

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

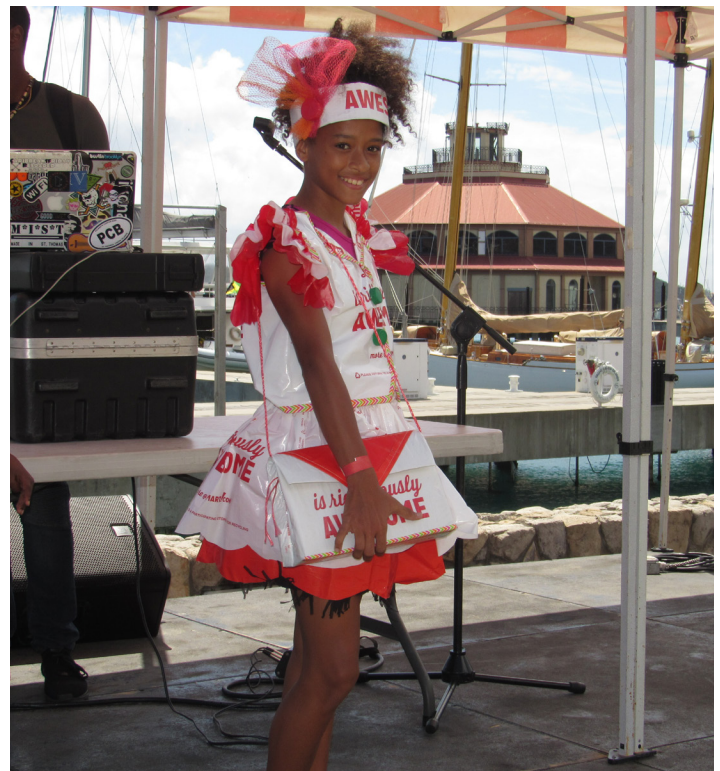
Curricula by Sub-Section		Middle School						High School					Sci & Engineering Practices
		ESS 3-1	ESS 3-2	ESS 3-3	ESS 3-4	ETS 1-1	ETS 1-2	ESS 3-1	ESS 3-3	ESS 3-4	ETS 1-1	ETS 1-2	
Composition & Abundance	Beach Box Exploration			✓									✓
	Investigating Oceanic Garbage Patches			✓					✓				✓
	A Degrading 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			✓					✓				✓

SPOTLIGHT

Turning Trash into Treasure

Upcycled art is quickly becoming a popular concept in the U.S. Virgin Islands. In recent years, community members and school groups have been reusing and repurposing trash and marine debris items, and transforming them into beautiful works of art. Many of these artworks are created for, and showcased in, Reef Fest's annual "Trashion Show." Reef Fest is a marine and environmental science-focused community outreach event that attracts thousands of people each year on the island of St. Thomas and is hosted by the Virgin Islands Marine Advisory

Students from the Lockhart Elementary School showcasing their costumes made from recycled materials at Reef Fest 2018 (Photo credit: Jarvon Stout).



Students from the Lockhart Elementary School showcasing their costumes made from recycled materials at Reef Fest 2018 (Photo credit: Jarvon Stout).

Service (VIMAS), Coral World Ocean Park, and the Virgin Islands Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (VI-EPSCoR). Every year, in preparation for the Trashion Show, local elementary, junior high, and high schools use debris they collect (particularly single-use waste items) and incorporate that debris into creative, colorful, and dynamic costumes that aim to send a message about the issue of marine debris in the territory. The photos that follow show recent Trashion Show entrees that were created for past Reef Fest events. The 2018 Reef Fest also provided an opportunity to showcase a series of upcycled art pieces that were made almost entirely from reclaimed plastic and metal bottle caps. Each piece depicted different scenes and wildlife commonly found in the U.S. Virgin Islands. Mr. Jarvon Stout, creator of these pieces and Community Engagement Specialist for VI-EPSCoR, says about them and about marine debris upcycled art more generally, "We can use art to engage the community on a variety of levels that we might not be able to do through other, more formal methods. If it makes them stop and think about marine debris, then it's done its job."



A sea turtle being decorated with plastic bottle caps and beverage cans (Photo credit: Jarvon Stout).



Metal bottle cap art on display at Reef Fest 2018. Also shown are jars filled with commonly found marine debris items in the U.S. Virgin Islands, such as straws, plastic utensils, and bottle caps (Photo credit: Jarvon Stout).