



# Environment and Energy

## “20 YEARS OF INVESTING FOR COMMUNITY GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT”

Issues such as poor solid waste management and sanitation, deforestation, beach erosion, endangered species, ground and surface water pollution, air pollution and greenhouse gas emission, overfishing and excessive energy consumption are cited as some of the major issues that has resulted in the degradation of Jamaica’s environment. The lack of environmental awareness is a key contributor to the poor condition of the country’s natural resources and these issues are especially pervasive in poor and underserved communities. By virtue of the country’s small size, geology, topography and location it is considered one of the most vulnerable areas to the impact of climate change and natural disasters as evidenced by the increase in the number and intensity of hurricanes and storms experienced over the last decade. The poor in our society is more vulnerable to the risk of climate change and natural disasters. It was therefore necessary when an organization like JSIF took the lead in sustainable development in poor communities throughout Jamaica, it would promote shared prosperity and intergenerational equity whereby existing generations could achieve their needs and expectations while also allowing future generations to satisfy their own requirements from the environment.

Over the last twenty years, environmental sustainability has formed the core of the JSIF’s approach to development in the targeted communities. The organization has invested in numerous project interventions aimed at reducing pollution, promoting energy and water conservation, improving sanitation, encouraging disaster risk reduction, fostering climate change adaptation and mitigation, improvement in solid waste management and increasing environmental awareness. The JSIF implements projects to the greatest of environmental standards as evidenced by its certification to ISO 14001:2004 in 2009. Through this international standard, the environment is embedded in all aspects of the JSIF’s project cycle and applicable to all activities undertaken by the Fund.

Below are some of the major environmental interventions and activities implemented by JSIF throughout Jamaica with solid waste management and electricity regularization at the forefront.

### ***Solid Waste Manage and Sanitation Activities***

1. Construction of approximately 120 concrete enclosures to be equipped with garbage skips and drums
2. Provision of 2,281 bins for waste separation at source initiatives in targeted communities
3. Provision of two (2) wood chippers to NSWMA to shred bulky organic waste
4. Training and employment of 165 environmental wardens for three years to guide residents in keeping their communities clean
5. Four garbage compactor trucks to be procured to support waste collection by NSWMA
6. Two plastic bottle balers to be procured for NSWMA to compress PET (plastic) bottles for recycling
7. Constructed a recycling station in 30 communities to facilitate plastic bottle recycling
8. Constructed composting structures in 30 communities to facilitate the conversion of organic waste into fertilizer

9. School environmental programme initiated in 20 schools with focus on environmental awareness, recycling, composting, and gardening.
10. Construction of sanitation facilities with secondary or tertiary treatment systems to prevent groundwater contamination
11. Invested over J\$359M to replace pit latrines in schools with water closets and upgrade sewage treatment system under the PetroCaribe project.



### ***Electricity Regularization***

- Regularization of electricity for households with irregular connections
  - ✓ Legal and professional house wiring
  - ✓ Certification by the Government Electricity Inspectorate (GEI)
  - ✓ Link householders to JPS for metering
  - ✓ Light bulb exchange (Incandescent for CFLs and LED bulbs)

### ***Sustainable Agriculture***

- Implemented 14 drip irrigation systems at traditional farms and greenhouse projects for water conservation.
- Pig farms equipped with bio-digesters for harvesting of biogas to generate energy.
- Constructed rainwater harvesting systems with solar water pumps at greenhouses through a partnership with JBI/Noranda.

### ***Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation***

- DRR and Climate proofing (mitigation and adaptation) are factored in all applicable infrastructure project designs
  - ✓ Rainwater harvesting systems
  - ✓ Hurricane straps on roofing
  - ✓ Alternative energy solutions
  - ✓ Energy and water efficient fixtures
  - ✓ Slope stabilization to prevent landslides
  - ✓ River training to prevent flooding

