



Stemming the Tide of Plastic Waste

How Dow Is Helping to Address the Problem

Plastics offer many advancements that improve our everyday lives – from packaging that helps reduce global food waste to life-saving innovations in the medical field. Yet, not all plastic waste ends up where it should.

Dow is working with the private sector, industry trade associations, academia and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) to develop targeted global actions that will mitigate – or even stop – the amount of marine debris polluting our oceans. These efforts are aligned to our [2025 Sustainability Goals](#) and our efforts to advance a circular economy, by delivering solutions to close resource loops and increase the rate of recycling and reuse of plastics.

Below are just a few such collaborative actions where Dow is involved.

- Sponsorship of [Ocean Conservancy's](#) collaborative research and waste management pilot programs and educational programs to promote recycling and prevent littering.
- Launching of the first quantitative research in Asia Pacific to study the impact of plastic waste and debris on the Edogawa River and the Ohori River of the Kanto region in Japan.
- A joint effort with The Indonesian Olefin, Aromatic and Plastic Industry Association (INAPLAS); Indonesia Plastic Recycling Association (ADUPI); PT Polytama Propindo (Indonesia PP Manufacturing); the Bandung Institute of Technology (ITB) and the Indonesian government to further develop the country's environmentally friendly [plastic road building project](#).
- Engagement in coastal clean-up initiatives, such as the International Coastal Clean Up, sponsored by Ocean Conservancy.
- Participation with flexible packaging manufacturer Bemis Company, Inc. and Canada-based converter Polykar Inc. to develop a [trash bag made from post-industrial plastic scrap](#).
- Support of [The Declaration of the Global Plastics Association for Solutions on Marine Debris](#), which has signatures from over 60 associations spanning 34 countries.

The Trash-Free Seas Alliance, a global coalition led by Ocean Conservancy, of which Dow is a member, has issued a [report](#) identifying the major pathways of plastic leakage into the ocean, as well as solutions for these countries to properly concentrate and treat the plastic waste before it makes its way into the ocean.

Did You Know?

>50%

of plastic leakage comes from 5 countries

(China, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam)

75%

of plastic leakage comes from uncollected waste

Recycling Alone Is Not the Solution:

4 Levers That Could Make a Difference in Reducing Plastic Waste in High-Opportunity Countries

- 1. Increase waste-collection rates**
- 2. Close leakage points** with the collection system by eliminating illegal dumping
- 3. Use waste-to-fuel or waste-to-energy technologies** to treat waste
- 4. Manually sort high-value plastic waste** and convert remainder to refuse-derived fuel (RDF). This RDF could replace 3% of total coal consumption.