



**Audi Environmental Foundation**

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## **One cubic meter of plastic waste collected each month: cleanup in the port of Brussels**

- **Audi Environmental Foundation and Recycled Island Foundation together with Audi Brussels and the Port of Brussels install a mobile plastic-collecting basin**
- **Third project site for Recycled Island, two more to follow this year**

**Brussels, March 29, 2019 – Together with Audi Brussels and the Port of Brussels, the Audi Environmental Foundation and its project partner Recycled Island Foundation have installed a specially developed collecting basin in the harbor basin of Brussels. This plastic trap is designed so that waste floating in the water is flushed into a net, where retention devices prevent it from being washed out again and thus ensure that no plastic reaches the open sea via the canal. The port of Brussels is already the third site for the Recycled Island project, following Rotterdam and the Indonesian island of Ambon.**

Most of the plastic floating in the sea reaches the oceans via rivers. Carelessly thrown-away garbage gets blown into the water by the wind and has become a worldwide problem. The Audi Environmental Foundation and its project partner, the [Recycled Island Foundation](#), are therefore starting at the entry point: More than 98 percent of waste drifting in water floats in the first meter below the water's surface; most of it is actually in the first half meter. A specially developed plastic trap channels this waste, which is then sent away for recycling.

Audi Brussels and the [Port of Brussels](#) have taken over project sponsorship for one of these plastic traps and installed it permanently after a successful test phase. The collecting basin was installed in the harbor basin and is emptied twice a week. The average amount of waste collected is one cubic meter per month. In order to raise awareness of the extent of plastic waste, the partners have made benches from the collected waste. Audi Brussels has installed such a bench at the entrance to the plant in order to sensitize employees and visitors to the problem. In addition to the collection basins, environmental education measures are the second focus of the project.

The Audi Environmental Foundation (Audi Stiftung für Umwelt GmbH) is an active promoter of research into new technologies and scientific methods for a future worth living. Its stated goal is to make a contribution to environmental protection and to create and promote ways of sustainable action. The foundation focuses in particular on the promotion and development of environmentally compatible technologies, environmental educational activities and the protection of the natural resources of humans, animals and plants. It was established in 2009 by AUDI AG as a wholly owned subsidiary and is part of its social and environmental commitment.