

A satellite-style map of the Great Lakes region in North America, showing the five large lakes (Superior, Michigan, Huron, Erie, and Ontario) and the surrounding landmasses. The text is overlaid on the top right of this image.

80% of plastic found in the ocean comes from the land

How does the plastic get there?

Plastic is light and is easily blown into water sources. This plastic can come from people mindlessly dropping their litter in the street to litter blown from landfill sites. Our towns and cities are designed to drain water from the streets to prevent flooding. These extensive waterways transports plastic waste through drainage systems ending up in canals, river and eventually the sea. The Great Lakes support a population of over 40 million Americans and Canadians. Whilst some of the plastic waste ends up in the sediment, most of the plastic is transported to the Atlantic Ocean through the St Lawrence Seaway.

Across the globe, 8 million tonnes of plastic ends up in our oceans every year and of this, 50% has been produced for single use.

The logo for 'PLASTIC OCEANS' features the word 'PLASTIC' in a blue, sans-serif font above the word 'OCEANS' in a larger, bold, blue, sans-serif font. A stylized blue water drop icon is positioned between the two words, with its top part overlapping the 'A' in 'PLASTIC' and its bottom part overlapping the 'O' in 'OCEANS'.

PLASTIC
OCEANS



Waste Management

Recent research shows that 50% of the ocean's plastic originates from just 5 countries - China, Indonesia, Philippines, Vietnam and Sri Lanka. Many countries around the world transport waste to these countries who recycle some more valuable plastics such as PET, the plastic that water bottles are made from. The unwanted plastic is dumped in poorly managed landfill sites, leaving much of the plastic at risk of ending up in the sea.