THE OCEAN CLEANUP FOUNDATION POLICY PLAN

(IN DUTCH: BELEIDSPLAN)

THE OCEAN CLEANUP'S MISSION IS TO DEVELOP ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES TO RID THE OCEANS OF PLASTIC

OBJECTIVES

The bylaws (in Dutch: statuten) of The Ocean Cleanup specify the following objectives:

a. to develop and apply technologies (directly as well as indirectly) to remove – on a large scale – plastic pollution from the oceans;

b. to develop and apply technologies (directly as well as indirectly) to remove plastic pollution from waste streams to prevent it from reaching the oceans;

c. to increase social awareness of the pollution of the marine environment by plastic; and other acts which in the broadest sense relate or may be conducive to the aforesaid objectives.

WHY DO THE OCEANS HAVE TO BE CLEANED?

Marine plastic debris has been reported to have an impact on 600 marine wildlife species[1][2]. The Ocean Cleanup has found that the Great Pacific Garbage Patch (GPGP), the area of highest concentration of plastic in the world's ocean, has roughly 180 times more plastic than biomass at its surface[3]. The Ocean Cleanup estimates the mass of the plastic in the GPGP was estimated to be approximately 80,000 tonnes, which is 4-16 times more than previous calculations[4]. The plastics were also found to have pollutants at levels that may be high enough to harm organisms ingesting them. These pollutants enter the food chain – a food chain that includes humans. In addition, yearly economic costs due to marine plastic are estimated to be between $6-19bn USD[5].

Even if every country were to completely close the source of plastic entering the ocean, the five ocean garbage patches would continue to persist. Plastic in the patches fragment into small, dangerous microplastics over time, only exacerbating the problem. Even though, by mass, the plastic in the gyres is relatively small (several hundred thousand tons) compared to the global annual plastic input (millions of tons), its longevity has a significant impact on the ocean ecosystem.

The plastic pollution in the gyres has no legal or logical problem owner and the problem has long been seen as "impossible" to solve. The Ocean Cleanup strives to change this status quo.

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ACTIVITIES OF THE FOUNDATION

The Ocean Cleanup focuses on four core actives: 1) conduct research into the plastic pollution problem; 2) clean up the legacy plastic in the oceans; 3) stem the inflow of new plastic from rivers and 4) valorize the ocean plastic catch.

Research

In order to solve a problem, it is crucial to understand it first. Hence, we conduct research, amongst others, to map the physical properties of the plastic pollution in the GPGP, and to map the sources of plastic entering the ocean. Results have been and will be published in scientific journals – and they are listed on our website at theoceancleanup.com/scientific-publications.

Oceans

Developing advanced technologies to catch the plastic in an effective, efficient and environmentally friendly way is the core of our activities. The key philosophy for The Ocean Cleanup is to work with nature, let the ocean do the work for us and to turn problems into solutions. This means that our ocean cleanup systems are passive - moving with the currents instead of active propulsion.

We believe in iterative development. We test fast and often, and we test to learn, not to prove ourselves right. This means that we don't spend years engineering – we deploy as soon as possible and learn in the field. In 2018 we deployed our first system (System 001), followed by System 001/B in 2019.

To ensure cost and system efficiency, we continue looking for ways to make the system better and cheaper along the way. We also take the precautionary approach when it comes to the possible environmental impact of the cleanup and monitor this closely during testing and development.

Rivers

Next to cleaning up the plastic that is already in the oceans, we must stem the inflow of new plastic. Rivers are the main source of plastic pollution flowing into the oceans. They are the arteries that carry waste from land to the ocean.

Our research found that 1000 rivers are responsible for roughly 80% of the pollution.[6]

Since 2015 The Ocean Cleanup has been working on a river cleanup system, that intercepts the plastic pollution before it reaches the ocean.

We have developed the Interceptor™, a river cleanup product; designed for series production, which intercepts plastic efficiently utilizing the river currents. It can be deployed in most rivers around the world and is easy to operate.

Valorization

We plan to monetize the plastic collected to generate revenue streams for our operations. We will recycle the plastic into durable consumer goods, guaranteeing its origin to industry and consumers.

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COMMUNICATIONS

Through traditional and social media, including our website, we report regularly on the details of our activities.

FINANCING THE ACTIVITIES

The Ocean Cleanup has been fortunate to attract many supporters. Initially, in 2013 and 2014, thousands of donors provided crucial support of the Feasibility Study and the start of our growing activities in 2015.

In 2015 and subsequent years, major donors, private as well as corporate, came on board. In 2016 we recorded financial support from the Dutch Government. At the end of 2018, The Ocean Cleanup has cumulatively collected more than 50 million euros in donations. The funding received since inception has enabled The Ocean Cleanup to carry out the research and development that has brought them to starting the cleanup by deploying the first system mid-2018, and to design, build and test the Interceptor™.

Any excess funds are not invested, but remain on hold in our bank account for future use towards achieving our mission. To finance the scale up of the river and ocean systems, our funding activities will increase throughout 2019-2020. We will look to secure funding from private and corporate donors, as well as exploring institutional donors and global / local developments banks. In addition, we will produce durable consumer products of which the profits will be applied towards the continuation of the mission.

PUBLIC BENEFIT ORGANIZATION

The Ocean Cleanup is a foundation based in the Netherlands and is qualified by the Dutch tax authorities as a Public Benefit Organisation (in Dutch: Algemeen Nut Beogende Instelling or ANBI for short).

Being qualified as a Public Benefit Organisation has tax advantages, also for Dutch citizens donating to The Ocean Cleanup, and requires that the organisation meets several conditions to maintain this qualification. Apart from focusing on the general good, PBOs must be transparent about their policy and formal organisational issues, and must adhere to reasonable checks and balances, costs and remuneration. The Ocean Cleanup adheres to these standards by having the following practices in place:

The Ocean Cleanup has a two-tier governance structure: a CEO who leads the Management Team, charged with all executive management; and an independent Supervisory Board, responsible for three roles: supervising the activities and executive managers, being a sounding board and being the employer to the CEO. Major decisions and resolutions of the Management Team are subject to approval of the Supervisory Board, such as the adoption and amendment of the foundation plan and of the budget, major (>100K) money transfers, outlays and investments

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Members of the Supervisory Board are not entitled to any remuneration and may ask for reimbursement of reasonable (travel) costs incurred while active for the foundation. The remuneration policy for the Management Team and employees takes into account that all income comes from donations, and the policy can be characterised as below market rates remuneration, in particular for the highest paid positions. Intrinsic motivation to work on this ambitious and meaningful mission is the major factor driving people to join The Ocean Cleanup.

The Ocean Cleanup draws up the annual accounts within five months of the end of the year and publishes the annual report, including the annual accounts, the auditors' opinion, the management and activity report and the report of the Supervisory Board, on the website - the latest on July 1 of any year. Even though the Management Team draws up an annual budget, the character of the activities implies that the Management and Supervisory Board both reconsider the budget regularly, along with the development of projects.

OTHER INFORMATION

The Ocean Cleanup is registered in Delft (the Netherlands), as “Stichting The Ocean Cleanup” (in English: The Ocean Cleanup Foundation)

Chamber of Commerce number: 57262632
Duch tax file number (RSIN): NL8525.06.429B01
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Web address: theoceancleanup.com
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The Management Board currently has four members:
CEO and Founder: **Boyan Slat**
Managing Director: **Chris Worp**
Director of Operations: **Lonneke Holierhoek**
CFO: **Jos Huijbregts**

The Supervisory Board currently has three members:
Chris van de Vorm - Communications
Evert Greup - Funding and finance
Frederik Gerner - Technology and R&D
And **Feike Sibesma** is Sr. Advisor to the Supervisory Board

The Ocean Cleanup also carries out work in the following legal entities:
The Ocean Cleanup Technologies B.V.
The Ocean Cleanup Operations B.V.
The Ocean Cleanup Interception B.V.
The Ocean Cleanup Projects B.V.

All these entities are based and registered in Delft, the Netherlands and are 100% subsidiaries of the Stichting The Ocean Cleanup.

APPENDIX

1. Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel—GEF (2012): “Impacts of of Marine Debris on Biodiversity: Current Status and Potential Solutions”, Montreal, Technical Series No. 67, p. 61

2. Jambeck, J. et al (2015): “Plastic waste inputs from land into the ocean”, Science 13: 347 (6223), pp. 768-771

3. Qinqin, C. et. al. (2017): “Pollutants in Plastics within the North Pacific Subtropical Gyre”, Environmental Science & Technology, 52 (2), pp. 446-456

4. Lebreton, L.C.M. et. al. (2018): “Evidence that the Great Pacific Garbage Patch is Rapidly Accumulating Plastic”, Scientific Reports, 8, 4666

5. Deloitte (2019): “The Price Tag of Plastic Pollution”. https://www2.deloitte.com/nl/nl/pages/strategy-analytics-and-ma/articles/the-price-tag-of-plastic-pollution.html [Retrieved at 11.12.2019]

6. Plastic sources: https://theoceancleanup.com/sources/ [Retrieved at 11.12.2019]