

## WHY ECO SCHOOLS?

Eco-Schools empowers students to engage in their environment by providing the opportunity to actively protect it through place- and project-based learning. As a global program, tested and validated in 67 countries around the world, Eco-Schools inspires and motivates students through active STEAM learning and leadership while creating healthy learning environments, saving schools money and establishing schools as models for community resilience and sustainability.

The **Eco Schools** framework supports environmental outreach educators from various sectors by creating a network of schools engaged in environmental activities – leading to more effective and coordinated efforts reaching greater audiences.

The **Eco Schools** network promotes public - private sector partnerships to support education for sustainable development and resilient communities leaders



## IT TAKES A VILLAGE

The Virgin Islands Conservation Society, Inc. (VICS) is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization with a mission to engage all US Virgin Islands public schools to participate in Eco Schools program – working actively on environmental issues and engaging and inspiring hundreds of children, preparing them for a sustainable future. We depend on the support of individuals, foundations, and corporations to realize this mission and keep the programs FREE for schools.

### REPUTATION

Eco-Schools is recognized by UNESCO and UNEP as a model initiative for Education for Sustainable Development (ESD).

### CREDIBILITY

Your partners and customers can be sure of your dedication to social and environmental advances.

### ENGAGEMENT

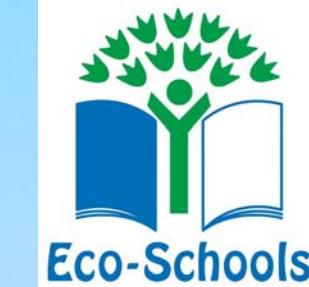
Become active in Education for Sustainable Development. Eco-Schools values equal partnerships with a focus on the development and needs of both parties. We are open to various forms of collaboration.

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**Working Together for a Sustainable Future**

# **Top 10 Reasons to become a Eco-Schools USVI school.**

More than 20 million children globally are participating in the Eco Schools environmental education program. Students are engaging with authentic learning experiences and schools are building community, gaining financial and academic benefits and having fun. Here are the Top 10 Reasons to become an Eco Schools USVI school.

## **1. PLACE-BASED AUTHENTIC LEARNING EXPERIENCES**

Build students' collaboration skills to think creatively and critically.



## **2. ENGAGE ALL STUDENTS**

Enact change with socially, emotionally, economically and academically diverse students leading the way.

## **3. GREEN STEAM**

Involve students in real-world issues - from designing recycling solutions to addressing water shortages - to make a difference in their own communities and around the world.

## **4. ACADEMIC & FINANCIAL BENEFITS**

Drive improvements in students' engagement and up to 20% savings in energy and 30% savings in water consumption for schools.

## **5. FLEXIBILITY**

Facilitate learning that meets the unique needs of students, focusing on issues that are real to schools, families and communities.



## **6. STANDARDS ALIGNMENT**

Integrate with curriculum. Eco-Schools is aligned with the National Science Education Standards, the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), and the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). Teachers can spend more time teaching and less time developing new lesson plans to keep up with ever changing standards.

## **7. ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY**

Improve environmental skills for Pre-K through 12th grade students, as well as faculty and administrators.

## **8. INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY**

Join an internationally acclaimed program reaching millions of students whose local actions translate into positive impacts for our planet.



## **9. BUILDS STRONGER COMMUNITIES**

Work with your community to build a successful sustainability program - from local master gardeners to local energy providers. Disaster Risk Reduction Management to increase community resilience.



## **10. CAREER READINESS SKILLS**

Develop students' skills as they organize and conduct environmental audits, develop action plans, and monitor and evaluate progress. Students are equipped with the awareness and tools to be the leaders of a sustainable Virgin Islands



The Virgin Islands Conservation Society, Inc. (VICS), is the oldest non-profit conservation organization in the U.S. Virgin Islands. VICS' programs include environmental conservation, education and advocacy initiatives to protect and conserve the U.S. Virgin Islands natural resources.

The Virgin Islands Conservation Society is the local representing body for National Wildlife Federation who runs the Eco Schools program in the United States. VICS is also a proud member of the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) - Eco Schools International operator.