

Paper Title: The Green Economy and Housing – Practical, Pragmatic or Pitiful?

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ABSTRACT

The term “Green Economy” has taken on much significance in the Barbadian context. As a small island developing state that is grappling with an extended period of economic recession, there is a move to address how the economy must be transformed to meet the needs of present but also the desires of the future. In this regard, the country has formulated its own definition of a green economy.

The concept is defined as;

“an integrated production, distribution, consumption and waste assimilation system that, at its core, reflects the fragility of our small island ecosystems as the basis for natural resource protection policy intervention, business and investment choice, human development programming, and for the facilitation of export market development strategies”

It is important therefore to examine how the important sector of housing can change, absorb and even adapt to the requirements of the green economy. All of this in a context that it may still be a woolly concept fighting for its place at the table of national development in a space challenged by recession and limited growth. It is clear however, that government has seized upon the transformative potential of the green economy in an effort to restructure the Barbadian economy.

This paper focuses on the ideas provided by the National Green Economy Scoping Study and examines the key elements against two existing housing developments carried out by the Urban Development Corporation at Exstein Village and Marshall Parkinson Garden in the Parish of St. Michael.

One key question that arises relates to whether social housing can afford the cost of the green economy or can it afford not to be part of the green economy.