Vetting Report

Ocean Voyages Institute

86%

DOLLAR DONATION CLUB

About the Integrated Impact Score

We're levelin' up philanthropy!

The Dollar Donation Club **Integrated Impact Score** was designed to ensure that the world's most powerful and holistic solutions are presented to our members. The goal is to identify *acupuncture points of change*—solutions that create maximum positive benefit using minimal resources, while triggering a large cascade of additional benefits.

More importantly, the Integrated Impact Score embodies our approach of *smart-philanthropy*.

It's not enough for us to give with *only* our heart. We must also give intelligently–identifying solutions that address root causes, generate outsized measurable outcomes, integrate holistically into existing communities, consider long term impacts, reduce the risk of unintended consequences and lead to self-reliant capabilities rather than co-dependencies.

It's time for us to focus less on things like "overhead ratios" and more on the total, holistic positive result per dollar. Oh yeah, and it should be fun!

We believe that the best solutions...

- Solve root-causes rather than symptoms.
- Consider their impact 100 years into the future.
- Produce massive impact efficiently.
- Care for people and planet holistically.
- Leverage nature's and humanity's best technologies.
- Are radically transparent—financially and operationally.
- Are resilient against threats of reversal.
- Result in self-reliance, rather than dependence.
- Clearly understand total costs to achieve outcomes.

This vetting methodology was designed with careful care to identify these solutions.

Ocean Voyages Institute Vetted By

Tom Chi

Co-founder, Google-X,
Board Chair @ The Buckminster
Fuller Institute

Capt. Charles Moore

Discovered the Great
Pacific Garbage Patch

Christopher Verlinden, PhD

U.S Coast Guard,
CTO, Applied Ocean Sciences

Brooke Darshana

Expedition Coordinator, Scientific
Diver, J Craig Venter Institute,
Dollar Donation Club

Chad Frischmann

Vice President & Research Director,
Project Drawdown

Overview

Score overview*

Effectiveness	70
Transparency	87
Track Record & History	100
Measurability	100
Impact Stack	+4.1
Wisdom	74
Innovation & Boldness	88

Total: 86%

Highlights

Mission: "To remove plastic in the form of Ghost nets from the Ocean to help restore and preserve the marine ecosystem and sealife."

Big Goal: "Remove over 1 million pounds of plastic from the Ocean in 2021"

Location of Impact: North Pacific Gyre "Pacific Garbage Patch"

Location of HQ: 1709 Bridgeway Sausalito, CA 94965

Major achievements to date: ✅

- Removed over 500,000 lbs of marine litter to date, saving countless lives.
- World record ghost net plastic cleanup from the North Pacific Trash Gyre in 2020.
- Recipient of many awards, including United Nations (UNEP): "Climate Hero Award" and Google Inc: "Earth Hero Award." See more awards here.

Return on Donation

$1 = 0.33 lbs of Plastic Removed From the Ocean

(equivalent to 30 credit cards of plastic or 15 plastic bottles)

Currently global highest direct Return on Donation for mid-ocean plastic cleanup

DDC's favorites: ❤️

- Global top solution in mid-oceanic plastics clean up.
- Practical approach to making measurable progress now.
- Removes deadly toxic materials in the form of ghost nets that would be busy doing bad things for up to 600 years.
- Collaborates with various organizations to advance technology and techniques for plastics recovery and processing.

The 3 BIG Questions:

1. How is the donation used?

Your donation pays for a specially equipped boat, gear, and crew needed to pull plastic out of the ocean and process it responsibly so it never returns to the ocean or a landfill.

2. Will it actually make a difference?

$1 will remove approximately 0.33 lbs of ghost net plastic that would otherwise kill marine life, destroy coral reefs (WWF), and ultimately fray into microplastics (UN) consumed by fish and ultimately human beings (it's estimated that the average person consumes 1 credit card of plastic each week) (WWF).

In short: **Yes**

How will I know it created an impact?

Your **Donation Tracker** will provide consistent updates on progress, including boat logs (messages from the sea), photos and video footage of the expedition in action!

* See addendum to learn how we calculate the Integrated Impact Score

Integrated Impact Scoring Results

Effectiveness

70

Does it work?

Per dollar, how effective is this organization at creating measurable impact?

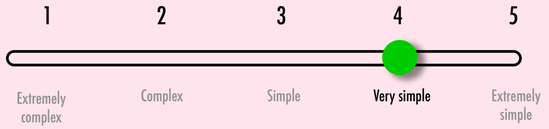
How impressive is the organization's measurable social impact compared to the cost to create this impact?

$1.00 = 0.33 lbs. of plastic removed from the ocean.

To date, this is the most effective per-dollar solution for mid-ocean plastic cleanup that has been discovered by Dollar Donation Club.

How simple/elegant is the solution?

Has this solution devised an approach that has minimal "extra fat" or excessive complexity in it's strategy for solving the issue?



The Solution: Volunteer boats traveling through the trash gyre GPS-tag ghost net plastics they encounter. Larger vessels then geo-locate and remove the ghost nets. The collected nets are recycled/upcycled to reduce risk of return to the oceans.

The solution-set is practical, proven and cost-effective.

Learn more about ghost nets here.
Click here for extended explanation.

Is the organization's leadership team credible and effective?

How well has the leadership team demonstrated competence, experience and effectiveness in the organization's area of impact?

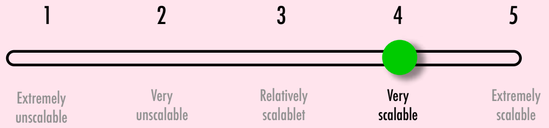
The leadership team has proven to be highly effective at pulling ghost net plastics from the oceans by leveraging their knowledge of proven, practical techniques and relationships throughout the maritime industry.

The team has logged well over two million sea miles. To date, OVI has removed 500,000 lbs. of marine litter, much in the form of ghost nets.

Click here to see the Ocean Voyages Institute team
Read more here

How scalable is the solution-set beyond its use-case geography?

Is the solution capable of being applied effectively in other geographic regions that have similar issues to solve?



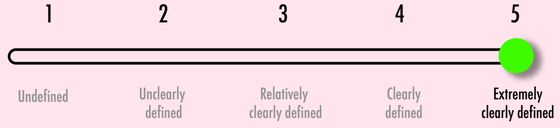
OVI's cleanup solutions in a given geography, i.e. the "Great Garbage Patch", can be accomplished using one vessel or be scaled up to a fleet. The cleanup techniques are proven, scalable and can be used in areas throughout the global ocean.

5 Year Plan.

Click here to read more about their scalability.

Click here for more resources about OVI, Ghost nets and marine plastics.

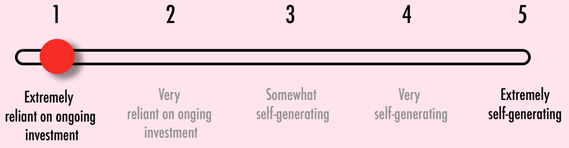
Does the organization have a clearly defined mission, vision and values?



"We advocate, create & employ clean up technologies removing plastic pollution from our oceans, forever. Through publicizing and educating on ocean plastics, we inspire awareness & innovation. New product design, recycling, repurposing, upcycling is influenced through research and education on plastics. The health of humanity and all life is dependent on the health of our oceans."

Click here to read more about their mission.

How well does the solution create self-generating capabilities rather than rely on ongoing investment?



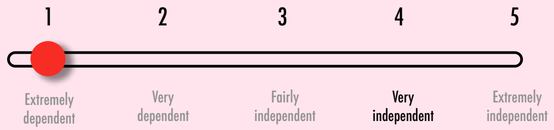
Currently Ocean Voyages Institute does not create self-generating capabilities and relies on ongoing donations. To date, the number of options for monetizing retrieved ocean plastics is sparse. Considered in the context of the immediate threat ocean plastics pose to marine life, coral health and human health, Dollar Donation Club has concluded that–despite this low score–this is currently considered to be the top solution to mid-ocean plastics removal per dollar.

Click here for additional information on OVI and the Plastic Economy

Effectiveness (continued)

How efficient is the process of achieving a self-sustaining solution?

Is the amount of time and resources invested in getting the solution to a point of self-sufficiency excessive or optimally lean and effective?



As mentioned in the previous question, Ocean Voyages Institute does not create self-generating capabilities and relies on ongoing donations. OVI currently relies on ongoing support to allow them to expand the vital solutions needed to a scale that is commensurate with the size of the problem.

Click here to read more about this solution.

How much risk is there that the impact will be reversed for any reason?

How likely / unlikely is the potential for social, political, ecological or economic threats that could reverse achievements made through this solution?

The greatest risk of marine plastics is for its re-entry into the ocean due to improper processing. All recovered marine debris from OVI expeditions is upcycled, recycled or repurposed in collaborations with the best available techniques to keep it from landfills and from re-entering the ocean.

Click here to learn more about Ocean Voyages & Plastics

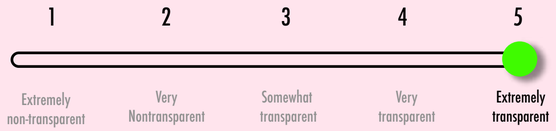
Transparency

87

Are they honest?

How transparent is the organization financially?

How easy does the organization make available all financial records?



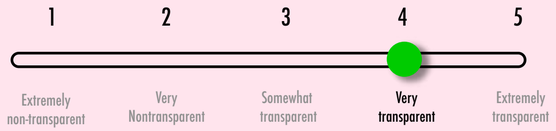
OVI is a 501c3 with financial information published publicly each year. Charity Navigator awarded OVI a 100% score on transparency.

Click here to see Charity Navigator's report on Ocean Voyages Institute.

Click here to see Ocean Voyages 2019 tax return.

How transparent is the organization operationally?

How readily available is information about current operations, and how the organization is executing their plans?



Information on OVI's cleanup missions is primarily made visible through the footage, photos, data collected, scientific papers, reports and interviews created from the expeditions. Their expeditions have been widely covered internationally through interviews, film clips and articles.

See more articles & media here.

Detailed overview of 2021 expedition plan here.

Learn more about OVI's operational team here.

Are regular updates on progress made readily available to donors?

Weekly updates will be provided with the expedition updates.

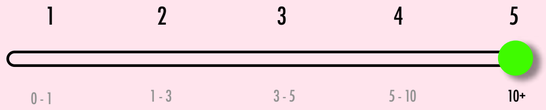
Upon arriving in port, video and photos will be made available along with data describing the 'catch'.

Track record & history

100

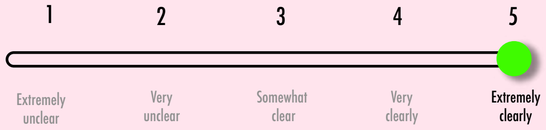
Are they proven?

How many years has the organization been in operation?



Ocean Voyages Institute is 501(c) non-profit organization which started operation in May of 1979, based in Sausalito CA.

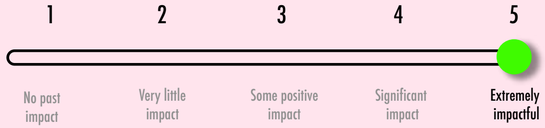
How clearly does the organization embody the values it purports to have?



"Our mission is to accomplish major cleanup of the plastic debris littering our global ocean. We continue to accomplish scaling up our urgently needed work which improves the environment for ocean life. Our values reflect our dedication to increasing the effectiveness of our missions and expanding the geographic areas in which we are conducting our missions."

Click here for more about OVI's values.

How much positive impact has the organization created in the past in it's category?

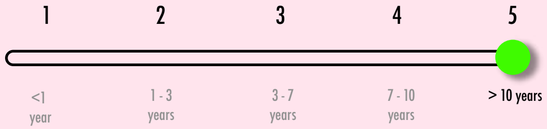


OVI has made the highest level of impact in its category to date, yet there is a massive need for additional solutions in this space. A 2019. 25-day expedition removed 84k lbs. of plastic. A cleanup among the Hawaiian islands and the reefs near Kaneohe Bay added another 18,000 lbs.

A 2020 83-day expedition brought in 340k pounds of plastic, setting a world record for the largest oceanic clean-up.

Click here for a more detailed timeline of impact

How long has the solution-set been demonstrated to be effective?



OVI has conducted research and clean-up expeditions since 2009.

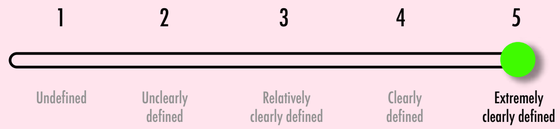
Their work has continued to demonstrate its effectiveness over subsequent years.

Measurability

100

Is it measurable?

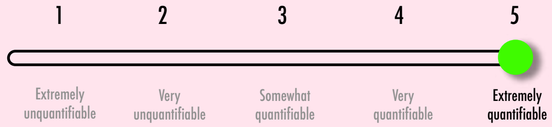
Does the organization have a clearly defined "big goal" that is measurable?



The goal for 2021 is removal of 1 million pounds of plastic debris from our ocean.

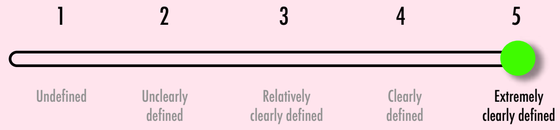
Ocean Voyages Institute intends to continue scaling up their yearly 3-4 month missions of cleaning up the North Pacific Garbage Patch and expand their range of operation to include the Atlantic, Mediterranean, South Pacific Gyre and areas such as Indonesia, SE Asia and the major polluting rivers.

Is the positive outcome quantifiable?



Total lbs. of plastic removed from the ocean permanently is easy to weigh, measure, quantify and verify.

Does the organization have a clear understanding of the total projected cost to achieve the "big goal"?

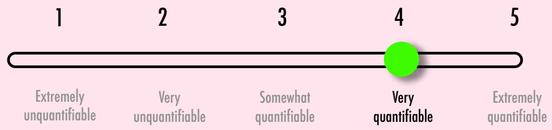


The total cost to achieve this outcome is **$3,125,000**.

This includes the operation of 3 vessels, expert drone pilots, GPS Satellite trackers and their deployment on ghost nets. Also included in this budget are the media and educational team, including OVI's Think/Do Tank of captains, scientists and maritime industry professionals.

$6.5M is the expanded budget for 2022 and 2023 where OVI will begin operations in other parts of the world.

How well does the organization monitor and verify their ongoing progress?



Each vessel records and monitors the progress of debris collection via satellite messaging, onboard photo/video collection, drone footage, tagging and recording the type and weight of debris hauled onboard. Each vessel is tracked via AIS (an Automatic Identification System) and has constant communication between vessels and headquarters. This monitors progress and can identify any needs the ships may have. Global expeditions have a team of logistics specialists monitoring and assisting any needs the vessels may have for safety and efficiencies. Vessels keep a constant boat log that records data such as location (latitude & longitude), debris found, sea conditions, wind conditions, vessel movements (course over ground & speed), and wildlife rescued or discovered deceased in nets.

Click here to learn more about AIS.

Does the organization have a clear understanding of what $1 can accomplish?

$1.00 = 0.33lb. of plastic removed permanently from the ocean (6 inches of ghost net).

This is approximately 30 credit cards worth of plastic, or 15 plastic bottles.

These results realized by end of 2021.

Impact Stack

One solution can’t solve everything. But **great** solutions solve many problems at once.

The Sustainable Development Goals are a collection of 17 global goals designed to be a "blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all.”

Organization will receive 1 additional point for every 10 points calculated below.

4 +4

2 +2

7 +7

Not directly impacted

Not directly impacted

5 +5

Not directly impacted

Not directly impacted

Not directly impacted

Not directly impacted

Not directly impacted

Not directly impacted

6 +6

10 +10

2 +2

Not directly impacted

7 +7

Wisdom

74

Is it holistic?

Does the solution address a root cause, or a symptom?

Is this solution focused on addressing symptoms of what may be a deeper cause? Or does this solution seek to address a root cause capable of solving many salient symptoms?

1 — 2 — 3 — 4 — 5

Extremely symptom focused | **Very symptom focused** | Relatively root focused | Very root focused | Extremely root focused

OVI addresses the most destructive symptoms arising from the root problem of plastic waste, manufacturing and single-use consumer plastics. However, this symptom is so widespread and destructive to ocean life and human health that its consequences have become the root of several new problems.

Click to see Ocean Crusader's Plastics statistics

Click to learn more about root causes & symptoms tackled by OVI

Does the solution integrate into local populations as part of the solution?

1 — 2 — 3 — 4 — 5

Not at all | Very little | Somewhat | **Very much** | Highly integrated

Ocean Voyages Institute works in the high seas (non-governmental ocean territory). However, OVI employs Pacific Islanders in addition to global team members. The oceanic clean ups directly benefit island nations to protect their fisheries, reefs and ecosystem health.

"The Kiribati/Christmas Island/the Hawaiian Islands crew have been particularly wonderful as they really believe deeply in the importance of our ocean cleanup missions and are skilled at sea. We are committed to engaging with local populations whenever possible."
- Ocean Voyages Institute

Does the solution have an economic model that is self-sustaining?

1 — 2 — 3 — 4 — 5

Absolutely no self-sustaining model | Very little self-sustaining model | A relatively self-sustaining model | A very self-sustaining model | An extremely self-sustaining model

Currently there is no economic model with marine plastics that can sustain itself. Ocean plastics must be removed from the ocean, then cleaned and sorted, which takes extensive labor. The types of plastics that can be recycled is limited and currently is not economically viable (e.g. $4,000 cost to recycle 1 ton of plastic bags to get a product that can be sold on the commodities market for US $32).

Humanity must develop new, economically viable methods for recycling the waste in our oceans.

Click here to read about the economics of cleaning up the oceans

Does this solution produce any negative impact on indigenous populations?

1 — 2 — 3 — 4 — 5

Extremely | Very much | Somewhat | Very little | **Not at all**

There have been no records of negative impacts from the collection of marine debris from the oceans. Conversly, factory fishing and the subsequent decline of fish stocks has had very negative impacts on coastal indigenous populations. OVI's work on restoring ocean habitats combined with advocating for marine sanctuaries and stopping large fleets of fishing ships supports indigenous populations.

Click here to learn more about fisheries impacts on indigenous and local populations.

To what degree does the solution prevent other potentially beneficial solutions from emerging?

How confident are we that this solution is not utilizing resources (e.g. financial or ecological) in such a way that may prevent new and better solutions from being applied later?).

1 — 2 — 3 — 4 — 5

To an extremely high degree | To a very high degree | To some degree | To a relatively low degree | **To an extremely low degree**

Ocean Voyages Institute expeditions result in greater data and learnings for the entire oceanic academic community, augmenting humanity's capabilities for solving the ocean plastics problem, and not in any way hindering them.

Does the solution consider it's impact at least 7-generations into the future (>100 years)?

Has the solution thought through the impact it will have on future generations in conceiving of their strategy and execution?

1 — 2 — 3 — 4 — 5

Not at all | Very little | Somewhat | Very much | **Extremely**

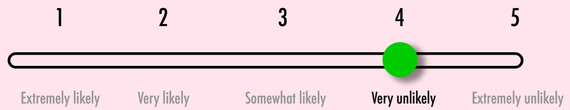
The purpose of marine debris collection is directly related to the preservation of healthy ecosystems for generations to come. The United Nations/ Ellen MacArthur Foundation predicts that plastic litter will outnumber fish and ocean life by 2050. Large scale marine debris clean ups are needed for the survival of future generations.

"Our work now in executing solutions will help maintain our beautiful ocean and its life over future generations – 7 generations and beyond."

- Ocean Voyages Institute

Wisdom (continued)

What is the risk of unintended negative consequences?



Ocean voyages has a record of choosing professional vessels and crew in order to execute expeditions with safety and efficiency. All vessels are registered, inspected and retrofitted with equipment suited to mid oceanic transits and clean-ups. This reduces risks of any unintended negative consequences.

Potential worst-case unintended consequences would be loss of life of the crew, vessels capsizing– releasing plastics, oil, fuel and contributing more toxins into the oceans. While these are inherent risks to oceanic expeditions, OVI maintains a flawless safety record with veteran maritime professionals.

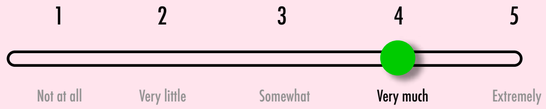
“The worst risk for our ocean is if we do not continue to execute and scale up our cleanup missions. Stopping or slowing our solutions will have large scale negative consequences.”
- Ocean Voyages

Innovation & Boldness

88

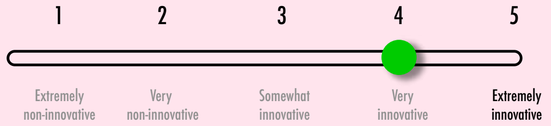
Is it audacious?

How audacious is the "big goal"?



OVI is aiming to remove a record amount of ghost net plastics from the ocean. This is more than doubling the 2019 clean up of 340,000 pounds of plastic, which set a world record for the largest oceanic clean-up. While the scope of this problem is enormous, this represents an audacious level of progress given the scarcity of currently existing solutions for a crisis-level issue.

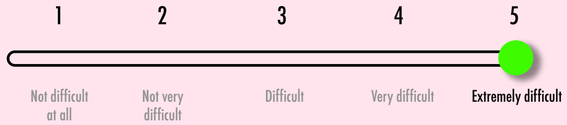
How much has the organization demonstrated an ability to innovate around novel problems?



The use of GPS satellite trackers has propelled executing successful ocean cleanups. By using the tagged ghostnets as beacons, they locate areas of denser debris distribution. Furthermore, the data acquired through this method dampens the learning curve for future solutions, providing deeper insights about how ocean plastics move throughout the ocean. OVI is working with satellite providers and institutions to expand machine learning capabilities to increase the effectiveness of locating and extracting marine debris.

Read more here.

How difficult is this challenge to solve (weighing this against how many other organizations have found effective solutions)?



The reason so few solutions currently exist is due to the extreme level of difficulty this problem poses.

OVI is tackling a complex issue using proven technology with existing maritime equipment and expertise. An estimated 4 million tons of fishing gear are lost in the oceans annually, into bodies of water that represent 71% of the surface of our planet *(Cons Biol)*. Plastics break into smaller and smaller pieces and sink below the surface and into the depths, where recovery is extremely difficult.

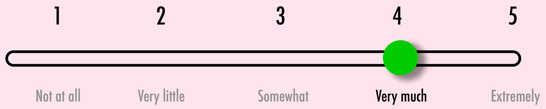
How urgent is this challenge to solve?

Despite ocean plastics often being "out of site, out of mind", this is one of the greatest threats facing life on earth today.

The health of our oceans represents a large part of the health of our planet, and consequently human health and wellbeing.

Click here for scary facts that puts it in perspective and a bit of good news.

How effectively does this solution leverage natural processes?



Ocean Voyages Institute's past success is due in large part to their focus on studying and establishing data on how ocean currents and ocean drift works, harnessing the collective brainpower of world-renowned oceanic scientists to employ a solution-set that works with the ocean, not against it.

Click here to read Mary's article on tracking debris in oceanic currents.

Individual questions

It's not *all* about the numbers 😉

1. In 3 sentences, please describe your vision of the future when the challenges you seek to solve are solved:

"We will continue to conduct scaled up ocean cleanup missions as well as advocating for more marine sanctuaries and against illegal mass scale fisheries. With our continuing work, our ocean will experience gradual revival and restoration. We envision a beautiful blue ocean filled with abundant sea life and effectively producing wonderful air to breath and toxic free waters, wildlife and humans."

2. What makes them different from other organizations working in this area of social impact?

Their practical, proven and "we're done waiting" mentality that has led them to be a top global solution in mid-ocean cleanups.

The team of Mary Crowley, Locky Maclean, OVI Board of Directors, their advisory board, and their close circle of Captains and maritime industry professionals have logged well over two million sea miles. Their expertise demonstrates their global ocean perspective, and their global network helps them accomplish their goals throughout the world.

3. Where do the sources of marine debris come from?

Most plastic debris comes from land. Poor waste management combined with rain events bring plastic debris through storm drains and rivers into the oceans. Microplastics from clothing from laundry and vehicle tires are also major sources of plastic. Fishing gear contributes to approximately 46% of debris in the N Pacific Gyre.

Diagram of Marine Litter Sources

Click here for NOAA's Report of Sources of Plastics.

4. What data is collected during the expedition?

- Each net removal is documented in photo and video.
- Trapped wildlife is recorded, and freed back into the ocean when alive.
- Each net and any debris are placed in a hold for safe transport to shore.
- Total weight collected per trip determines OVI's success in a tangible way.
- Constant records of vessel location, speed over ground, course over ground, sea conditions, wind and weather conditions, debris located, wildlife recovered, etc. is logged.
- The nets and debris are weighed upon arrival.

"Each expedition collects data about the distribution, types and quantities of debris. OVI partners with the EcoFloat Science team in conducting a wide range of projects, continuing to amass more important information on our ocean. FloatEco is sponsored by NASA and includes teams from the University of Hawaii, Washington, California – San Diego, Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, Williams College, the Ocean Voyages Institute, and Ocean and Fisheries Canada. The project uses a variety of drifting buoys, a mixed-layer float and actual debris items, tagged with the OVI's GPS satellite trackers, to understand how different types of floating marine debris respond to various oceanic and atmospheric processes. Settlement panels and a camera mounted on these instruments monitor the species colonizing marine debris and help to investigate the impact of man-made long-living debris as a new vector for invasive species and a global change in the marine ecosystem."

Reference: How GPS trackers & drones help locate debris

Impact Stack (details)

Oceans and Aquaculture provide employment for nearly 60 million people, provide a key source of protein for nearly 3 billion people and contribute 1.5 trillion dollars to the global economy, yearly. *(WWF).*

Communities globally are dependent on healthy oceans for their livelihoods. Ocean clean-ups are a crucial part of global economic security. DDC (and a bunch of other smart folks) believe it is necessary to stop the flow of traditional plastics, clean up the plastics in our environment in order to secure health and economic stability.

+4

Approximately 3 billion people in the world rely on seafood as a primary source of protein and the oceans. Marine plastics are adversely affecting marine life in which humans depend for sustenance. Without healthy fisheries and ecosystems, there is an increase in disease, poverty, starvation and displaced peoples. *(WWF).*

+2

Plastics are found contaminating food, water and air and a study suggests a person consumes up to 5 grams of plastic per week [WAF]. Over 870 million people are dependent on fisheries and aquaculture, and over three billion people worldwide rely on food from the ocean as a significant source of animal protein. The ocean also provides 2/3 of the air we breathe and is an integral part of climate stability and regulation. Marine plastics are directly adversely affecting the health of all marine systems in which human and planetary health & wellbeing depends.

Article on plastics & toxins in marine life
Diagram of Plastics affect on human body
Diagram health & plastics
Diagram Ocean Health & Human Health
Contribution of Fisheries to Food and Nutrition Security

+7

Microplastics is a serious concern for the health of global water sources. Microplastics have been found in 80% of water sampled, (*ORB*) resulting in an alarm for human health and overall contamination of clean water sources for plants and wildlife. OVI removes plastics from the oceans and prevents them from going into landfills where they can leach into groundwater. This prevents these microplastics and the toxins they leach from entering the watershed.

Read the World Health Organizations on microplastics in drinking water *here*.

+3

A healthy and well-functioning ocean is critical to climate and atmospheric regulation. The removal of plastics assists the restoration of the ocean and its functions, which is an integral part of climate stability.

Yale: plastics & climate change paper

Read more on how marine plastics affect climate here.

Plastics and Climate Change

+6

The removal of plastics creates a healthier environment for all ocean life. Ghost nets kill large amounts of ocean life, including whales, dolphins, rays, turtles and fish are killed by consuming plastics or becoming entangled in plastics. Reefs are an important part of our ocean ecosystem and they are smothered and destroyed by netting from fishing and cargo. Removal of these nets also allow for healthier reef systems. *(WWF)*

See OVI's SDG 14 Commitment here

+10

Impact Stack (details)

SDG target 15.8 “Prevent invasive alien species on land and in water ecosystems” is directly benefited by the removal of ocean plastics. Ghost nets are accumulators of invasive species, and as they migrate throughout the ocean they have been documented to introduce invasive species into coral reefs. *(NOAA)*.

+2

OVI’s work represents a landmark of inter-institutional collaboration for solving environmental challenges. Their expeditions have inspired collaborations with NOAA, the European space agency, University of Hawaii, NASA, the Scripps Institute of Oceanography, naval architects, marine engineers, oceanographers, marine biologists, fishermen and maritime industry professionals from around the world.

Learn more here.

+7

About Ocean Plastics

We have a plastic pandemic.

Ridding our oceans of plastics (and ensuring they stay clean) must be a top priority for humanity. It's an easy one to forget about considering that 70% of the surface of the entire planet (a little thing called the ocean) is generally unseen by human eyes.

But out there in the ocean, it's estimated that up to 88% of the ocean's surface is now contaminated by plastics (1). Of the 8.3 billion tons of plastic humanity has created over the last decade, it's estimated that 91% is not recycled (2). Where were we expecting to put this stuff y'all? 🤠

Now why is this an issue? Let's start with the part that sucks the most for you and then work our way back...

It's now estimated that you eat 1 credit card worth of plastic every week (3). Yeah. Microplastics are nearly invisible plastics that contain some of the most egregious chemicals to human health. And you're eating and drinking them weekly, largely as a result of massive plastic pollution entering our waters.

1 in 3 fish caught for consumption are now contaminated with plastics (4), and 100% of baby sea turtles have plastic in their stomaches (5).

Beyond the human health effects, it's estimated that over 650,000 marine animals are killed annually from plastic entanglement (6). And economically speaking, the United Nations has estimated that marine litter costs approximately 13 billion US dollars a year in environmental damage (7).

The worst part is—the longer we wait to solve it, the more exponentially difficult the task becomes. The real long term solution must address the root cause–production and consumption of plastics. We must "turn off the tap." At the same time, the extreme direct negative impact from ocean plastics must also be addressed. No matter what, we still have to clean all of it up, so might as well get started now.

Of all ocean plastics, abandoned fishing gear (Ghost Nets) are the most dangerous to marine life (4x more likely to kill marine animals than all other forms of marine debris combined) (8), and since they eventually fray into microplastics, grabbing them now must be a priority.

Dollar Donation Club is vetting campaigns to address all dimensions of this problem to achieve the "impossible" and clean up the oceans for good. Let's get started by breaking the world record for the largest mid-ocean plastics cleanup in history!

Additional Data & References

NOAA: Impacts of ghost nets on coral reefs

Synthetic Polymers & the Environment

Plastics and Plankton and CO2

Nat'l Geo Article on how much Plastic is NOT recycled

What really happens when you throw away a plastic bottle (4 min.TedEd Video)

Google Earth Hero Video

Link to Ocean Plastics & N Pacific Gyre Facts

How Plastics are Made Video: Nat Geo

Plastic Soup's article on Ghost Nets

Plastics in Oceans affecting Human Health: SERC

Greenbiz: What it will cost to clean up the oceans

Article on Fish stocks and its effects on Indigenous

Blastic paper on the toxicity of plastics

Blastic's paper on the affects of plastic toxicity & marine life

Blastic: Fate of Marine Litter

Plastics and Bird Populations

The DDC Integrated Impact Score crafted by

The DDC Team

Tom Chi

Co-founder, Google-X,
Board Chair @ The Buckminster
Fuller Institute

Magatte Wade

Skin is Skin, Poverty, Inc. documentary.
Named "Twenty Young Power Women
of Africa" by Forbes

Chad Frischmann

Vice President & Research Director,
Project Drawdown

**Tia Kansara,
Ph.D. Hon FRIBA**

Replenish Earth, Advisor to The
Economic Times

Robert Suarez

Fmr Sr. Portfolio Director @ IDEO,
fmr Director of Innovation &
Design @ Singularity University

Lauren Fletcher, Ph.D.

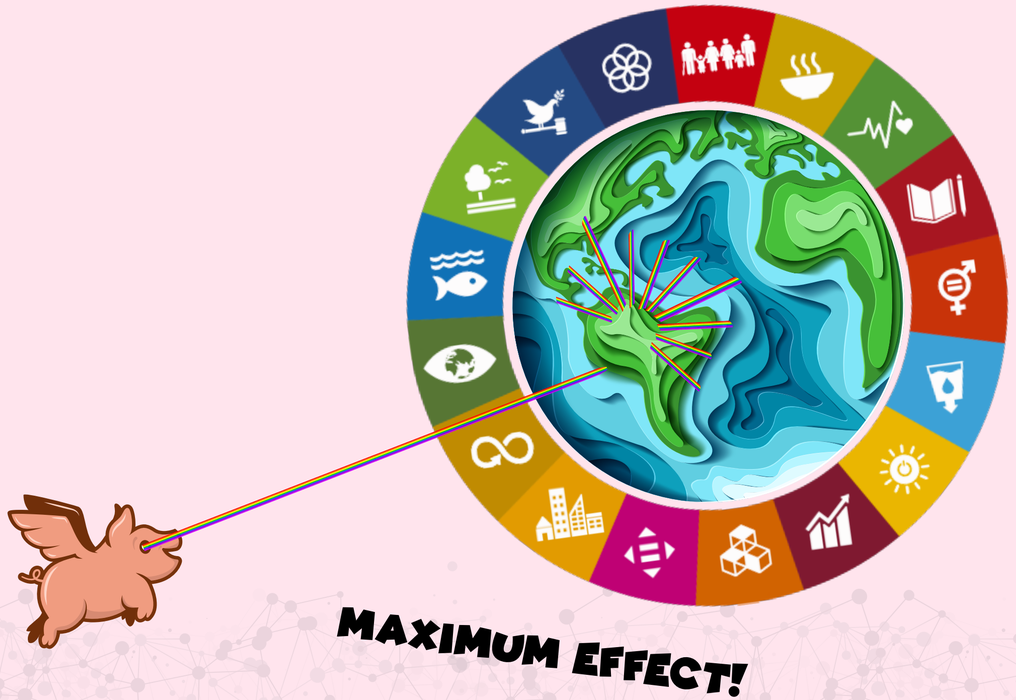
Former Engineer @ Lockheed
Martin, NASA , Founding Faculty @
Singularity University

How we calculate the Integrated Impact Score

Individual Dimension Score
The scores for each individual dimension (E.g. Transparency, Measurability) are calculated by adding up the total points (1-5) per section and dividing by the total number of questions per section.

Impact Stack
The amount of points awarded for the Impact Stack section is based on an assessment of how *directly* or *indirectly* and *effectively* or *ineffectively* the solution addresses a particular sustainable development goal, using the SDG indicators as a guide. The intention is to improve upon references to SDG's without substantiation, and to identify and reward solutions with a high number of cascading benefits.

Overall Integrated Impact Score
The overall integrated impact score is calculated by adding up the total points (all) and dividing by the total number of possible points + bonus points awarded by the Integrated Impact Stack. Overall scores are rounded up to the nearest integer at 0.5 *(e.g. if a score of 94.5 is calculated, the final score will be 95, if a score of 94.4 is calculated, the final score will be 94).*



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