

Eco-Friendly Designer Purses Made in St. Kitts & Nevis

St. Kitts & Nevis is now producing eco-friendly designer purses from recycled and reusable materials under the brand name of REECII.

At REECII, they are obsessed with art. They think differently and it shows in everything they do. Their products are designed to challenge the status quo. All pieces are handmade with love and beautifully designed with art in mind.

"We know we make the most beautifully designed items on the planet and we do our part to preserve it. We don't imitate, we innovate. We don't follow, we lead. We proudly label ourselves as instigators."

REECII oversees production, which is done in small factories and homes located in St Kitts and Nevis. Their products provide jobs for many single women and marginalized males, who would not otherwise be able to earn their own income.

The purses are created from recycled candy wrappers, magazines and other materials. They are cut, folded and woven together into the form of the purses. The weaving creates a tight chain that locks each piece of paper to one another. The purses are specially laminated to protect them from easy tear and spillage.

Each purse requires hundreds of pieces of paper to make. The bigger purses can take up to 7,000 individual pieces. These materials would have otherwise ended up in landfills, remaining there for decades before deteriorating. Each purse may require up to seven days from start to completion, depending on its size.

Committed to saving the environment, REECII carries an array of purses made from natural materials such as common grass, straw, rattan, mending, screw pine and megal. The purses represent nature in its purest form.

Compete Caribbean approved this project on January 9, 2015 with The Reach Hamilton Estate Community Group in St. Kitts and Nevis. The group, led by its founder, Leroy Willet, began operating in 2008, championing numerous environmental as well as youth rehabilitative efforts in St. Kitts and Nevis, where it employs at risk youth and first-time teenage offenders to assist in the production of the purses.

The Compete Caribbean program will provide technical assistance for marketing strategies to place REECII Handbags in export markets as well as to support the youth-rehabilitative efforts of the Reach Hamilton Estate Community Group.