



GREENLIGHT NETWORK GETS GREEN FUND SUPPORT FOR PLASTIC RECYCLING

On December 21st, 2009, the Honourable Minister of Planning, Housing and the Environment, Dr. Emily Gaynor Dick-Forde, certified a grant in the amount of Eight Hundred and Fifty Two Thousand, Two Hundred and Eighty One Dollars (\$852,281.00) to the Greenlight Network to undertake a plastic recycling initiative.

The pilot project, *'Plastikeep'*, addresses the increasing nuisance of plastic waste in the environment and an initiative to deal with the proper disposal of plastic in Trinidad. It is hoped that ultimately, this project will contribute towards methods employed in a national effort for plastic recovery and recycling. In this pilot project, post-consumer plastic will be collected from selected communities and schools in the Maraval/Diego Martin areas and delivered to one of two processing facilities in Trinidad, Recycling In Motion (RIM) located in El Socorro, or Piranha International Limited, located in the Point Lisas Industrial Estate, to be sorted, chipped, bailed and shipped to a recycling facility abroad.

The pilot will encourage public participation in the necessary physical processes, such as sorting and bagging for collection and delivery to the processing facility. Manufacturers will also be encouraged to participate in recovery and recycling efforts since they present a primary source of the material, and since they are profiting from production of plastic products. As part of the *'Plastikeep'* pilot, there will also be an initiative to educate and inform the public, communities, schools and corporate entities about the importance of proper disposal and processing of plastic waste, thereby empowering people to shape the condition of their own environment.

The *'Plastikeep'* project is unique in that for the first time in Trinidad and Tobago householders will be given the opportunity to dispose of their household plastic waste in a manner that will protect and conserve the environment. Householders will be trained in methods of separation, collection and preparation for recycling. This has not been done on this level before in Trinidad and Tobago and it is an exciting opportunity for householders to do their part in making a difference in the country we live in.

The Greenlight Network, formed in February 2006, is a non-governmental organization (NGO), committed to developing and implementing environmental projects that are designed to meet the needs of the residents of Trinidad & Tobago without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. The Network aims to achieve these goals through a number of avenues, mainly via raising public awareness about environmental issues and providing practical solutions to environmental problems using available community resources.