CLEAN CURRENTS COALITION

A global network of dedicated, passionate, and creative problem solvers combating the flow of plastic waste from rivers to the ocean.

Supported by the Benioff Ocean Initiative at the University of California, Santa Barbara and The Coca-Cola Foundation, the Clean Currents Coalition is working to design and pilot new technologies to capture plastic waste in highly polluted rivers and catalyze policy-based, infrastructural, and societal change to reduce plastic inputs to rivers, and ultimately the ocean.

CAPTURE ocean-bound plastic waste using innovative technologies → **COLLECT** data on type, volume, and patterns of plastic waste → **REPURPOSE** and recycle collected plastic waste to close the loop on plastic production → **ENGAGE** and educate local communities on plastic use and disposal

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Teams
Countries
River Systems
Capture Devices

$11,000,000

BENIOFF OCEAN INITIATIVE

THE Coca-Cola FOUNDATION

Collaboration

The Clean Currents Coalition teams work collaboratively towards a common goal to boost their collective success

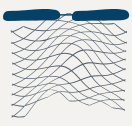
Community Forum
To empower teams to collaborate both directly and as a group

Quarterly Connects
To discuss project-relevant topics at virtual conferences

Annual Symposiums
To strengthen connections and learn from experts

Technology

The diverse technologies are designed to be replicable and scalable, so that these solutions can be implemented around the world



Booms & Nets
Booms and nets guide plastic waste to a collection point, often the river bank or a trap, where it can then be removed

Traps
Trash traps are mechanical devices placed in rivers that trap and remove plastic waste as it flows downstream

Concentrators & Conveyors
Powered screen or belt systems concentrate and lift plastic waste out of the water and onto shoreside collection areas

Emerging Technologies
Emerging technologies and onboard automated monitoring systems bring innovative engineering techniques to plastic capture efforts

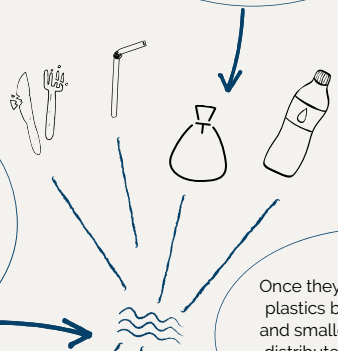
Why Rivers?

80% of ocean plastics originate from land sources

Up to **4,000,000** metric tons of plastics enter the ocean from rivers every year

Equivalent to **75** adult male African elephants every hour

Non-recycled and mismanaged plastic waste from different land sources finds its way to rivers, both directly from littering and indirectly from rain, wind, and storms



Rivers are "pinch points" for plastic waste. Plastics from all over the land come together in rivers before they again disperse in the ocean. Because rivers are relatively shallow, accessible, and act as point sources of plastic waste entering the ocean, they offer a unique opportunity to efficiently capture and remove plastics from the environment

Once they reach the ocean, plastics break into smaller and smaller pieces, and are distributed throughout the water column and around the world by currents

7.8 billion tons of plastics have been produced

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1 ton for every person on Earth

Only 9% of all plastics have been recycled

It is estimated that there will be **more plastics than fish** in the ocean by 2050

COALITION PROJECTS

THE OCEAN CLEANUP

SMART VILLAGES
CHEMOLEX
renew oceans
Greeneration Foundation
TERRACYCLE GLOBAL FOUNDATION
marea verde
ICHTHION
Ocean Conservancy
WILDCOAST COSTASALVAJE

Assi River, India

The Assi River, a tributary of the Ganges, lies in the heart of Varanasi - the holiest of the seven sacred cities in India. Renew Oceans is installing the ReFence capture system in several locations along the Assi River to divert and collect plastic waste traveling to the Ganges River. The system pushes waste to the shallow riverbanks where it is collected by the underserved local waste picker community, who then receive payment when the plastic waste is returned to the collection center.

Kingston Harbour, Jamaica

Kingston Harbour, the 7th largest natural harbor in the world, lies within Hunts Bay on the shores of Kingston, Jamaica. Plastic waste from nearby urban centers accumulates in the harbor, damaging infrastructure and negatively affecting the mangrove and coral reef ecosystems. Here, the Ocean Cleanup is installing the 100% solar-powered Interceptor to capture and remove plastic waste, and they are joining forces with Recycling Partners of Jamaica to improve recycling infrastructure in the area.

Portoviejo River, Ecuador

The Portoviejo River flows over 100 km through Ecuador's mangrove and dry woods ecosystems before discharging in the Pacific Ocean. The river is an important source of water and natural heritage to some of the poorest communities in Ecuador. Ichthion Ltd. is installing their cutting-edge Azure river system to capture and remove plastic waste from the Portoviejo River while also launching a data-driven communications and outreach program focused on awareness, education, and behavior related to plastic issues.

Athi River, Kenya

The Athi River and its tributaries flow lazily through the plains of the Maasai Mara, the Tsavo, the valleys of Kenya, and eventually empty into the Indian Ocean. While these rivers give life to Kenya, they also receive large amounts of plastics, pollution, and waste from the 9 million residents of the Nairobi area. Chemolex and Smart Villages are partnering to install 10 plastic capture devices along these rivers and are working with women's groups and local youth organizations to create the next generation of river keepers.

Lat Phrao Canal, Thailand

Over 1600 canals and waterways have been engineered through Bangkok to shorten the passage of the Chao Phraya River through the city. Lat Phrao Canal, a 1.5 km section of this network, flows through a densely populated community with approximately 120,400 residents. TerraCycle Global Foundation is operating two plastic capture devices in the canal, and with the Blue Carbon Society and Mahidol University, they are educating the local community on the issue of plastic pollution.

Song Hong, Vietnam

The Song Hong, or Red River, draws its name from its reddish-brown, heavily silt-laden water. The river runs from North Vietnam to the South China Sea, supporting over 50 Vietnamese districts and 23 million people along the way. Ocean Conservancy, in partnership with the Centre for Marinelife Conservation and Community Development, are working to remove plastic waste from the Song Hong, improve local waste management infrastructure, and energize support for marine debris directives.

Citarum River, Indonesia

The Citarum River is the longest river in West Java, Indonesia, and provides water, electricity, and irrigation for over 25 million people. Sadly, it is also known as the "world's most polluted river" - in many places, the water can't be seen because the surface is covered entirely by waste. Greeneration Foundation is partnering with Riverrecycle, Waste4Change, and Deltares to install a plastic capture device in the Citarum River, recycle the captured plastics, compost organics, and turn non-recyclable plastics into fuel.

Matías Hernández River, Panama

The Matías Hernández River flows through Panama City, into mudflats and mangroves, and empties into Panama Bay. Plastic waste harms these important ecosystems that provide protection for coastal communities, support incredible amounts of biodiversity, buoy local fishing and ecotourism industries, and even sequester carbon. Marea Verde is installing a Trash Wheel to capture and remove waste from the river, and is engaging the community to reduce the amount of waste entering the watershed.

Tijuana River, Mexico

The Tijuana River travels through the mountains and deserts of Mexico before becoming the Tijuana River Estuary as it reaches the Pacific Ocean at the U.S.-Mexico border. The estuary, made up of diverse and sensitive habitats, is home to 10 endangered species and is a critical stop for migratory birds. WILDCOAST is installing a plastic capture device - the "Brute Boom" - in the Tijuana River at Los Laureles Canyon to protect the estuary and keep the river clean for the thousands that rely on it for clean water.

Get Involved →

Reduce Single-Use Plastics

Participate in River or Beach Clean-Ups

Support Local Legislation

Learn How You Can Support The Coalition At
www.cleancurrentscoalition.org/get-involved