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28 June 2017

Global innovation challenge opens for students to fight marine plastic

[Worldwide](#), [Agriculture](#), [Tech. & Innovation](#)

PRESS RELEASE - 28 June 2017 - Entries open today for the world's first student competition to find the next generation of solutions to the global problem of marine litter. Organized by UN Environment and Think Beyond Plastic, the Marine Plastics Innovation Challenge invites university students worldwide to submit fresh ideas in the fields of engineering, communications, economics and data modelling.



Each year, 8 million tonnes of plastic end up in the oceans: the equivalent of a full garbage truck every minute. This pollution threatens the survival of fish and other sea creatures, destroys marine and coastal ecosystems that support over three billion people worldwide, and endangers human health by entering the food chain. If no action is taken, by 2050 there could be more plastic than fish in the oceans.

Deadline for entries is 6 October 2017. To participate, students need to be enrolled in a graduate or postgraduate programme as of June 2017, be supported by a faculty member, and submit an entry in one or more of the following categories:

1. *Engineering and Design*: including innovations in materials, manufacturing processes, packaging design and related fields that result in a measurable reduction in marine plastic.
2. *Communication*: including multimedia products, mobile apps, and innovative storytelling that raise awareness and inspire public action against marine plastics.
3. *Economics*: including innovative methodologies to assess the economic impact of plastic pollution and/or develop new financial and business models to address market failures.
4. *Prediction and Recovery*: including the development of analytical tools (algorithms, models, hotspot identification) to better capture and monitor data about plastic pollution and propose solutions.

One winner in each category will be announced at the Sixth International Marine Debris Conference in San Diego, California, which will run from March 12 to 16, 2018. Winners will have the chance to present their ideas at the conference and gain entry into the Think Beyond Plastic annual acceleration programme, which provides mentoring and support to help make the winning ideas commercially viable.

For detailed instructions on how to enter and judging criteria:

<https://www.thinkbeyondplastic.com/marineplasticsinnovationchallenge>

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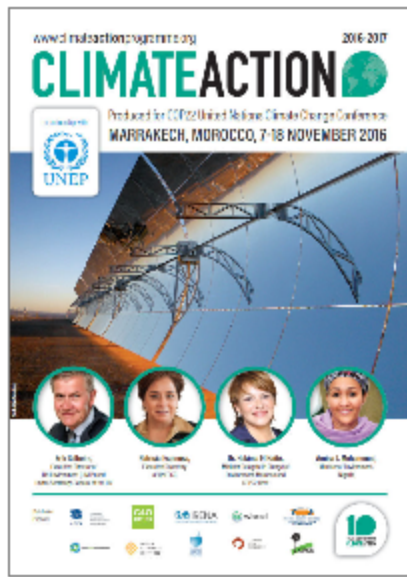
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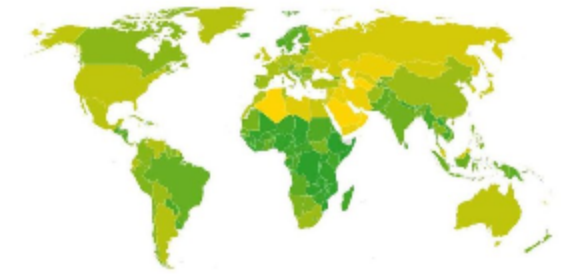
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