

Amazon statement to Oceana regarding the report

“Thank you for sharing your report on Amazon’s use of plastic packaging. As we have previously discussed, we share Oceana’s ambition to protect and restore the world’s oceans, and we support the reduced use of plastics. Unfortunately, Oceana has miscalculated Amazon’s use of plastic—we use about a quarter of the plastic packaging estimated by your report. You have also incorrectly applied a model to calculate plastic waste into fresh water and marine ecosystems. The model used in the Science paper mentioned in your report was not designed to focus on e-commerce packaging in the US and EU.

Amazon is committed to protecting the planet and continues to welcome an informed, constructive dialogue with Oceana and others on the issue of reducing plastic packaging. I look forward to remaining in touch.”

Oceana response to Amazon

“We are glad to hear the company shares Oceana’s goals for protecting the world’s oceans and supports the reduced use of plastic.

However, until Amazon shares its plastic packaging data and offers specifics, we are confident that the estimate in Oceana’s report is based on the best available data for the amount of plastic packaging used in e-commerce per country and market shares for Amazon, including its marketplace vendors. Additionally, the data referenced about marine pollution comes from a peer-reviewed study published in Science about all plastic pollution (that includes plastic packaging waste).

The company continues to, in response to questions about plastic use, offer anecdotes about packaging weight rather than transparency or clear commitments related to reducing plastic. Even the low number claimed by the company for its plastic packaging footprint would still be an enormous amount of plastic waste – enough to circle the earth over a hundred times in the form of air pillows and to cause very large problems for the oceans.

Amazon is one of the most innovative and data-driven companies in the world, they can and should be a leader in transparency and in reducing plastic use (and saving our seas).”