

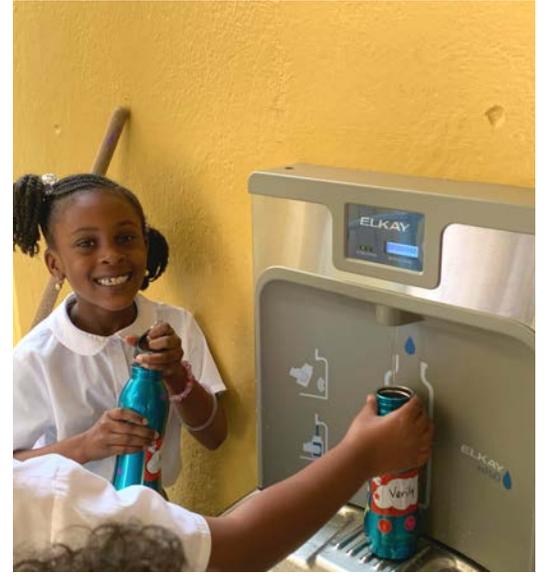
WATER SMART SCHOOLS VI

Eco-Schools Watershed Pathway Initiative

Water Smart Schools VI is a comprehensive drinking water safety and waste reduction program being made available to seven public schools in the U.S. Virgin Islands from 2022 to 2024.

Project Goals

- Increased access to clean safe drinking water for Virgin Islands school children, teachers, and staff,
- Reduced amount of plastic waste generated in schools, specifically through the reduction of plastic water bottles,
- Increased literacy and awareness for Virgin Islands school children, teachers, and the wider community about issues of water quality and testing, water conservation and pollution, sources of freshwater, and plastic waste, including impacts on health and the environment.



School Benefits

- The installation of permanent water bottle filling stations at seven public schools.
- The distribution of 3,000 reusable water bottles to participating students, teachers, and staff.
- Training workshop for twenty educators who receive a \$100 stipend to learn about the issues and the curricula shared through this program.
- Distribution of water quality testing kits for classrooms and facilitation of the Water Heroes water quality testing curriculum.
- Participation in Eco-Schools, including a school environmental audit, the opportunity to receive bronze level certification, and ongoing educational support.





JOIN US!

Join us in this opportunity to provide hands-on Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math (STEAM) education to Virgin Islands students, so that together we can create a more healthy and resilient future. You can participate as a school, volunteer, or Project Advisory Committee Member.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS PROGRAM, CONTACT:

- Kai Nielsen at ecoschoolsusvi1@gmail.com for St. Croix
- Zoe Banfield at ecoschoolsusvi2@gmail.com for St. Thomas and St. John

This project will be guided by an advisory committee of diverse community and local government partners who meet quarterly. It was made possible with funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Project architects and the leadership team include partners from the Virgin Islands Conservation Society (VICS), Environmental Protection in the Caribbean (EPIC), Virgin Islands Marine Advisory Service, University of the Virgin Islands (VIMAS), and the Department of Planning and Natural Resources, Coastal Zone Management (DPNR).



Eco-Schools, under the umbrella of VICS, serves as the lead coordinators and will work directly with schools, the community, and the Project Advisory Committee (PAC). The grant administrator is EPIC. Water Smart Schools VI will also build on the successes of the VIMAS *Water Heroes Project* and DPNR's *Refill Bottles Not Dumpsters Project*.



This publication was developed under Assistance Agreement No. CH-96224422-0 awarded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. It has not been formally reviewed by EPA. The views expressed in this document are solely those of Environmental Protection in the Caribbean and EPA does not endorse any products or commercial services mentioned in this publication.