

What is a Blue Economy?

THE RIPPLE EFFECT

Backgrounder

Grades 4 - 8



What is a Blue Economy?

Every time you take a breath, you are affected by the Ocean. Half of the oxygen in our air comes from phytoplankton, a tiny organism in our Ocean. Protecting our Ocean to make sure these phytoplankton can keep producing all the oxygen we need, keeping sea life healthy and shorelines clean is up to everyone.

Industries that work in, on and around the Ocean impacts every person on Earth. The blue economy is all the ways people make a living from the Ocean. For thousands of years, the Ocean has provided a way of life for the Indigenous people of Canada. From fishing and trading resources to, now, tourism and clean energy, the Ocean is vital to life for all Canadians and people across the globe.

You don't have to live near the Ocean to be a part of a sustainable blue economy.

What does sustainable mean?

Sustainable or sustainability are all of the small things we do every day to help keep the Earth clean, safe and healthy. A sustainable blue economy, then, is just all of the things we can do to help keep our Oceans clean, safe and healthy so that Ocean industries can run smoothly. What if there was garbage all over the beaches? Would tourists still want to visit to use the Ocean for swimming and other water sports? What if overfishing happens? Would there be enough fish to feed all of the people who rely on fish for their daily meals?

Why is a Blue Economy so important?

Facts:

- The worldwide Ocean economy is valued at around \$1.5 trillion US per year
- Eighty percent of global trade by volume is carried by sea
- 350 million jobs worldwide are linked to fisheries
- Aquaculture, which is the farming of fish, shellfish and ocean plants, provides about 50% of the world's fish and sea plants for human consumption

Blue Economy Careers

Some of the jobs in the Blue Economy are:

- Chef
- Marine Engineer
- Electrical Engineer
- Ship Designer
- Boat builder/carpenter
- Oceanographer
- Marine Biologist
- Fisherman/woman



How Seaweed Farming Can Change the World

(scan or click the QR code):



How do these scientists, conservationists and business people expect to change the world with seaweed?

How does seaweed fit into a Blue Economy? How can it help fight climate change?

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