

# Grenada looking for alternative to land filling



Cross section of Grenada's only landfill at Perseverance



Garbage being collected in Kawasaki City, Japan  
Photo courtesy: Waka Photos

Waste management is not only an issue for small developing states like Grenada, but also for developed countries like Japan. Japan was faced with limited landfills in the early 1990s and as a solution it turned to

recycling. Its success with managing waste is supported by education, culture and legislation.

A journalist with *The Grenadian Voice* newspaper was among participants of the 2017 APIC-FPCJ Pacific-Caribbean Journalists' Programme in October

that visited an ordinary apartment waste collection area in Kawasaki City, Japan, to learn how citizens sort and dispose trash and recyclables. Observing the operation proved very impressive and seemed feasible for small communities in Grenada.

The group was told that area residents started this project about six years ago.

There is a schedule for the collection of specific type of waste on each day, with the exception of Thursdays and Sundays when there is no collection. On Monday, glass bottles and metal cans are collected; Tuesday, plastics; Wednesday, household waste; on Friday, paper; and, on Saturday, household waste.

Citizens bring out their garbage to the designated collection points early in the morning before the trucks pass by and not during the night. They also use specific types of garbage bags. The apartment block's maintenance staff covers the piled up garbage bags with a net to keep out rodents and cats.

Large volume of waste is collected only by appointments.

Illegally dumping, which attracts a fine of 10 million yen (\$US100,000), is controlled by the police, who give guidance to residents to discourage the practice.

The garbage is collected by Kawasaki City's municipal collection service, and is sorted and taken to be

incinerated or recycled.

At the municipal Ukishima Waste Treatment Centre, the journalists observed the collection and sorting of plastics and papers, which are bailed and brought to recycling plants.

The group also visited the private JFE Plastic Resource Cooperation and got an understanding of how plastic is recycled into pellets and boards, which are used in Japan and are also exported.

More so, throughout Japan strategically placed and labelled receptacles are visible for disposing different types of recyclable waste.

In Grenada, the landfill at Perseverance is close to its carrying capacity and finding another is proving futile. Though it is not the

best option, the Authority is considering using up the existing land space at Perseverance and acquiring additional lands in the vicinity.

With over 39,000 tons of waste annually going to the landfill, Senior Public Relations Officer (PRO) at the Grenada Solid Waste Management Authority (GSWMA), Myrna Julien, said "we cannot continue to be land filling so we ought to consider other options."

In the coming weeks, Grenada is expected to sign a contract with a regional company to undertake a review of the national waste management strategy, looking into the options of waste diversion such as recycling, composting, waste to energy, exporting recyclables, etc.

Commenting on the scope of recycling here,

Ms Julien said, "There is very little recycling taking place in Grenada." She noted that previous studies done at the OECS level revealed that this was not feasible because the amount of waste generated is not enough to drive an industry. However, she said Grenada's current options are to process and ship out for recycling purposes. "If that has to be done, possibly it will have to be in collaboration with neighbouring countries..." More so, she said they will have to see "how we can establish markets beyond the region and have those shipped out but as it is for now, it is a challenge."

Ms Julien said 45% of organic waste ends up in the landfill and this can be reduced. She said waste to energy may be practicable but the cost must be evaluated.

**Get it all from LA**

**Purcell this Christmas**

It's Christmas again at your favourite L.A. Purcell and as usual we have all you need from bramble to timber! From the response from our customers last year, we have stocked our textile showroom with even more curtain selections and home accents! And yes, you can pay down on these new items in time for Christmas!

Our furniture and hardware stores will not be outdone with the latest modern appliances and fixtures for your home!

And last but not least, our annual yard sale is back in action for three deal busting weeks starting December 02! Come and name your price!

And remember, Purcell's motto is: Cash if you have it or credit if you want it!

See your favourite L.A. today!



## PM: "Parents take your responsibility seriously"

Prime Minister and Minister of National Security, Dr the Right Honourable Keith Mitchell, has called on parents to take better care of their children. While expressing sympathy with the family on the death of young Ariel Bhola

who tragically lost her life three weeks ago, Dr Mitchell said the action of others in the country brings to the fore issues confronting Grenada and other countries in the world. The Grenadian leader noted that when problems like these occur there must never be

political divide in solving them, as all hands must come together, because it affects every individual. He said, "The abuse of one child must be on the conscience of every one of us in this society." Strengthening of the family unit is key, the Prime Minister stated,

because that is where lots of problems begin, "parents are not handling their responsibility properly as mothers and fathers."

He added that some mothers are prepared to sell their daughters to some of these dirty old men. The Grenadian leader also noted that some mothers know that the problem exists but when their children complain, they are being blamed.