

# The Ocean Cleanup



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The Ocean Cleanup believes it could remove 50% of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch in 5 years.

Combined with land based actions they believe this could produce a plastic free ocean by 2050. “To succeed in our mission, we need to complete one of the most ambitious engineering projects on the face of the planet. Designing mega-structures capable of lasting in the harshest of environments is not easy. Cleaning up 70 % of the world’s surface is even harder, but it is a challenge we are motivated to overcome.”

Boyan Slat, CEO of The Ocean Cleanup, hopes to scoop out the plastic from the ocean before it breaks down using a giant net to form an artificial coastline. He has received crowdfunding and grants to pursue the project.

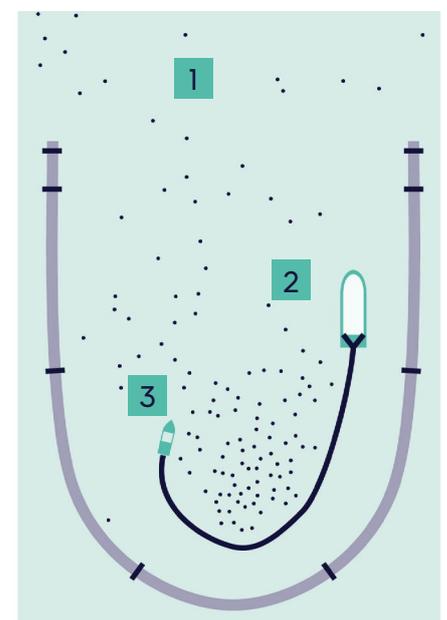
Update December 2018: Due to a structural malfunctioning of the Cleanup system, the team decided to return to port early for repair and assessment

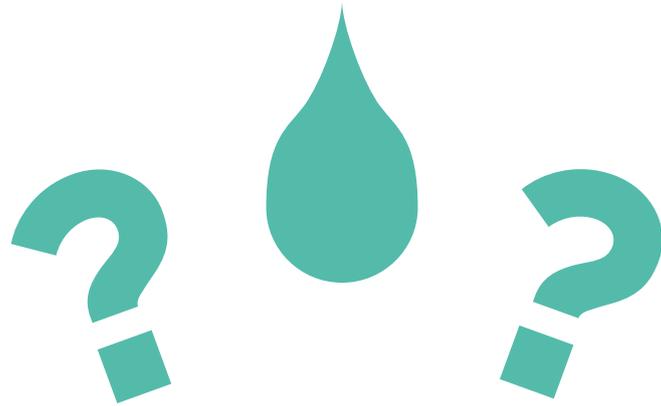
Update April 2019: Relaunch expected in a few months.

1. Plastic debris is carried to the artificial coastline by the ocean currents
2. Plastic is gathered and concentrated
3. Ship removes plastic to land for recycling

“Research shows the majority of plastic by mass is currently in the larger debris. By removing the plastic while most of it is still large, we prevent it from breaking down into dangerous microplastics.”

“The only feasible way to remove plastic from the ocean is to collect it from the shore where the land acts as a natural net”  
Scientist critical of Ocean Cleanup





**Removing plastic  
directly from the  
mid-ocean is so  
difficult, it's not  
really worth it.**