

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

Plastic Free July in the VI: The Summit on St. John

In the Summer of 2017, Plastic Free St. John, the Island Green Living Association, and the Plastic Pollution Coalition, hosted their first Plastic Free Island Summit on the island of St. John. The summit brought together more than 100 individuals who attended meeting sessions or related awareness activities, revolving around impacts and solutions to plastic pollution, including marine debris. Fifteen presentations were made at seven different local venues. Collectively, more than 20 organizations,

The founder of the Bahamas Plastic Movement Kristal Ambrose collecting debris from a beach (Photo Credit: Jarvon Stout).



Youth Ocean Explorer students tallying marine debris collected during a beach cleanup event as part of the Plastic Free Island Summit events (Photo credit: Jarvon Stout).

businesses, and members of the U.S. Virgin Islands Legislature participated in the event. In addition to lectures, 14 local restaurants/establishments were recognized for pledging “No Plastic Straws in 2016,” as part of their commitment to reduce unnecessary disposable plastic across the island of St. John. Students from the Youth Ocean Explorers Summer Program based on St. Thomas were engaged in the summit by participating in educational activities led by Kristal Ambrose, Founder and Director of Bahamas Plastic Movement. This environmental non-profit engages youth in plastic pollution activism through research, education, citizen science, and policy change.

“It was such a pleasure to be a part of this movement as youth from all across the world gather to utilize creative approaches to tackle the issue of marine debris,” Ambrose said about the Summit.