



# Ocean Plastics Academy

June 2019

Inspiring the next generation to continue the fight  
against marine plastics

We are working hard in the fight against marine plastic pollution, but we recognise that real, lasting change takes time. Young people are some of the most passionate and effective planet-protectors. We need them on our team.

The Ocean Plastics Academy provides educators with standard aligned resources that build student knowledge and understanding of ocean plastics, while empowering them as agents of change. Working with a broad coalition of educators, scientists and industry, we want to equip every child with the knowledge, experience and courage to address plastic pollution – for good.

**"The Ocean Plastics Academy from Common  
Seas will support the next generation to learn  
their way out of the plastic pollution crisis while  
deepening their understanding of our intimate  
relationship with the greatest life support  
system on our planet, the ocean."**

**James Honeyborne**

Executive Producer BLUE PLANET II



### Why it matters

Around 12.2 million tonnes of plastic enter our oceans every year. Plastic pollution has become one of the biggest threats facing the marine environment, harming people, communities, economies and the health of our planet. This crisis is getting worse every year. While we must continue to act today for plastic-free oceans, we know that education is a key pillar in the creation of a long-term solution.

### Our approach

We believe that helping young people understand plastic – where it comes from, what it does, where it goes – will allow them to inform good governance, as leaders, citizens and voters. We have developed an education model that provides this ‘plastics literacy’, while integrating it with practical, real life examples of action.

We develop this model in partnership with Encounter Edu, who have a decade’s worth of experience helping teachers introduce gritty global issues into their classrooms.

We also drew on UNESCO’s education framework, which uses cognitive, socio-emotional and behavioural learning outcomes that are embedded in the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals.

Although this model was developed for the UK curriculum, it is highly adaptable and replicable to other countries around the world – particularly those working to achieve 2030 Goals.

Wherever it is used, the Ocean Plastics Academy is:

**Accessible:** It contains standard aligned resources, which means the topic of marine plastic pollution can be accessed and taught within any curriculum.

**Appropriate:** We developed the resources in partnership with subject associations, which means they only contains appropriate content.

**Authoritative:** We partnered with university researchers and plastics experts, which means these resources are reliable information sources for educators and learners.

### Current resources

All our resources can be downloaded from our website. They all align to a set of overarching Ocean Plastics Learning objectives so those who use them can adapt them to fit local case studies. Currently, the Ocean Plastic Academy's resources and case studies are aligned to the National Curriculum for England.

On [commonseas.com/projects/ocean-plastics-academy](https://commonseas.com/projects/ocean-plastics-academy) you will find:

- **Teacher resources** to deliver lessons on plastics and their impact on the marine environment. Designed for ages 5-16, with programmes of study for science, geography and design & technology.
- **Multimedia resources** and activities aimed at both formal and informal learning environments.
- **Professional development** in the form of a modular online course for teachers wishing to improve their subject knowledge on plastics and their impact on the marine environment.
- **Live interactions** with plastics experts, scientists, live autopsies of sea life affected by plastics, virtual explorations of the problem, visits to labs and design studios.

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