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**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

DECEMBER 2021

# Ocean Plastics Newsletter

## Highlights

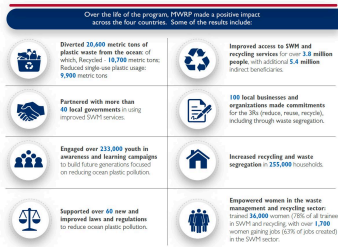


[USAID launches program to combat ocean plastic pollution in Peru](#) - USAID aims to improve the management of solid waste in the cities of Paita, Máncora and Pisco, located in the departments of Piura and Ica, to avoid further ocean plastic pollution and protect marine biodiversity. The program will work with local governments and organizations, such as fishermen's associations, to strengthen local capacity to manage coastal and marine waste.



[Circulate Capital Increases its Commitment to Indonesia Plastic Pollution Prevention with New Investment into Reciki's Optimized Material Recovery Solution](#) USAID partner Circulate Capital, an impact investor that finances innovations, companies, and infrastructure to prevent ocean plastic and climate change by advancing the circular economy, recently announced that the Circulate Capital Ocean Fund (CCOF) is investing in Reciki Solusi Indonesia (Reciki), one of Indonesia's leading privately-owned waste

management companies. The loan made to Reciki is partially backed by the United States International Development Finance Corporation (DFC), in collaboration with USAID, further de-risking the investment and demonstrating blended finance in action.



**[New infographic: Municipal Waste Recycling Program Key Results and Impacts](#)** - Launched in 2016, the Municipal Waste Recycling Program was USAID’s first formal response to the urgent challenge of ocean plastic pollution in developing countries. Download the infographic to view the program’s key results and impacts.

**[Plastic is a Climate Issue, Too](#)** - This blog highlights the fundamental connections between climate change and plastic pollution that can help international development practitioners understand and approach them in new ways. USAID’s work on ocean plastic pollution operates at the intersection of these related problems, and highlights opportunities for innovation in waste management.

## **[Request for Information- New Green Cities Project](#)**

USAID is seeking feedback through a public [Request for Information](#) for a planned Green Cities mechanism ("Green Cities") that will foster healthy, prosperous, and resilient cities for all people and the planet. Green Cities will provide a broad, flexible global support mechanism to fill critical gaps in our partner countries’ ability to tackle complex urban challenges. Green Cities will promote inclusive green city development by addressing the interconnected crises of climate change, pollution, biodiversity, and inequality. The mechanism will draw on unique, external expertise to modernize and scale USAID’s urban programs, and enable USAID to invest in “green city” strategies to advance five critical urban transformations: net-zero systems; urban resilience; circular economy; equitable service delivery; and green industry and jobs.

The mechanism will be managed by USAID's Green Cities Division, which was formed in November 2020 as part of the Center for Environment, Energy, and Infrastructure (EEI) in USAID’s Bureau for Development, Democracy, and Innovation (DDI). The new Green Cities Division supports expanded Agency programming across multiple sectors for sustainable urban development, including growing portfolios on reducing ocean plastic pollution, promoting a circular economy, improving air quality, and accelerating the transition to resilient and net zero cities.

# Stories From the Field

[From the Field: Empowering Women Entrepreneurs to](#)

## Combat Plastic Pollution in the Philippines



Clean Cities, Blue Ocean grantee, the Plastic Credit Exchange (PCX) operates a network of women led recycling in the City of Manila. The model enables women micro-entrepreneurs, many of whom own small, home-based convenience shops called sari-sari stores, to become community collection points for plastics and other low-value waste. Community members and local waste collectors can bring and sell their plastic waste to the shops for cash.

## Timor-Leste: Paving the Way on Plastics Recycling



Read how the Plastics Solutions Alliance (PSA), is bringing together two of the largest companies in Timor-Leste—Heineken and Timorese construction company Caltech—with USAID, Mercy Corps, and the Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) to create a value chain for reducing single-use plastic.

## Clean Cities, Blue Ocean Program Highlights

New Programs Begin in Maldives and Philippines



USAID's Clean Cities, Blue Ocean Program Awards its First Grants in the Maldives - USAID is partnering with the Maldives to support national-level efforts to introduce policies supportive of circular economies and advance the country's efforts to implement EPR (Extended Producer Responsibility) legislation.



[USAID Launches Activity to Empower Women in Metro Manila's Waste Sector - Women in Waste's Economic Empowerment \(WWEE\) Activity in the Philippines aims to empower women working in Metro Manila's waste and recycling sector, offering access to trainings, a small business incubator program, and a supportive network for increased market access and opportunities. Watch the video overview of the activity.](#)

## Current Opportunities with Clean Cities, Blue Ocean

### Grants: Requests for Applications

**Indonesia** - Building local capacity for communities to manage solid waste aggregation facilities and enhance reduce, reuse, recycle (3R) markets

- [CCBO-RFA-Indonesia-001 Semarang](#) - **Deadline: December 23, 2021**
- [CCBO-RFA-Indonesia-002 Makassar](#) - **Deadline: January 12, 2022**
- [CCBO-RFA-Indonesia-003 Ambon](#) - **Deadline: January 12, 2022**

**Peru** - [CCBO-RFA-Peru-001](#) - Innovations to reduce waste and create a circular economy in the artisanal fishing sector of Piura. **Deadline: December 23, 2021**

**Philippines** - [CCBO-RFA-Philippines-WWEE-002](#) - Technical Assistance for the Women in Waste's Economic Empowerment (WWEE) Activity, Advanced Business Training in Metro Manila. **Deadline: January 7, 2022**

[See all requests for applications \(RFAs\), application information, budget templates, etc on the CCBO Grants Opportunities page.](#)

### Employment Opportunities

Clean Cities, Blue Ocean is currently recruiting for positions open in **Indonesia**, **Philippines**, and **Vietnam**. See all listings on the [opportunities page](#).



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