# Our plan to eliminate the trash island and all plastic in the ocean

The ocean is one of the most beautiful and mysterious places on Earth. But it is constantly threatened by pollution. Until recently, due to its huge size and depth, we thought that we could dump garbage and chemicals there without serious consequences for the environment. In fact, proponents of this practice called it "breeding." Now the tables have turned upside down, and more and more people are struggling to reduce marine pollution by coming up with some truly ingenious solutions.

One of them is a project called 4Ocean.

4Ocean is a project created by two American surfers in 2017. Alex Schultz and Andrew Cooper were inspired by the pollution they saw in an Indonesian fishing village to promote the initiative, which in just two years has collected 1,930 tons of ocean plastic in 27 countries and employs more than 150 people worldwide.

4Ocean promotes a sustainable economy, promotes awareness of the effects of garbage in the ocean and promotes the development of small communities by hiring local fishermen to collect plastic.

In the future they plan to reach 10 million pounds of garbage pulled from the ocean, and they tell CNBC Make It that they think they can hit that milestone by the middle of 2019. And, ultimately, they hope to eventually turn 4Ocean into the world’s largest organization dedicated to cleaning the ocean.

Another project dedicated to ocean cleanup is called “The Ocean Cleanup” According to the working plan published on their web site the only way to clean up the ocean is to stop plastic from going there in the first place. But unfortunatelly, humans won’t be able to stop plasitc from ending up in the ocen untill more advanced technologies are developed.

The research group of the company investigated different existing mitigation strategies, including reducing plastic waste, improving waste management, and recovery from the environment such as cleanup. The results show that to significantly reduce our emissions there likely cannot be a one-size-fits-all solution and parallel efforts must be made in all of the following three solutions:

* Reduced plastic use
* Improvement in waste management
* Cleanup solutions

Basically they say, that the problem won’t be solved only by preventing plastic from going to the ocean. As long as people use plastic, some of it will inevitably leak into the environment. Therefore cleanup must be part of the solution. Hovewer the calculations are not promising and scary. The company calculated that under our best-case scenario to collect 40% of annual plastic emissions they would need around 750 million people each year participating in manual coastal cleanup campaigns. If plastic continues to release into the environment, these findings emphasize the need for large scale cleanup operations. Therefore, humankind must develop technologies that intercept and clean plastic from our waterways more efficiently and scaled up.

# Other problems are caused by the extensive use of plastic

The plastic can cause many problems.

The obvious one, that has already been covered in this report is that trash currently makes the greate ocean patch threatens the marine life.

The latest researches show, that millions of animals are killed by plastics every year, from birds to fish to other marine organisms. Nearly 700 species, including endangered ones, are known to have been affected by plastics. Nearly every species of seabird eats plastics. It also can cause problems with Coral reefs that on its turn means problems with the biggest life cominities on the Earth.

Another threat, that might be more serious, it that plastic can get anywhere. Once at sea, sunlight, wind, and wave action break down plastic waste into small particles, often less than one-fifth of an inch across. These so-called microplastics are spread throughout the water column and have been found in every corner of the globe, from Mount Everest, the highest peak, to the Mariana Trench, the deepest trough.

Microplastics are breaking down further into smaller and smaller pieces. Plastic microfibers, meanwhile, have been found in municipal drinking water systems and drifting through the air.

So not only is the great plastic patch devastating by itself but also the plastic can influence the life on Earth. So humankind must work hard to eliminate the impact of the pollution.

https://www.fastcompany.com/90537148/can-ocean-plastic-cleaning-projects-actually-clean-all-the-ocean-plastic

https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/habitats/plastic-pollution/