

# A Future Without Plastic Is Possible

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The world has shown us that we have made multiple mistakes that are unfixable, but it does not mean that all those mistakes are permanent. As of right now, many agencies and experts are working tirelessly. There are currently some who have devoted their time into developing ideas that involve simple yet effective methods like beach clean ups and river clean ups (Cho, R., 2022). The reason being is that plastic waste can start when people leave their trash or plastic waste behind in a river and it makes its way into the oceans, which results in ocean pollution. Beach clean ups are also effective and simple methods as they use less fuel than vessels that re removing plastic waste from trash islands in the Pacific Ocean. However, using interceptor vessels to collect plastic waste and trash from the Pacific Ocean has shown that it does work, and we need more people to get the job done within a decade (Castleman, T., 2024).

We still need to continue with the ongoing efforts into developing new ideas for reducing our plastic waste production and removing trash islands in the Pacific Ocean by preventing river pollution to make its way into our oceans and start with more smaller events like local beach clean ups (Cho, R., 2022). And a great smaller way to make a big impact on reducing our plastic waste production is to come on down to your local refillery as they do their part in making sure everyone can use a refillable aluminum bottle that can be reusable and refillable of any bathroom, kitchen, or laundry products to dispense or pour. Once we continue to ditch plastic for the more sustainable metal and glass bottles, we can allow others to continue their valiant efforts into cleaning up our oceans and rivers of every bit of plastic waste or trash that has made it to our aquatic ecosystems. This will be one small step for us, but a big step into making the future brighter and healthier for all of us. The more people we get into using refilleries for making more sustainable decisions, the better the outcome on our environments and for the wildlife living in our ecosystems that are having their foods webs saturated with microplastics. So go spread the word about the refilleries in your area, state, or country and help us reach our brighter future sooner than later.

## References

Castleman, T. (2024, September 7). *Great Pacific Garbage Patch could be eliminated in 10 years, cleanup organization says*. Los Angeles Times. <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2024-09-06/great-pacific-garbage-patch-can-be-eliminated-in-10-years-cleanup-organization-says>

Cho, R. (2022, October 13). *How do we clean up all that ocean plastic?* State of the Planet. <https://news.climate.columbia.edu/2022/10/13/how-do-we-clean-up-all-that-ocean-plastic/#:~:text=The%20most%20high%2Dprofile%20effort,the%20Great%20Pacific%20Garbage%20Patch>

