

# KEEPING OUR COASTLINES CLEAN

A U.S. Virgin Islands  
Marine Debris Curriculum







Old City Mangrove Lagoon, St. James, and Compass Point  
Marine Reserves and Wildlife Sanctuaries

# SOLUTIONS



# Links to the Next Generation Science Standards, Quick Reference Guide

Curricula by Sub-Section		Middle School						High School					Sci & Engineering Practices
		ESS 3-1	ESS 3-2	ESS 3-3	ESS 3-4	ETS 1-1	ETS 1-2	ESS 3-1	ESS 3-3	ESS 3-4	ETS 1-1	ETS 1-2	
Composition & Abundance	Beach Box Exploration			✓									✓
	Investigating Oceanic Garbage Patches			✓					✓				✓
	A Degrading Experience			✓					✓				✓
Sources & Transportation	Watershed Walk	✓		✓				✓					✓
	Sources of Microplastics: Microbeads			✓									✓
Impacts	Entanglement Problems			✓	✓				✓	✓			✓
	Natural Disasters and Marine Debris		✓	✓	✓			✓					✓
Solutions	Linked Beach-Ghut Clean Ups	✓		✓					✓				✓
	Mitigating Microplastics			✓					✓				✓
	Upcycling Plastic Bags					✓	✓				✓	✓	
	Making Connections Through Art			✓					✓				✓

# SPOT LIGHT

## Community Transfer Projects: Turning New Knowledge into Action at the Local Level in the U.S. Virgin Islands

During 2016 and 2017 with funding from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Marine Debris Program (Award #NA16NOS9990133), researchers and graduate students in the Masters of Marine & Environmental Science (MMES) Program at the University of the Virgin Islands (UVI) partnered with U.S. Virgin Islands middle and high school teachers and students, to explore creative ways to transfer marine debris information learned in the classroom to the broader community. The fundamental goal of these Community Transfer Projects was to reduce marine debris in the territory through activities that increased community awareness of marine debris impacts and promoted changes to individual behaviors. Ideas for the Community Transfer Projects were developed by USVI educators and used locally-important themes that identified with the culture and history of the U.S. Virgin Islands. Projects were supported by MMES graduate students and community partners.

In 2017, seven transfer projects engaged 10 UVI MMES students, 15 territorial educators, and 1,986 students from eight public and private schools on St. Thomas and St. Croix. Some of those projects are featured in the spotlights that follow.

“What was so exciting about these transfer projects, was that each worked on a locally-identified problem and a community-driven solution. Teachers identified the projects they wanted to work on with their students, while our Masters students, researchers at the University, and community partners played supporting roles to help the work happen. It is inspiring to see what these projects were able to achieve,” says Dr. Kristin Wilson Grimes, Research Assistant Professor of Watershed Ecology at the University of the Virgin Islands and project lead.