# **Video Title:** Join 4ocean for Ocean Cleanups

**Video URL:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HAgri8sivp0>

**Run Time/Source:** 1.01, Documentary Channel/YouTube

**Close Caption Available:** Yes

Everyone can get involved in a social entrepreneurship project. In 2015, friends Alex Schulze and Andrew Cooper went on a surfing trip to Bali and were shocked at the amount of plastic and ocean trash they found. In 2017, Alex and Andrew founded 4Ocean to help the environment by cleaning the oceans and today 4Ocean is the largest ocean cleaning company in the world. 4Ocean operates in 27 countries and to date, has cleaned more than 2 million pounds of trash from the ocean.

Their project is funded through the sales of plastic bracelets and other items made from plastic trash recovered from the ocean and fashioned into the bracelets. Schulze and Cooper have channeled their love for the ocean and ocean sports in a meaningful way to help save the environment. It is obvious that their enthusiasm is contagious by the many contributors and volunteers from across the globe!

Questions:

There is also a great deal of debris on the ocean floor, yet 4Ocean seems focused on plastic and other trash on the surface. Why do you think that is?

*First, trash on the surface is much more visible to the public. Second, it is easier and much less expensive to clean. 4Ocean uses a custom-manufactured ocean skimmer that collects trash on the surface of the water. In addition, some of the debris on the bottom of the ocean (sunken vessels, for example) support aquatic wildlife species by creating reef environments.*

Although 4Ocean operates in 27 countries around the globe, much of their cleanup efforts are outside the United States. Why?

*Most of the plastic debris scattered across the ocean is dumped in other countries where environmental education and environmental cleanup is sorely needed. Many of these nations are small compared to the United States and lack the financial resources to tackle environmental issues.*

Wouldn’t it be easier for Alex and Andrew to ask for donations rather than sell items made from recycled plastic?

*Yes, it would be easier to simply ask for donations. But the bracelets become a constant reminder of the cause—to help clean the oceans. Recycling plastic into products also reminds purchasers to make recycling a habit of their own. Many of the young people who support the cause of cleaning our environment might not have much money that they could donate but can be part of the solution by purchasing some less expensive products including bracelets, cleanup gloves, beach umbrellas, and Covid pandemic masks.*