



## GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES

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### DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

# DPNR LAUNCHES “REFILL BOTTLES NOT DUMPSTERS” INITIATIVE

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*DPNR Commissioner Jean-Pierre Oriol with ASCS 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade students at the filtered water bottle fill station installed on the campus.*



*CZM Ed. & Outreach Coordinator Kristina “Kitty” Edwards with ASCS Kindergarten students as they show-off their new water bottles.*

Commissioner Jean-Pierre L. Oriol of the Department of Planning and Natural Resources (DPNR) announces the launch of the “REFILL BOTTLES, NOT DUMPSTERS” initiative. The initiative seeks to place water bottle fill stations in schools across the territory and provides outreach to students on how small actions have positive impacts towards the reduction of waste heading to the landfill.

On Friday February 28, 2020, DPNR officially launched the initiative with All Saints Cathedral School. In partnership with My Brother's Workshop, as well as a private donor, Ms. Kristina "Kitty" Edwards, Education and Outreach Coordinator for the Division of Coastal Zone Management, was able to provide every student with a reusable water bottle and provided outreach on the role they play as individuals in reducing single use plastics from the waste stream. "I'd like to thank Mr. Hugh Arnold and the whole All Saints family for their partnership on this program. We are seeking to mirror this in all schools throughout the territory and look forward to working with each school to assist in their journeys to become more environmentally friendly and learn about waste reduction" said Commissioner Oriol.

Eligibility for this initiative requires certification as a VI Clean Coasts property, which includes elimination of polystyrene products from the use on campus, as well as a pledge to implement other environmentally friendly programs on campus.

For more information on the "REFILL BOTTLES, NOT DUMPSTERS" initiative, or the VI Clean Coasts initiative, please contact Ms. Kristina Edwards at (340) 774-3320, or by email at [Kristina.edwards@dpnr.vi.gov](mailto:Kristina.edwards@dpnr.vi.gov).



*Hugh Arnold, ASCS Assistant Principal, with Kitty Edwards and Commissioner JP Oriol at the newly installed bottle fill station, displaying the water bottles provided to faculty and staff.*