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### *Environmental Education in Belize*

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One of the mandates for the Department of the Environment (DOE) is to control pollution and the way this is accomplished is by developing and implementing educational programs. The DOE has developed several programs but two of our most impactful programs for environmental education has been the School Outreach Programme and the Close relationship with Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's). The Department started in 2017 and has enrolled 33 schools in programme. The programme aimed to address solid waste management issues and developed an environmentally friendly school environment. The DOE also monitored the school to evaluate the school at the start of the programme and then again at the close of the programme at the end of the school year. Throughout the school year, the DOE continued to visit the schools and conduct lessons where needed. The Standards II and III were identified as target groups and the programme involved the following activities:

- 1.) Curricular activities, through the Physical Education and Arts/craft classes, that engaged students to keep a clean environment and the importance thereof.
- 2.) Designed, painted and installed environmental signs throughout the schoolyard.
- 3.) Painted and Installed garbage drums throughout the school yard.
- 4.) Designed and constructed garbage receptacles for some of the school that needed one.
- 5.) Collected plastics, aluminum, etc. for recycling.
- 6.) Distribution of promotional items as prizes to students in the programme. Prizes such as exercise books, pencils, water bottles, etc.
- 7.) Educational Field trips for outstanding classes in the programme at the end of the school year.
- 8.) Printing and Distribution of information materials, banners, etc.

The other success story to mention is the relationship we keep with NGO's and other Government Agencies. The Department of the Environment presently still actively conducts presentations and activities within other schools throughout the country.



Before and after pictures at Bethel SDA where there was a large garbage dump, but now students are properly collecting and storing their garbage for pick-up by the Town Council



Donation of garbage buckets for classrooms at Bethel SDA



Beautification of compound at Louisiana Government



Students painting schools signs that will remind students to use the garbage bins provided at Louisiana Government