

## Remarkable – April 2012

### **Bonaire is committed to being the “Greenest Island in the Caribbean”**

2012 will be a year devoted to educating local businesses and people to separate their garbage. The government of Bonaire will run an information campaign for businesses and households asking that recyclable materials and substances be kept separately. BonRecycling and Selibon are collecting and processing separated paper and cardboard, glass, plastics, plastic bottles and cans, waste oil and cooking oil. Compressed bundles of paper and cardboard, plastics and cans are exported to recycling companies. Large yellow “Glass only” containers are scattered throughout Bonaire. For the time-being, responsible locals will take their household glass to the collection container. BonRecycling has purchased a grinding machine to crush glass for reuse in construction sand. They are also collecting oil from the hospitality industry. “Well use it as a biofuel. The collection of cooking oil and waste oil can be used in the EcoPower electric plant for fuel.”

COPLARE finds Bonaire exemplary and hopes that many other islands are going to follow their example. Bonaire's size is just 122 km<sup>2</sup> and the island has only 15.000 inhabitants. What works here, 50 km off the Venezuelan coast, probably can work elsewhere in the world in bigger islands and states!

Moreover please find some fancy ideas from Bonaire, how used plastic bottles can be reused in a profitable way:

- Divers use 2 liter plastic soda bottles as portable showers. Placed in the sun, the water warms up while the divers are underwater.
- Fishermen freeze full bottles, and have ice for the catch of the day. Smaller bottles, also frozen, yield iced drinking water as they melt.
- Soda bottles cut in half are used as planters for seedlings.
- Bottle caps are useful in construction to hold chicken wire in place.

Source: Bonaire Affaire 2012