



Bermuda Goes Green

Blue seas, pink beaches and a green heart: As the planet strives to give green building and living practices their due attention, so, too, Bermuda rises to the occasion.

“In Bermuda, we’re used to catching rain on our roofs, so we’re used to using certain resources sparingly,” says Buddy Rego, president of Rego Sotheby’s International Realty. While Rego says that few residential buyers are yet demanding solar-powered homes, “the people who are developing properties are certainly doing that. Buildings are becoming greener, so in that sense, [green-minded development] is definitely starting to make a foothold here.”

Another Bermudian who’s walking the green walk is Michael Burke, a long-established dive-shop operator and equally devoted environmentalist. Burke’s latest venture is The Greenhouse Bermuda, an organisation dedicated to bringing battery-assisted pedal bikes and battery-powered scooters to the island to help cut down on air and noise pollution. (www.thegreenhousebermuda.com)

“I’m on a crusade here and I hope I can get people to realise it,” says Burke. “In our dive business, we’ve always tried to recycle, so we’re taking it a little further now, looking to have electrical vehicles to get rid of emissions and noise. On our little island here, we have 45,000 vehicles on the road. The scooters and bikes we’re selling have no emissions and no noise. The lithium iron batteries in there are almost totally recyclable, and the frames are aluminium, so they’re recyclable, too.”

Burke’s plan is to sell the enviro-friendly bikes and scooters to individuals and hotels, and to expand his business eventually to offer battery-powered cars and trucks. “It’s

about making people understand their carbon footprint, and that pollution isn't necessarily tangible," says Burke. "It's about changing the mindset."