



JAMAICA SOCIAL INVESTMENT FUND

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163 to become gazetted environmental wardens under ICDP

The Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF) has commenced training of 163 environmental wardens for work in 30 poor and underserved communities.

The project falls under JSIF's Sustainable programme for Environmental Resilience (SUPER 18), a component of the Integrated Community development Project which is funded by the World Bank. This programme dubbed SUPER 18 is an important component of the ICDP and reflects the important partnership with the National Solid Waste Management Authority (NSWMA).

The Project Development Objective of the ICDP is to improve access to basic urban infrastructure and services, and support increased community safety in selected economically vulnerable and socially volatile inner-city communities of Jamaica. In support of the PDO, the community interventions will include road rehabilitation; improvement of storm water drainage, installing water supply systems, and sanitation household connections, zinc fence removal and replacement, solid waste management, and electricity regularization. It additionally targets behaviour change related to water supply, sanitation and solid waste management.

The environmental wardens' programme is an essential and significant component of the solid waste management aspect of the ICDP which is intended to promote community environmental sustainability. Upon completion of the training, the Wardens will be gazetted legal officers to enforce regulations and requirements under the National Solid Waste Management (NSWMA) Act.

Omar Sweeney, Managing Director of the JSIF, states that the goal of the environmental warden's project is to improve solid waste management (SWM) compliance and awareness in the communities through capacity building, enforcement of the SWM law and regulations and community maintenance.

“We will develop a pool of qualified individuals with the requisite knowledge required to educate residents and to

enforce the necessary laws and regulations under the NSWMA Act,” he explained.

Training of the wardens will involve sustainable waste management practices; proper handling, storage and disposal of waste; Jamaica solid waste management laws and regulations; solid waste and litter law enforcement practices and procedures; NEPA regulations and guidelines; environmental pollution prevention; fire safety and emergency response; Ministry of Health guidelines; and disease prevention and management.

Training partners are JSIF, NSWMA, NEPA, Jamaica Fire Brigade, and Ministry of Health.

Wardens engaged for the period will serve three main functions: 1) to enforce the NSWMA Act and regulations (legal enforcement officers); 2) educate the residents of their respective communities about sustainable waste management practices and solid waste laws; and 3) clean-up the community on a daily basis. The programme is slated to run for three (3) years.

As part of their community service, the environmental wardens will be required to take a leading role in the implementation of other JSIF solid waste management interventions including the Community Action for Clean Environment (ComClean) initiative; which focuses on community clean-up and beautification as well as community recycling, composting and school environmental programmes.

Beneficiary communities are Wilton Gardens/Rema, Tivoli, Hannah Town, Denham Town, Greenwich Town, Majesty Gardens, Rose Town, Maxfield Park, Ellerslie Garden, Canaan Heights/Curatoe Hill, Treadlight, York Town, Steer Town, Barrett Town, Granville, Retirement, Anchovy, Russia, Passmore Town, Jones Town/Craig Town, Federal Gardens, Whitfield Town, Central Village, Shelter Rock, Lauriston, March Pen, Tawes Meadows, Knollis, Bucknor, and Flankers.

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