

## Waste management upgrade planned for English Harbour

By Tabari Tabor

A regional recycling company is aiming to improve the waste management expertise of the businesses in English Harbour.

The St Lucian Company, Greening the Caribbean will partner with the Antigua & Barbuda Waste Recycling Corporation (ABWREC) for this project, with assistance from the Antigua & Barbuda Marine Association (ABMA).

This is according to the company's founder and Managing Director Wayne Neale, who spoke with OBSERVER media after an ABMA meeting last week.

"What we wanna do here in Antigua is bring integrated solid waste management services primarily to the marine sector," Neale said.

"(The) ocean is one of the areas that's most vulnerable to improper waste management and handling; so because of the amount of activities that take place in Antigua around the water, it



Wayne Neale (standing), founder and managing director of waste management company 'Greening the Caribbean' hopes to institute new waste management techniques to the businesses in English Harbour. (Photo by Tabari Tabor/OBSERVER media)

only makes sense that that should be the place where we get started with our partner organization (ABWREC) here in Antigua," he added.

The waste management consultations would involve training businesses on proper trash can allocation & labelling, waste identification & separation, and garbage handling.

Neale's company has already launched a similar

scheme at the Rodney Bay Marina in St Lucia, where instead of just dumping all waste at a landfill (what he dubbed 'waste-hauling'), the waste is separated and managed for recycling purposes.

Neale indicated that this venture would be totally private sector driven.

"I'm seeking to demonstrate that business can be environmentally responsible

without a law telling them what they're supposed to do," he declared.

Also speaking with OBSERVER media was ABWREC's Operations Supervisor, Devon Ferris, who noted that while ABWREC faces massive day-to-day challenges – financial constraints being the most debilitating – it welcomes the partnership with Greening the Caribbean.

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of gender-based violence at a national level.

The workshop, held in Grenada, was designed to encourage performance artists, musicians and visual artists to get actively involved in community-based activities designed to ultimately put an end to violence against women.

The workshop involved the production of musical, visual art and performing art pieces, which will be fully produced next year. They will complement the UN Women's social mobilisation programme developed to tackle gender violence in the East Caribbean.

King was invited to take part after writing and

singing the theme song for the Directorate of Gender Affairs' 16 Days of Activism Campaign in mid-November. Hill was recommended by the directorate.

"I didn't know there were so many types of violence that women go through; for instance, genital mutilation, honour killings, and emotional abuse, and to be honest, I never knew about all that. I also learned how I can help. If I as a person, don't play a part it won't ever stop," King said, who added that she was grateful for the opportunity and had learned a great deal from the experience.

She said the workshop reinforced the each one,

teach one, reach one model, and gave artists an opportunity to create gender-based violence awareness songs suited for young audiences.

"Children gravitate to music, so we did a song for kids aged three to five and we did it in a memory verse type of way so they would remember. Then a version for the 13 to 19 age group in a reggae, R&B crossover style.

"It was very eye-opening. I learned quite a few things even about myself. I've found a family of people who are engaged in a positive movement that I really believe in and I hope to do more gender-based songs to empower women in future."

Acting Executive

Director of DoGA Farmala Jacobs said the directorate is "extremely proud" of King and her work.

"It's good that our young artists are using their talents to raise awareness on this very important issue, recognising the impact that their platforms afford them," she said.

"I'm happy Antigua & Barbuda was selected to participate, and we hope the experience is reflected in their future work and that they would encourage other artists to use their platforms for a similar purpose."

Jacobs added that the directorate will continue to support and work alongside artists to spread the message.