

Modality: Webinar  
[wastewise.be](https://wastewise.be)

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|------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Dec, 2026</b>       | <b>EPR Status in India</b><br>Modality: Webinar<br><a href="https://wastewise.be">wastewise.be</a>                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Dec 15, 2026</b>    | <b>Plastic Pollution Action Dialogues: Unlocking finance and investment opportunities to scale up innovative, transformative, and outcome-driven solutions</b><br>Event Type: Webinar<br><a href="https://unep.org">unep.org</a> |
| <b>Jan, 2027</b>       | <b>Black Soldier Fly Series: Building Businesses from Organic Waste. Moderated by Piotr Barczak</b><br>Modality: Webinar<br><a href="https://wastewise.be">wastewise.be</a>                                                      |
| <b>Jan, 2027</b>       | <b>Can Deposit Return Schemes Work in India?</b><br>Modality: Webinar<br><a href="https://wastewise.be">wastewise.be</a>                                                                                                         |
| <b>Feb, 2027</b>       | <b>Black Soldier Fly Series: What's Really Working Across Africa, Asia and Europe. Moderated by Piotr Barczak</b><br>Modality: Webinar<br><a href="https://wastewise.be">wastewise.be</a>                                        |
| <b>Feb, 2027</b>       | <b>EPR Updates from Latin America</b><br>Modality: Webinar<br><a href="https://wastewise.be">wastewise.be</a>                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Mar, 2027</b>       | <b>Black Soldier Fly Series: Black Soldier Fly in EU; Innovation Meets Regulation. Moderated by Piotr Barczak</b><br>Modality: Webinar<br><a href="https://wastewise.be">wastewise.be</a>                                        |
| <b>Mar 13-24, 2027</b> | <b>Plastic Pollution INC - 5.4</b><br>Location: TBD<br>Modality: In-Person<br><a href="https://unep.org">unep.org</a>                                                                                                            |

**Mar 17-19, 2027**

**Waste Technology India Expo 2027**

Location: Mumbai, India

Modality: In-Person

**Mar 17-23, 2027**

**Twenty-first Ordinary Session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN-21)**

Location: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

[unep.org](https://unep.org)

**Apr 19-30, 2027**

**Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions**

Location: Panama City, Panama

Modality: In-Person

[brsmeas.org](https://brsmeas.org)

**May 3-6, 2027**

**WasteExpo 2027**

Location: Las Vegas, USA

Modality: In-Person

[wasteexpo.com](https://wasteexpo.com)

**May 27-28, 2027**

**World Congress on Circular Economy, Recycling and Waste Management (CER Congress 2027)**

Location: Barcelona, Spain

Event Type: In-Person

[circulareconomy-recyclingcongress.com](https://circulareconomy-recyclingcongress.com)



# ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



## UNDP Multi Country Office in Jamaica

**“Hurricane Melissa Trash to Treasure”**

Learn more: [Video](#)

## Caribbean Beat

**“A clean slate for success”**

Learn more: [Article](#)

## Climate & Clean Air Coalition

**“Creating Opportunities for Black Soldier Fly (BSF) Waste Processing: A Policy Guide for Governmental Actors”**

Learn more: [Policy Guide](#)

## Climate & Clean Air Coalition

**“Creating Opportunities for Black Soldier Fly (BSF) Waste Processing: A Toolkit for Operators”**

Learn more: [Toolkit for Operators](#)

## Climate & Clean Air Coalition

**“Simplified Black Soldier Fly Approach (SIMBA): Reproduction Unit – Standard Operating Procedure”**

Learn more: [SIMBA Reproduction Report](#)

## Climate & Clean Air Coalition

**“Simplified Black Soldier Fly Approach (SIMBA): Grow-Out Unit – Standard Operating Procedure”**

Learn more: [SIMBA Grow-Out Report](#)

**Click to  
learn more**

**Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology**

**“Greenhouse Gas Calculator for a SIMBA BSF Facility”**

Learn more: [Calculator](#)

**Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology**

**“Simplified Cost-Revenue Calculator for a Small-Scale BSF Facility”**

Learn more: [Calculator](#)

**African Circular Economy Network (ACEN)**

**“Black Soldier Flies and the Circular Economy”**

Learn more: [Webinar](#)

**Get The Bug**

**“#32 Black Soldier Fly Farming in Africa: Field Experiences and Practical Implementation, with Daniela Peguero”**

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**Climate & Clean Air Coalition**

**“Transforming Organic Waste with Black Soldier Flies: A Guide for Decision-Makers, Entrepreneurs, and Implementers to Unlock the Organic Waste Potential of Black Soldier Fly Systems”**

Learn more: [Guide](#)

**PLOS Water**

**“Users of a container-based sanitation service experience high sanitation-related quality of life: A prospective cohort study in Cap Haitien, Haiti”**

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**PLOS Water**

**“Willingness-to-pay for container-based sanitation and implications for targeted subsidy design in urban Haiti”**

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# PREVIOUS EDITIONS



[Click here for Edition #1](#)



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## Edition #1 – October 2025

The inaugural edition of this publication broaches critical issues for the region such as opportunities for recycling, marine litter, sargassum management and livelihood creation in waste management. Dive into stories and resources from our stakeholders here.

### Acknowledgements:

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) - Cartagena Convention Secretariat, Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Commission, The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GMBH, Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association (CWWA), Wildlife Conservation Society.

## Edition #2 – April 2026

The second edition highlights circular innovation across the region, from food waste reduction in tourism to community initiatives and circular practices in festivals. Explore how Caribbean stakeholders are turning environmental challenges into opportunities for livelihoods, resilience, and sustainable growth.

### Acknowledgements:

The Cropper Foundation, The Great Plastic Bake Off (GPBO), UniCycle Jamaica, Come Mek Wi Dance, The Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the Caribbean (BCRC-Caribbean), Carnicycle, Close the Loop Caribbean, The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GMBH, Fed Up Caribbean, Grogenics.



# CALL FOR STORIES

Got a circular story to tell?

We want to hear from you.

**Caribbean CONNECT** is building a space to showcase the bold ideas, everyday heroes, and grassroots efforts across the Caribbean and beyond that are transforming how we think about waste, value, and sustainability. If your work touches on any of these themes, we want to feature it in an upcoming edition:

- Circular economy in action (recycling, upcycling, reuse, repurposing).
- Marine litter solutions and plastic reduction.
- Community-led environmental efforts.
- Awareness campaigns or education initiatives.
- A policy or regulation that supports sustainability.
- Circular business models or green entrepreneurship.
- Creative or cultural expressions of sustainability (art, fashion, music).

## How to submit



Email us at

acefacility@caribbeanbiodiversityfund.org  
or submit via [this link](#).

Include a short description, photos or media, and any links, social media, or contact information.

**Tip** – Stories don't need to be perfectly polished; if it's powerful and real, we'll help shape it. The goal is to share what's working, what's growing, and what's inspiring across the region. Let's build a Caribbean where waste is seen as an opportunity.

Thank you for making  
this happen!



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