

# 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	
<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

## Virgin Islands Marine Advisory Service Coastweeks

The Virgin Islands Marine Advisory Service (VIMAS) participates in The Ocean Conservancy's annual International Coastal Cleanup, locally known as Coastweeks, and has done so since 1990 throughout the U.S. Virgin Islands. VIMAS is part of the University of Puerto Rico's Sea Grant College Program and conducts marine outreach programs at the University of the Virgin Islands and in the broader U.S. Virgin Islands community. Coordinators Marcia Taylor and Howard Forbes, Jr., facilitate cleanup activities on St. Croix and St. Thomas/St. John, respectively. As coordinators, they understand the issue of marine debris and have coupled cleanup activities with classroom presentations, ensuring that students are first aware of the problem and then turn that knowledge into action to help address the issue. Every year hundreds of volunteers walk the beaches to pick up trash and record the types and number of items collected.



The St. Thomas Coordinator for the Virgin Islands Marine Advisory Service, Howard Forbes, Jr., and then Ivanna Eudora Kean High School para-professional teacher Marie Paul, working together to tally and remove debris collected at Lindberg Bay (Photo Credit: Jarvon Stout).

Taylor says about Coastweeks, "There is still plenty of trash on the beaches, and there is still a need to do cleanups, but there are also hundreds of people who now have an increased understanding of the problem and will likely work to keep trash off the beaches because of their participation in Coastweeks."

Through their efforts and those of all the volunteers, data collected have been provided to natural resource managers and to the local Legislature of the Virgin Islands to support data-driven policies that address marine debris at its source.

"It makes me proud to be involved in Coastweeks and to help push our territory forward towards cultivating a new generation of environmental stewards," said Forbes, Jr.

A group photo of participants at the Coastweeks kick-off cleanup at Brewers Bay in 2016 (Photo Credit: Jarvon Stout).

