



Scientist, Inventor and Sustainability Advocate
YOUTHTOPIA Circle of Youth

Fionn Ferreira is a scientist, inventor and sustainability advocate who is passionate about ridding the world's water systems of microplastics.

Growing up on the remote coast of Ireland, he was alarmed by the increasing amount of plastic washing up on the coastline. After some research, he was horrified to learn that on average we consume a credit card's worth of plastic every week through contaminated food and water, which has been linked to Alzheimer's and cancer. Inspired by recent developments in technology used to clean up oil spills, he decided to create his own solution and set out to develop the first method of microplastic removal.

Fionn's invention used a magnet-based method to remove microplastics from water with high extraction rates, while being environmentally safe and cost effective. Fionn Ferreira's invention was recognised as the Global Grand Prize winner of the 2019 Google Science Fair, attracting the attention of top scientists and industry leaders.

In 2020, Fionn founded his company, Fionn & Co. LLC and his foundation, the Green Journey Coalition, to continue the research and development of his device.

He has received support from Robert Downey Jr's Footprint Coalition and is seeking further support to continue his work. Fionn and his invention have won many awards including Intel ISEF and BT Young Scientist. Fionn was named a National Geographic Young Explorer in 2021 and a Forbes 30 Under 30 (Science and Healthcare) in the same year.

Fionn is also a World Economic Forum Changemaker and a keynote speaker with an impressive ability to combine deep technical knowledge with engaging storytelling. He has been invited to speak at numerous conferences and events around the world, including the World Economic Forum, the European Commission's Research Conference, the National Geographic Explorer's Summit, the House of Lords and ChangeNow Paris 2022, to name but a few.

Topics (Selection):

- Circular Economy
- The Power of Youth
- Sustainable practices for addressing plastic pollution