



The ocean provides essential life support for our planet. It contains about 97% of the water on Earth, covers 71% of the planet's surface, and is the source of almost all the water that falls on land. It has a major influence on weather patterns and global climate conditions and dominates the global carbon cycle, holding 50 times more carbon than the atmosphere. Its countless forms of microscopic plant life annually generate half of the oxygen that exists in the atmosphere, and it is home to more than 90% of the world's biodiversity.

Directly or indirectly, all people depend on the ocean. Human communities in coastal environments and on small islands (including Small Island Developing States) are particularly vulnerable to ocean-related changes, such as sea level rise and extreme tides, as well as major ocean storms. The low-lying coastal zone is currently home to around 680 million people (nearly 10% of the global population in 2010), a total projected to reach more than one billion by 2050. About 300 million people's lives and livelihoods are increasingly at risk as a result of coastal habitat loss, including extensive losses of coral reefs, tidal wetlands, and sea grass meadows.

Source: United Nations Reports

Even if we live hundreds of miles from the coast, the plastic we throw away could make its way into the sea. Once the plastic is in the ocean, it decomposes very slowly, breaking into tiny pieces known as microplastics, which can enter the marine food chain and become incredibly damaging to sea life. The main source of ocean plastic pollution is land-based—80% of plastic in the ocean originates on land.

**Big changes start with small steps and we all have the power to make a difference. Lets reduce our use of plastics**

