**The Plastic Problem**

Humans produce 300 million tons of new plastic each year. Less than 10 percent of it ends up being recycled. Every year, millions of tons of plastic enter the oceans. It is no longer enough to *reduce, reuse, and recycle.*

What can be done? Solving ocean plastic pollution requires a combination of *stemming the inflow* and *cleaning up* *what has already accumulated. Here are three people that have each …different solution ideas with each people that have become part of the solution*

1. **Use Alternatives or Make Different Plastic:**

One option is to make *bioplastics* - plastic materials produced from vegetable fats and oils, corn starch, straw, woodchips, sawdust, recycled food waste, etc.

**Lucy Hughes,** a 24-year-old graduate at the University of Sussex has created a marine bioplastic – dubbed MarinaTex – made from organic fish waste and locally sourced red algae. Translucent and flexible, it looks just like plastic, but the unique formula requires little energy and low temperatures to produce.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YJ7esQeh-Cw>

1. **Break down plastic:**

**Morgan Vague**: These bacteria eat plastic <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nbW4XWkJC6w>

1. **Clean up Plastic Waste**

**Boyan Slat** founded **The Ocean Cleanup**, a non-profit organization developing advanced technologies to rid the world’s oceans of plastic.

<https://theoceancleanup.com/about/>