



URBAN
OCEAN

Building Clean, Healthy Cities for Clean, Healthy Seas

Plastic Pollution: A Problem for Both Land and Sea

About the Program

There are 150 million tons of plastic already in the ocean, and 8 million tons are added each year¹. This plastic comes primarily from mismanaged waste streams – a result of economic and population growth outpacing infrastructure development. This is a major concern especially in low-income countries, where over 90 percent of waste is openly dumped or burned, with consequences not only for the environment but for public health and economic development as well. Ocean advocates and city leaders have the opportunity to join forces with other allies to develop comprehensive solutions that meet the needs and priorities of communities and other actors, to create real and lasting impact.

¹ <https://science.sciencemag.org/content/347/6223/768>



Urban Ocean is a unique initiative jointly implemented by The Circulate Initiative, Ocean Conservancy, and Global Resilient Cities Network to end ocean plastic pollution and build more resilient communities by working with cities and partners willing to invest in change at scale.

Urban Ocean is a capacity-building and accelerator program for cities that will champion circular economy principles, build awareness of the ocean plastic issue, assess waste management systems, and ultimately support member cities to develop strategies and projects designed to address the interrelated challenges of ocean plastics and community resilience.

To do this, **Urban Ocean** will provide a platform for cities to showcase leadership and share knowledge and experiences across the Global Resilient Cities Network community and beyond. The program will work with city leaders to bring new ideas, partners and resources together to solve interrelated problems and achieve common goals. It will demonstrate how actions to improve waste management and recycling can provide holistic, resilient and sustainable solutions that not only reduce ocean plastic pollution but also address key city priorities, such as improving public health, promoting innovation, supporting economic development and job growth, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.



Program Approach

Over the next 15 months, Urban Ocean will work closely with cities in Asia Pacific, Latin America, and Europe to demonstrate tangible solutions and progress. The cities will be a mix of those leading the way in the fight against river and ocean plastic or in implementing circular economy approaches (mentor cities), or those located in geographies with high waste leakage rates that are committed to improving waste management as part of resilience-building efforts (learning cities).

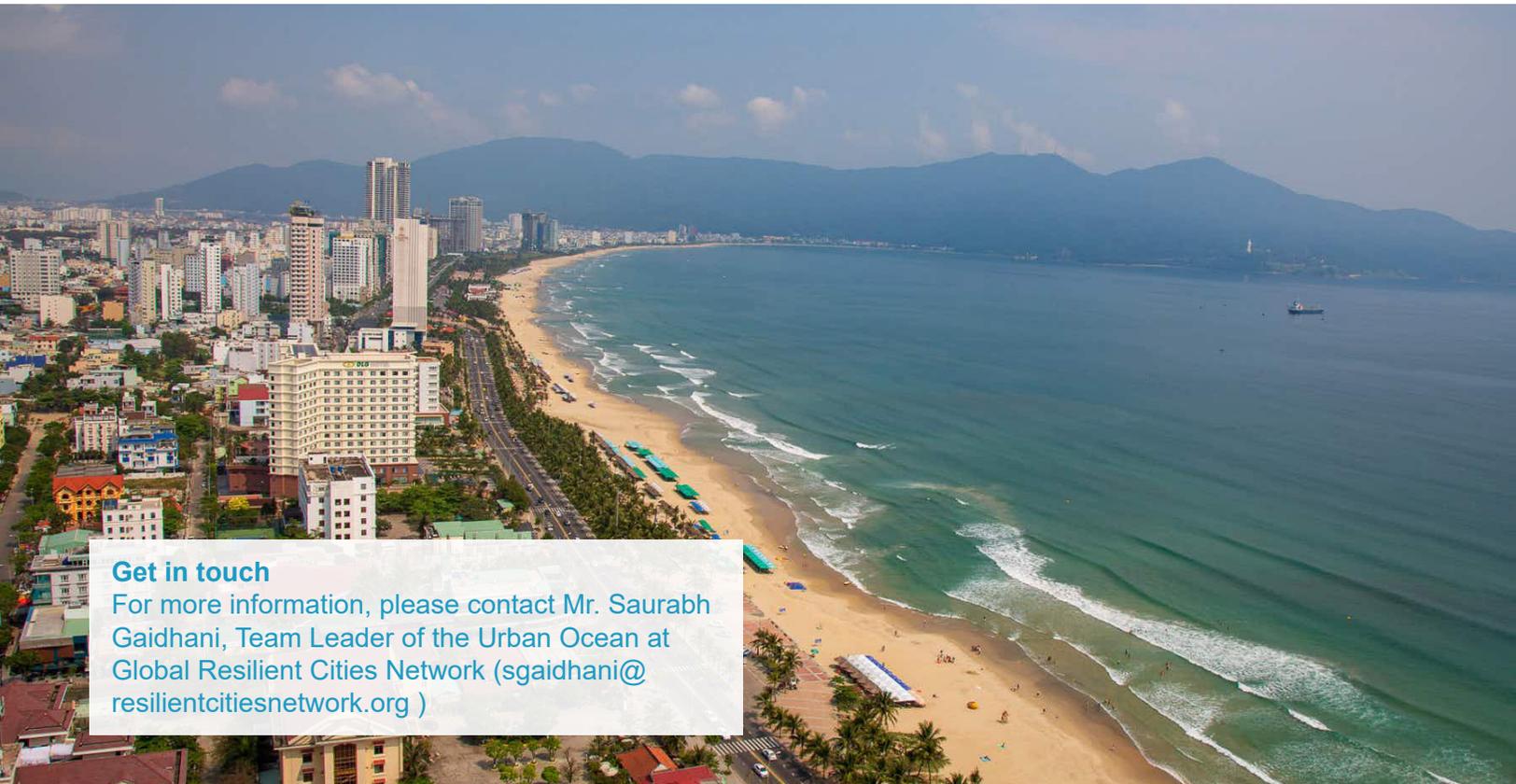
The program has four areas of action:

1. Building a coalition and community of practice of and for cities that commit to and jointly work on solving interrelated problems around waste management, resilience, circular economy and ocean plastic;
2. Establishing a peer network and exchange to enable the sharing of best-practices and capacity development;
3. Assessing the situation on the ground to allow cities to comprehensively map challenges, shortcomings, risks and vulnerabilities and inform strategy and project development; and
4. Developing project strategies, solutions and proposals for presentation to potential partners and funders (venture capitalists, investors, corporations, civil society organizations, Multilateral Development Banks, bi-laterals, etc.).

Alongside The Circulate Initiative, Ocean Conservancy and Global Resilient Cities Network, the program includes other implementation partners such as the New Materials Institute² and The Incubation Network.³ Additional implementation partners may be selected based on specific program needs during its implementation.

² <https://newmaterials.uga.edu/>

³ <https://www.incubationnetwork.com/>



Get in touch

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