

**Changing the world
through
renewable energy**

DRH Richmond Vale Academy is Another Kind of School where grown-up students enroll in order to become enlightened, inspired and gain knowledge and experiences they can turn into action.



Through the St. Vincent Climate Compliance Conference Program we are changing the world by first of all teaching our students and people around us about Global Warming and Climate Change and the need for communities to become climate compliant.



Climate compliance means to live and produce in a sustainable way that will reduce global warming and to take action to protect people and communities against its current and future effects. We aim to make all communities in St. Vincent climate compliant. This is no small goal!



Our school needs to be a frontrunner and show that it is possible to become climate compliant. Our garden farming is a proud example of sustainable farming methods that bind carbon in the soil while producing abundant of healthy food.



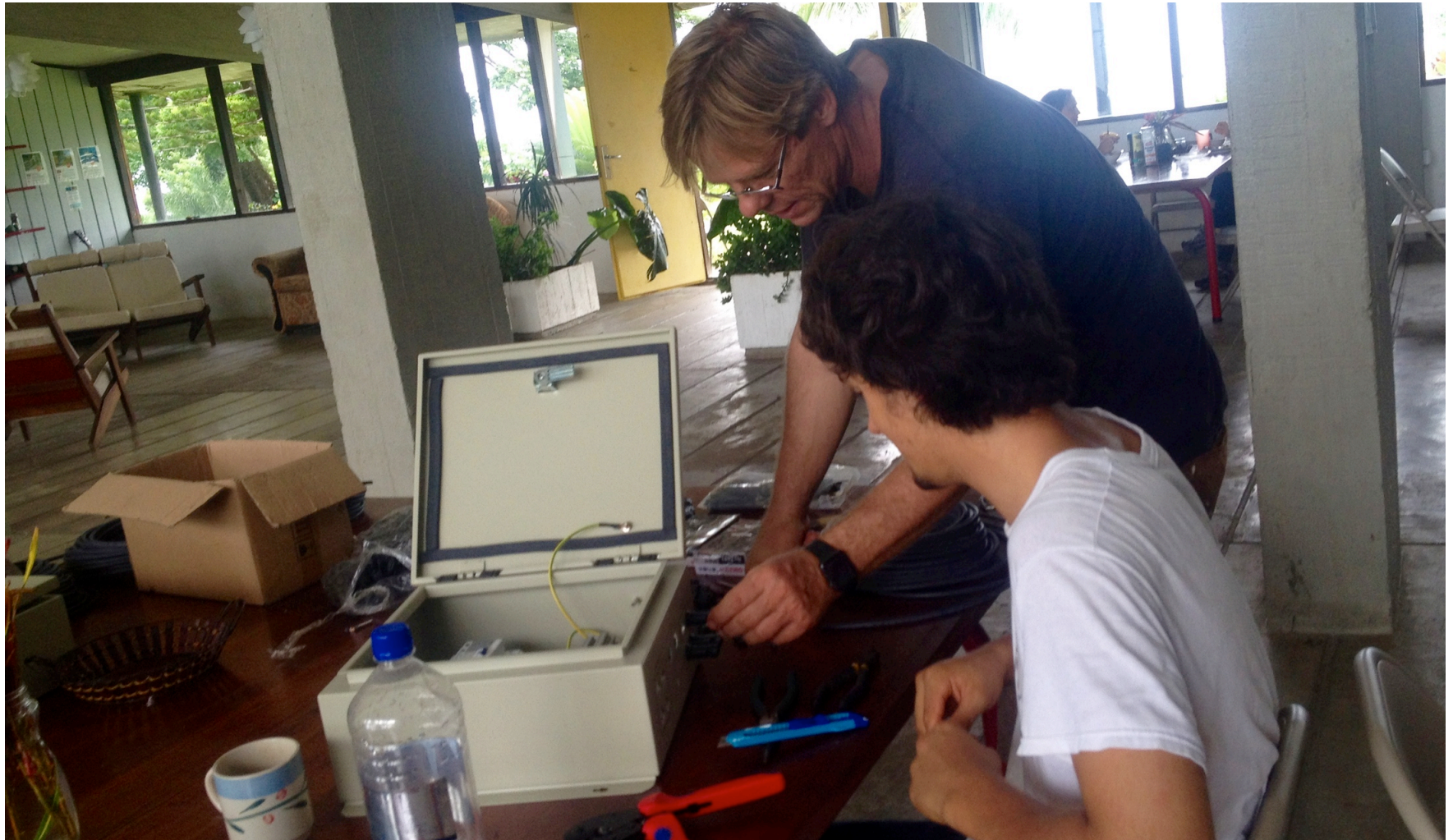
Now the time has come to change our energy system to zero emissions and zero pollution. With the support from the GAIA Movement Trust Living Earth Green World Action we got a loan to set up 70 solar panels and a battery bank.



Our monthly energy consumption is a bit over 2000 Kwh, at a cost of about US\$ 1000. The savings on our current electricity bill will enable us to pay back the investment of \$56.000 over five years.



After months of planning and finding out how, we finally set up the batteries and panels during the Building Week in July. It was very exciting because the time had come to turn off fossil fuels and turn on solar power.



During the common meeting we planned the Building Weekend and decided that everyone should be part of setting up the panels. Writing this letter, we have just connected the last 10 panels to the system.



By producing our own energy, we have become aware of how to use energy wisely. The electricity now comes from our own roof and you get to know exactly how much energy each appliance uses.



Did you know that a simple water kettle uses as much as 600 LED or 200 energy saving light bulbs? We are aware of that now. Just as we have become wiser and learned what it takes by producing our own food, we are now doing the same as energy producers.



We look forward to promote installation of solar systems in the local communities, so more people can get the pleasure of taking control of their energy source, save money and join the fight to keep fossil fuels in the ground.

