Virgin Islands Conservation Society

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Help for Homeowners – new Residential Erosion Control program to provide property assessments and designs to address runoff and erosion issues

The Virgin Islands Conservation Society, in a partnership with Island Designs Landscape & Storm Water Solutions, and the Department of Planning & Natural Resources, is expanding the VI Clean Coasts program to include assistance for homeowners. The new Residential Erosion Control program will provide residential property owners with professional site assessments and concept designs for improvements to address drainage runoff and erosion issues. Established in 2018, VI Clean Coasts is a certification program for USVI businesses and organizations to become more eco-friendly through environmental goals and projects, consulting, and seed-grants. The original goal of the program was to eliminate single-use plastics in the Virgin Islands, but programs are custom tailored to environmental goals of each certified business. Partners are pleased to now expand assistance from VI Clean Coasts to residential homeowners.

"I am thrilled to see the continuation and growth of the VI Clean Coasts Program." Says Coastal Zone Management Education & Outreach Coordinator and VICC program manager Kitty Edwards. "Being able to expand our efforts to include homeowners means that this program can work for anyone wanting to protect the beautiful environment of the Virgin Islands. We have to work together to protect what we love!"

Homeowners experiencing stormwater runoff and erosion concerns are encouraged to apply to the Residential Erosion Control program for a professional assessment of their residential property. Local design and engineering firm, Island Designs, will talk to the homeowner about their concerns, conduct an on-site assessment of the residential property, and provide a concept level design to address runoff and erosion. Residents may apply to the Residential Erosion Control program on the VI Clean Coasts website.

Residential property assessments and concept designs will be made by the team at Island Designs, LLC, led by co-owners Dave Zimmerman and Duane Ferguson, P.E., " We are thrilled that Island Designs will participate in this next expansion of the VI Clean Coasts Program. The ability to help more homeowners in the Territory with their stormwater, flooding, and erosion concerns has long been one of our goals. We are committed to projects that will increase environmental awareness and protection."

Improperly managed stormwater often results in runoff, flooding, and erosion on residential and commercial properties. Eroded sediments and pollutants are carried in stormwater along roads and ghuts into the marine environment, causing harm to valuable coastal habitats, such as coral reefs. This project aims to help homeowners improve stormwater management and reduce erosion at the source, ultimately reducing harmful sediments in the marine environment.

This project is a collaborative effort made by the VI Clean Coasts team and Island Designs Landscape & Stormwater Solutions. To learn more about VI Clean Coasts visit the VI Conservation Society website at www.viconservationsociety.org or email adriennevics@gmail.com.

About Virgin Islands Clean Coasts (VICC)

The Virgin Islands Clean Coasts Certification is a local collaborative effort between the Virgin Islands Conservation Society and the Department of Planning and Natural Resources Coastal Zone Management Division. The objective is to reduce the amount of single-use plastic in the USVI. Single use plastics are detrimental to the environment, impacting every part of the ocean food chain as well as pose great risks to personal health of the VI community. The VI Clean Coasts program encourages businesses to take a proactive approach to "greening" their practices by offering environmental certification and grants to incentivizes the implementation of changes leading to the elimination of single-use plastics. To learn more about VI Clean Coasts visit the VICS website at www.viconservationsociety.org

Included images

- VICC certification logo