There are approximately 20 million waste pickers globally who manage 50-100% of waste in many cities, filling critical waste management gaps. In 2016, waste pickers were responsible for 60% of global recycling.

NextWave Plastics member companies are committed to sourcing ocean-bound plastic (OBP) that not only protects the ocean from plastic pollution, but also ensures that social responsibility protections within these innovative supply chains are inclusive of all the workers involved in waste management.

For this reason, members of NextWave are taking action by creating the NextWave Plastics Framework For Socially Responsible Ocean-Bound Plastic Supply Chains, which provides guidelines to help brands and other organizations provide for the social responsibility of all workers through to the point of collection by asking the right questions, enlisting the right partners, and seeking the best tools and information.

Our vision is that OBP suppliers, the OBP supply chain network and end users achieve safe working conditions, inclusion, and decent work and livelihoods for all individuals across the OBP supply chain and through to the collection level.

This vision is grounded in the framing provided by the ILO Conventions and UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights and is guided by the principles of:

- Protection and Inclusion for Waste Workers
- Increased Business Transparency

When the vision is attained, the following key goals will be realized:

1. **Freely Chosen Employment**

2. **Fair and Predictable Payment**

3. **Beneficial Health and Safety Conditions**

4. **Prioritized Child Welfare**

5. **Strong Business Ethics, Traceability and Documentation**

6. **Support for Marginalized Populations**
A FRAMEWORK FOR SOCIO-RESPONSIBLE OCEAN-BOUND PLASTIC SUPPLY CHAINS

In order to meet these key goals, NextWave Plastics has developed a roadmap to inform the practice of progressing toward this vision. The roadmap includes:

**Supply Chain Maturity Map**
The maturity map characterizes the real-world conditions found in the informal waste sector from low to medium to high maturity.

- **Low Maturity**: Insufficient social supports for a sound supply chain
- **Medium Maturity**: Existing concerns but high potential for improvement
- **High Maturity**: Meets the vision for socially responsible ocean-bound plastic supply chains.

**Success Metrics**
The success metrics provide a tool to evaluate whether a supply chain has advanced from one level of maturity to another.

**4-Phase Continuous Improvement Process**
The continuous improvement process lays out the following steps for OBP users and their partners to foster socially responsible OBP supply chains:

**Diagnostics**
Assessing the informal waste sector and the specific social, cultural, and environmental conditions in the particular geography;

**Plan of Action**
Developing a plan of action, in collaboration with stakeholders across the OBP supply chain, including informal workers, to address gaps and reach key goals;

**Implementation**
Implementing the plan of action in collaboration with all members of the OBP supply chain, NGOs, government, and other relevant partners;

**Monitoring, Evaluation and Feedback**
Monitoring and evaluating progress toward the key goals in order to learn what is or is not proving successful and how to adjust the plan of action for continuous improvement.

NextWave Plastics is a collaborative and open-source initiative convening multinational companies to develop the first global network of ocean-bound plastic supply chains. Member companies include: