



The "Glass it up" Competition



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Introduction

Solid Waste Management is one of the most pressing issues not just in Guyana but worldwide. Proper garbage disposal is often overdue due to a lack of Education and environmental consciousness; it is human behaviour that has brought us to this point. Our current economic system encourages competition and consumerism, leading to the destruction of natural resources and global warming. Improper Solid Waste Management leads to land and water pollution. However, with the dissemination of information on recycling, reusing, and reducing waste, along with penalties for improper disposal.

The “Glass It Up” competition stands as a solution to the solid waste problem in Guyana. We often overlook the potential of glass bottles that lie in drains, on the banks of seawalls, and in other public places. As we know, glass is non-biodegradable and therefore, does not break down like other materials.

The impact of climate change is felt by every living being on this planet, and urgent action is required to address this crisis. By making changes in our daily lives, we can reduce our carbon footprint and protect the environment. As individuals, we have the power to create a better world for ourselves and future generations.

This event aims to inspire and empower its participants to join the climate revolution by adopting a 1.5-degree Celsius lifestyle. By working together, we can make a positive impact on our planet and create a sustainable future for all.

Aims of the “Glass it up” competition

Bottle art is a centuries-old art form that has been practised across cultures and continents. It entails transforming glass bottles and other containers into complex sculptures, beautiful objects, and even utilitarian equipment by using them as canvases for artistic expression. Bottle art history is a rich and complicated tapestry that depicts the progression of technology, culture, and aesthetics across time.

Bottle art has been created in numerous ways from ancient times to the present day. Glass containers were employed in ancient civilizations for both functional purposes, such as holding and carrying liquids, and artistic purposes, such as carving intricate designs and patterns on the surface of the bottles. The advancement of glassmaking skills in mediaeval Europe resulted in the manufacturing of beautiful glass vessels, which were often painted with exquisite designs and used as symbols of wealth and power.

The project aims to increase understanding of the importance of educating the future generation on how upcycling can be a solution to plastic pollution. In this respect, there are both academic and community-oriented dimensions to the project. Moreover, the aim of the competition was to give young artists a chance to showcase their talents by transforming discarded glass bottles into exquisite pieces.

About the Event

The “Glass it up” competition was launched on May 22, 2023 and then concluded on August 12th 2023 with a grand award ceremony at the Guyana National Library . By way of an official post on Policy Forum Guyana’s Facebook and Instagram pages, followed by letters being emailed to various NGOs, Businesses, Religious/ Ethnic Organisations and Companies seeking sponsorship or collaboration; these included Banks DIH, Ansa Mcal, Massy, Bounty Supermarket, Central Islamic Organisation, Guyana Dharmic Sabbah, Amerindian Affairs, Girls Guides Guyana, Austain’s Book Store, The Gift Center, KFC Guyana, Camex Restaurant, Toolsie Persaud Group of Companies, The giftland Mall, Additionally, letters were hand delivered to **14** schools which included Providence Primary, Mocha Primary, St Joseph High Secondary, Stella Maris Primary, North Georgetown Primary, Richard Ishmel Secondary, North Georgetown Secondary, Vreed-en-Hoop Secondary, Goed Fortune Primary, Westminster Secondary. However, despite reaching out to several schools a total of 4 schools which comprised Mocha Primary School, Smith Memorial Primary, Live Learner & Edutainment Elite and Lusignan Learners and **1** Independent Group which was the Bosco Boys Orphanage; but this collective team generated a total of **15** teams, most of which was from the Lusignan Learning Center with **6** teams in total and Smith Memorial Primary School with **3** teams. This competition was a fundamental tool in laying the foundation of Environmental Education for Sustainable Development, **SDG Goal 4**, We believe every child has the right to education. That’s why we’re part of the global movement to promote inclusive education for children with disabilities, and we work with partners to transform education systems through environmental education. This initiative also ties into the 1.5° goals such as a “globally responsible Guyana” and “youth leadership”. This competition sought to emphasise youth leadership and make Guyana more responsible in the environmental movement and proper waste disposal practices since they are the leaders of tomorrow.

Preparation for the Event (Sponsorship/ Donors)

In preparing for the competition Policy Forum Guyana reached out to several organisations to donate garbage bags, hand sanitizers and gloves for the participants to ensure the participants are well protected from Germs and other microbes that have the ability to make you sick, giving the areas that bottles are usually discarded in drains and other areas that germs and bacteria flourish, Bounty SuperMarket donated a total of **9** bottles of Purell hand sanitizers, **3** packs of Jumbo sized garbage bags for the collection of the bottles. Packages were then distributed to the participants.

Apart from Bounty Supermarket, Policy Forum Guyana received sponsorship in the form of cash or kind from several Companies and Organisation these were; Sherwin Williams, Atlantic Marine supplies, Mings Product and services, Health Depot Pharmacy, The Gift centre, Jars Zero Waste, World Wildlife Fund and Teleperformance. These organisations contributed cash vouchers, backpacks, books and other stationery supplies, tablets along with garbage bags, gloves and hand sanitizers for the competitors.

The Cleaning Process

The staff and volunteers of policy forum Guyana decided that every Friday before the competition, this process was conducted with the use of tubs and buckets; Bottles were placed into tubs and buckets to soak in warm soapy water for 5-10 minutes, labels were then scraped off using a knife, the insides of the bottles were cleaned out using a bottle brush. After bottles were thoroughly cleaned, they were then dried and placed into boxes to be sent to the Artists to be decorated.

Participants and Placement in the competition

The competition saw a total of 45 participants who formed 15 teams from across Guyana, the teams were The New Central High school, Smith Memorial Primary, Live Learners and Edutainment Elite, Mocha primary and the Lusignan Learning Center. The team collected a total of 1,612 bottles, the majority of the bottle brands were from Ansa Mcal Group of distributors, namely Heineken, Corona, Stag, Smoironoff ice, Rude boy, Malibu, Ciroc Vodka and Magnum Tonic Wine. The New Central High School were triumphant, gathering a total of **1,028** bottles which were gathered from the Sea Wall Marriot Beach in particular, followed by KTI with **137 bottles**, third place went to the Lusignan Learning Center, followed by Smith Memorial Primary team Gold with a total of **77** bottles, fourth place was received by Live Learners and Edutainment Elite. The table below illustrates the other participants' placement in the competition, the respective team names and the number of bottles collected by each team. **NB.** The Lusignan learning Center had a total of **5** teams that worked together in groups of 3, however team DYT collected the majority of the bottles so they were awarded **3rd** place while the other teams were awarded prizes for their participation.

Participants	Team Name	Place in Competition & \Total bottles collected
Joyanna Gibson Mariah DaCosta Bethany Abdomar	Glass Go Girls New Central High school	1st place 1,028 bottles
Kayla Hopkinson Tai Peters Raquwon Hickens	KTI	2nd place 135 bottles
Darian Ganesh Yuvraj Harold Tarique Rambisson	DYT Lusignan Learning Center	3rd place 89 Bottles
Tiquan Lowe Jerimiah Fraser Christina Charles	Team Gold Smith Memorial Primary	4th place 77 Bottles
Merille Cambell Macrelle Belgrave Jamacy Marcus	Queen bees Liver Learners & Edutainment Elite	5th place 73 bottles
Emanuel Roberts Junior Harris Donovon Smith	Avengers Mocha Primary	6th place 39 bottles
Dequan Gordon Messiah Roberts Darius Gordon	7up Mocha Primary	7th 32 bottles
Arianna Edwards Adriana Mendonca Rebecca Jones	Diamond Smith Memorial Primary	8th 23 bottles
Shequeena Weekes Marlesha Ford Kenescia Curry	Emerald Smith Mem	9th 21 bottles

Hala Hanniff Saiyd Arjuna Tuscarora Pragsh	Lusignan Learning Center	10th place
Neeraj Harold Nandine Ram Rafeena Khan	Lusignan Learning Center	11th
Damion Ganesh Jasmin Sumgait Vani Jagdeo	Lusignan Learning Center	12th
Arianna Budhoo Christine Roopernarine Arjuna Rambarran	Lusignan Learning Center	13th
Ameena Muhamed Nakayla Boyce Anuhya Rawlins	Live Learners & Educatainment Elite (Black Pink)	14th 2 bottles
William Baker Junior Baccus Joshua Daniels	Bosco Boy home	54 bloated number

Publicity

Policy Forum Guyana utilised their social media pages which included Facebook, Instagram as well as WhatsApp, the three combined platforms were able to reach over **14,000** both in the diaspora and beyond.

The first step of the competition involved the creation of a flyer with the rules and intention of engaging students and teachers who were interested in partaking in the competition and to get the attention of the organisations and business for collaboration or sponsorship and to inform the general public about the on-going competition.



Page Overview		Create a post	Last 28 days
Followers:	2,926		
Post reach	6,281		
Post Engagement	2,174		
New Page likes	10		
New followers	17		

The above illustrations show the engagements , likes, global reach and new followers that Policy Forum Guyana’s Facebook page received during the period of the competition which .

Location	
	Cities Countries
Georgetown, Guyana	1,867
New York, NY	92
Linden, Guyana	56
Paramaribo, Suriname	48
Lethem	41
Bartica	26
Caracas, Capital District, Venezuela	19
Vreed en Hoop, Guyana	19
Beterverwagting, Guyana	17
New Amsterdam, Guyana	17

The above post shows the interaction gained from various locations in Guyana and abroad, it was noted that the majority of the interactions for the “glass it up” competition came from Georgetown, Guyana with a resounding **1,867** persons in total.



The Post above shows a student from the New Central High School, the first group to reach out to Policy Forum Guyana expressing their interest in the “Glass it up”.



Policy Forum Guyana



Policy Forum Guyana

Published by Lily Spring · July 13 ·

Representatives from [Smith Memorial Primary School](#) participating in the Glass-it-up competition has just received a package to aid them in glass bottle collection.

All groups participating will receive a package with sanitizers, gloves, masks and garbage bags.

This challenge aims to reduce waste and upcycle glass bottles that cannot be recycled. There are also fun prizes to be won such as tablets, back-to-school hampers and more.

To learn more about the competition click the link below.

<https://www.facebook.com/policyforumgy/posts/pfbid0xHvK56vyG4iQJ48nqTbo9Zvm3Mzuj955EXCVCogz4XsoPKpwNFVDArVsPTYycCiU>

[#upcycling](#) [#upcyclingideas](#)



The Post above shows students from the Smith Memorial Primary School receiving their packages which contained masks, hand sanitizers, garbage bags.



Policy Forum Guyana



Policy Forum Guyana

Published by Benita Davis · July 19 ·

Keep up the excellent work... Can't wait to see how many bottles you've given a second lease on life... Join our Glass It Up Competition today [#upcycling](#)



The post above shows the students from Mocha Primary collecting bottles for the “glass it up” competition.



The above competition shows volunteers and members of Policy Forum Guyana a part of the bottle cleaning process.



The above posts show students from the new central High and the Lusignan learning centre collecting bottles at the Kingston seawalls and the Lusignan community park.



The above posts show members of Policy Forum Guyana collecting a donation of gloves, hand sanitizers, face mask and garbage bags from the Health Depot Pharmacy and Bounty Supermarket.

Policy Forum Guyana
Posted by Lily Spring
Aug 7 · 🌐

Students from Mocha Arcadia Primary School volunteered to assist in cleaning glass bottles for the glass-it-up competition.

#glass #upcycling #competition



Policy Forum Guyana

Posted by Lily Spring

Aug 2 · 🌐

Policy Forum Guyana would like to thank **Teleperformance Guyana** for being a sponsor for the Upcycling Competition called Glass-It-Up. 🍷♻️



#upcycling #Competition



The above posts show Students from the Mocha Primary Schools cleaning bottles that they collected for the “glass it up” competition and A member of Policy Forum Guyana receiving a cash prize donation from Teleperformance.

During the event

The event was Hosted by Policy Forum Guyana’s Project Coordinator Benita Davis, a brief Introduction was done by the Project Lead Jasmine Crawford, the first to third place prizes were presented by Alana Bundery from Jars Zero Waste, fourth to sixth place was presented by Maria Lawrance from Salvon Arts one of the artist that assisted in designing the discarded bottles, Seventh to Ninth place was presented by a representative from Teleperformance and the other prizes were presented by the teachers of Smith memorial and Live Learners and Edutainment elite



The picture above shows students from the Lusignan Learning Center receiving their certificate of participation and stationary gift set.



The winners of the Glass it up competition from the New Central High School from the left Maria Decosata, Joyana Gibson (centre) and Bethany Abdondor.



The picture above shows all of the Participants from the Glass it up Competition along with the Policy Forum Guyana staff and volunteers.



The picture above shows Miss Alana Budbery, the proprietor of Jarz Zero Waste admiring the bottles on display.



The picture above shows teachers and parents of the Smith Memorial Primary School posing with our echogram photo frame.



The above picture shows Miss Jasmine Crawford, the 1.5° lifestyle project lead giving the feature address to the participants of the “glass it up” competition.



Children playing the eco snake and ladder.



Parents and friends taking a photo.

Games Section of the event

Eco-Snake and Ladder

This game reinforces the idea that the climate crisis is real and is impacted by our individual or collective action, which may result in us being able to address the crisis. Players race to the finishing square by advancing faster through the use of a ladder (i.e., a positive action implemented) or experiencing a setback due to being eaten by a snake (i.e., a negative action implemented). The player who reaches the finishing square first wins.

Earth Helper Game


Players roll a die to move through the game while experiencing different scenarios that would affect if they moved backwards or forwards to win the game. These scenarios are everyday activities in the world; therefore, students could evaluate the things they do that have a positive or negative impact on the environment and possibly make the necessary changes to achieve the 1.5 lifestyle.

River Guardian Board Game


features four local endangered species, such as the Jabiru, the Giant River Otter, the Black Caiman, and the Arapaima. The game allows players to enter their respective habitats. However, along the way, these animals face many adversities, such as the destruction of their habitats, drought, overfishing, and more. This results in the player moving a few spaces back or restarting the game. But the game also includes many positive actions, such as the replanting of native trees, the river being cleaned, and an active conservation effort being made. The overall aim of the game is to educate students about the challenges these endangered species face and the positive actions that can be taken to maintain their survival.

After the event

After the event was concluded, several Local news agencies wrote articles including National Communications Network, Village Voice and Stabroek News published features about the competition highlighting the importance of proper Waste Management and congratulated Policy Forum Guyana on a job well done.

 **Policy Forum Guyana** ...
Posted by Benita Davis
Aug 14 · 🌐

Thank you very much, Fabiana, from NCN for featuring our Glass It Up Competition [Benita Davis](#) [Nix Butler](#) [Mariah Lawrence](#) [Lily Spring](#) [Khuñié Çräwřøřđ](#) [Breneth McDonald](#) [Van Buckley](#) [Donneth Williams](#) [Kellman](#) [The Gift Centre](#) [Atlantic Marine Supplies Inc.](#) [Sherwin-Williams](#) [Bounty Supermarkets](#) [JARS ZERO WASTE SHOP Gy](#) [Teleperformance Guyana](#) [WWF-Guianas](#) [Darthan Racing](#) [Mings Products N Services](#)



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<https://www.stabroeknews.com/2023/08/14/news/guyana/new-central-high-wins-contest-to-upcycle-discarded-glass-bottles/?fbclid=IwAR3oyLWS3yC8W3RuoLs>



Policy Forum Guyana



Posted by Benita Davis

Aug 14 · 🌐

Special Thanks to Stabroek News for featuring our event for International Youth Day [Benita Davis Nix Butler](#) [Mariah Lawrence Lily Spring Khutié](#) [Çrăwførđ Breneth McDonald Van Buckley Donneth Williams Kellman](#) [The Gift Centre Atlantic Marine Supplies Inc.](#) [Sherwin-Williams Bounty Supermarkets](#) [JARS ZERO WASTE SHOP Gy](#) [Teleperformance Guyana](#) [WWF-Guianas Darthan Racing Mings Products N Services](#)



[About this website](#)

stabroeknews.com

New Central High wins contest to upcycle discarded glass bottles - Stabroek News

Next steps

1. Encourage local businesses to dispose of their garbage in a sustainable manner such as recycling or upcycling glass, paper or other materials.
2. Conduct outreach and education initiatives to raise awareness about the benefits of the **3 Rs**; reduce, reuse and recycle. This could involve organising workshops, seminars, public forums, and media campaigns.
3. Work with Government officials, local and regional organisations, including environmental groups, social and economic organisations, and professional associations to impose stricter penalties surrounding waste management in Guyana and around the region; That is party promoters, Beverage distributors and members of the public should be held accountable for the proper disposal of glass and plastic bottles after events are concluded.
4. Partnering with supermarkets and local businesses to award consumers with points or tokens when they shop or purchase items with a reusable shopping bag, this system will promote sustainable practices and cut down on the use of single-use plastic.

Conclusion

Proper Waste Management continues to be an issue in Guyana and around the world but with initiatives such as the “glass it up” competition which allows young people to take charge in making informed decisions pertaining to the environment we should expect to see a change in the dynamics. The glass it up competition was nothing short of a success from collaborating with the two artist Maria from Salvon Arts and Nigel Butler to the many sponsors that supported this event, it was the first but will certainly not be the last of its kind.