

Ambu and Plastic Bank® FAQ

Why has Ambu partnered with Plastic Bank?

As the world's largest supplier of single-use endoscopes, we want to act responsibly by working towards materials that enable the recycling of our products, and thus contribute to a circular economy.

While Ambu is working towards finding future possibilities for safe processing and recycling of endoscopes, we have partnered with Plastic Bank® to stop ocean-bound plastic waste while improving collector lives in vulnerable coastal communities.

Ambu's partnership with Plastic Bank® guarantees that over 100,000 kilograms of ocean bound plastic will be collected and thus prevented from entering the world's oceans by offsetting the amount of plastic used in manufacturing of Ambu aScopes in Europe and Latin America. That's the equivalent of over 5 million single-use plastic bottles!

What are the special challenges of recycling medical devices?

Hospital waste is regulated throughout the world to minimize the risk of contamination from medical devices that have been in contact with bodily fluids during procedures. Medical devices that come in contact with bodily fluids must be handled as hazardous waste, and burned or sterilized before landfilling.

The regulation is understandable when considering the risk of contamination, but it is a major barrier for recycling the high-quality materials medical devices are made of. We will continue to explore possibilities for recycling medical devices by exerting our influence and through our own circular design efforts.

What does Plastic Bank® do?

Plastic Bank® builds ethical recycling ecosystems in coastal communities and reprocess plastic waste for reintroduction into the global manufacturing supply chain.

Plastic Bank® collectors exchange plastic waste for premiums at local Plastic Bank Collection Branches. The premium helps them provide basic family necessities such as groceries, cooking fuel, school tuition, and health insurance.

Plastic Bank® collection branches then reprocess the plastic waste for reintroduction into the global supply chain.

Plastic Bank currently operates in Haiti, Brazil, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Egypt.

What is Ocean Bound Plastic?

Ocean-Bound Social Plastic is plastic waste collected from the environment within 50km of a shore or waterway. Collection locations include waste dump sites, beaches, mangroves, and communities.

How does Plastic Bank® incentivize recycling and help vulnerable coastal communities?

Plastic Bank® collectors receive a premium for the plastic they collect which can help increase their incomes by up to 40%. Collectors can also learn more about waste management, financial management, and safe-working procedures through workshops and education seminars on Plastic Bank®'s blockchain platform and at collection branches.

How transparent is Plastic Bank®'s Alchemy™ blockchain platform?

Plastic Bank's proprietary blockchain platform secures the entire transaction and provides real-time data visualization – allowing for transparency, traceability, and rapid scalability. Plastic Bank® provides an audit trail through the Partner Impact Dashboard. The dashboard showcases the journey from when the ocean bound plastic waste is collected to when the waste is deposited at the collection branch.

Plastic waste strategy

Ambu plastic waste strategy has a holistic approach and is summarized as a threefold strategy covering order in own house, partnership and future possibilities:

1. Initiatives to reduce the waste from Ambu products, first by prioritizing unnecessary waste (parts not needed by all buyers), then general waste reductions (for example, by using less material to produce one unit).
2. Partnership with Plastic Bank® to collect ocean bound plastic waste, incentivize recycling of plastic and improve the lives of vulnerable coastal communities .
3. Working towards opportunities to recycle Ambu scopes to ensure the circularity of the product materials and by keeping them in the global manufacturing supply chain.

Where can I learn more?

Learn more about Plastic Bank and Ambu environment initiatives at PlasticBank.com and ambu.com/about/environment.