

CLEANING UP THE OCEAN

Plastic pollution in our oceans is a major issue that has serious effects on marine ecosystems and wildlife. These days, more and more people are considering reducing the amount of plastic they use, but what about the rubbish that is already in the oceans? In some parts of the world, it forms floating islands of plastic. The largest of these is the Great Pacific Garbage Patch between North America and Japan. It's three times the size of France!

Now, however, one amazing teenager called Boyan Slat has invented a machine, System 001/B, which catches ocean rubbish. It is a huge 600-metre floating barrier of pipes. A net hangs down from the pipes and reaches three metres below the surface of the water. Boyan avoided using fuel in System 001/B, so it has a very low carbon footprint. It uses the ocean currents and wind to move through the water. Ships take away the waste every six to eight weeks.

But how did Boyan do this? He started telling people about his idea on the Internet and asking for help. Eventually, he raised £1.57 million! He also set up a charity called Ocean Cleanup, which now has over 80 engineers, scientists and environmental experts who are all working to change the planet for good.

Boyan shows us that we can make a difference and help protect the planet, no matter how big the problem is. With hard work, fundraising and a good idea, it's never too late to help Planet Earth!

1. Read the article and decide if each of the statements (1–5) is T (true), F (false) or DS (doesn't say).

1. Boyan Slat invented System 600/B. _____
2. Boyan used recycled materials to make his machine. _____
3. The machine uses ocean currents and wind to move. _____
4. Boyan asked for help online to raise money. _____
5. Boyan believes hard work is more important than fundraising.

2. Read the article again and correct the sentences.

1. The Great Pacific Garbage Patch is between South Korea and Japan.

2. Boyan's machine is used to clean pipes.

3. System 001/B takes waste to land every 6–8 weeks.

4. 80 engineers work for Ocean Cleanup.
