

# KEEPING OUR COASTLINES CLEAN

A U.S. Virgin Islands  
Marine Debris Curriculum





Old City Mangrove Lagoon, St. James, and Compass Point Marine Reserve 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	
<b>Composition &amp; Abundance</b>	Beach Box Exploration			✓									✓
	Investigating Oceanic Garbage Patches			✓					✓				✓
	A Degrading Experience			✓					✓				✓
<b>Sources &amp; Transportation</b>	Watershed Walk	✓		✓				✓					✓
	Sources of Microplastics: Microbeads			✓									✓
<b>Impacts</b>	Entanglement Problems			✓	✓				✓	✓			✓
	Natural Disasters and Marine Debris		✓	✓	✓			✓					✓
<b>Solutions</b>	Linked Beach-Ghut Clean Ups	✓		✓					✓				✓
	Mitigating Microplastics			✓					✓				✓
	Upcycling Plastic Bags					✓	✓				✓	✓	
	Making Connections Through Art			✓					✓				✓

# SPOTLIGHT

## St. Croix Educational Complex Working to Reduce Marine Debris

Ms. Ann Marie Gibbs, teacher at the St. Croix Educational Complex, and Ms. Marcia Taylor, of the Virgin Islands Marine Advisory Service, worked with about 100 high school students from the St. Croix Educational Complex to increase awareness of the problem of plastic pollution. The purpose of the project was to increase awareness about the impacts of marine debris, especially single-use plastics, as well as take action to reduce it. Classroom presentations and coastal cleanups led to increased awareness

about the issue. These students then worked in groups to develop their own presentations on different aspects of marine debris and became marine debris ambassadors by giving those presentations to their school, younger students, and the community, reaching approximately 800 people. The students also promoted a pledge to stop using single-use water bottles within their school that was signed by 700 students.

Ms. Ann Marie Gibbs said that she was glad to be a part of this project and that “I want to teach my students that their actions impact the environment and that they must help to mitigate impacts. I believe my students now have a better appreciation of plastic pollution and will work to reduce it.”

Ms. Marcia Taylor said, “It was clear through the student presentations to their peers and younger students that they had become passionate about the issue of plastic pollution. I truly believe that this project will cause them to change their behaviors about using single-use plastics in the future.”



St. Croix Educational Complex students doing a coastal cleanup at Great Pond, St. Croix as part of the transfer project (Photo credit: Marcia Taylor).