Before you read this

What follows describes a programme in development. The evidence on plastic pollution it cites is documented, cited, and independently verifiable. The architecture it proposes was built drawing on established work in citizen science, environmental litigation, deliberative democracy, and institutional scenario design. It has not yet been tested at the institutional scale it requires. The invitation is not to accept it as it is. It is to engage with it, challenge it where it falls short, and contribute to making it better.

The Threshold Initiative is in founding development and is not yet incorporated. A fiscal sponsor, to be named, comes first; a Swiss foundation follows. Rules described here as proposed are drafted in the Canons and await Swiss counsel.

THRESHOLD | thresholdinitiative.org

Power is the problem

Plastic entered commercial use in the 1950s on a promise of necessity. The promise was delivered. Our lives are measurably better.

The question of what to do with the material when it was no longer in use was never asked, and was never resolved. It became rubbish, thrown away.

There is no such place as away. There is only everywhere. Two billion tonnes in seventy-five years, and everywhere now includes our blood.

This was known, measured, and written about as a threat to life on earth for over fifty years. The facts are done. The research is done. The understanding is done.

What has not been done is to stop it.

For half a century, every pathway has failed. Regulation has been outpaced. Voluntary pledges have been broken. Advocacy has been absorbed. Markets have not responded. Litigation has resolved single cases while the system continued.

The reason is not ignorance, and it is not lack of will. The reason is power. The wealth created by plastic does not want the wealth to stop, and has the resources to ensure it does not.

That is the problem this programme is designed to address. The Threshold is what follows.

A verified, legally usable evidence base, built by the people who carry the harm in their bodies. Every observation held to a published standard. Chain of custody from phone to proceeding. A deliberation that judges possible policy initiatives and keeps every dissent on permanent record. An evidence infrastructure built upstream of the actors who will eventually use it, ready before they need it.

Not protest. Not policy. Not litigation. The architecture that makes all three forceful enough, sooner.

The Threshold is still a proposal. Its purpose is to make the cost of continued suppression exceed the cost of accountability.

> *The Threshold is built to be ready. Whether and when the threshold is crossed depends on what is built, and on who joins in building it.*

THE THRESHOLD

A global view of the programme that turns citizen observation into evidence, and evidence into the structural change that courts, governments and markets cannot ignore.

The scale of the crisis: if nothing changes

Why hundreds of millions of engaged people have not been enough

The political trap: vested interest against public will

The role of journalism and a hungry media landscape

What the Threshold is and how every element connects

The Independence Charter and Initiative governance

The Youth Council: a proposal

Budget, timeline and the urgency of the moment

Andrew Henderson | Lead Architect | Marans, France | October 2026 | v6

Section 1

The crisis: if nothing changes

The world is drowning in plastic. Slowly. Measurably. And almost nobody is stopping it.

Every year, humanity produces around 460 million tonnes of plastic. Less than ten percent is ever recycled. The rest, eventually, escapes into oceans, rivers, soil, air, and finally into the bodies of every living creature on this planet, including our own.

We are not talking about litter. We are talking about particles so small they pass through the gut wall, enter the bloodstream, cross the blood-brain barrier, and embed in foetal tissue. A landmark 2024 study in the New England Journal of Medicine found that people with plastic particles in their arterial deposits had a 4.5 times higher rate of heart attacks, strokes, and death. This is no longer a hypothesis. It is clinical evidence.

460Mt	<10%	22Mt	4.5x	~5g
Plastic produced every year	Ever recycled globally	Leaks to environment every year	Elevated cardiac risk from microplastics	Plastic ingested per person each week

The global plastics treaty, the single most important international mechanism available, failed at Busan in late 2024 and again at Geneva in August 2025. No binding production cap exists. No legally mandated cleanup fund exists. The European recycling industry (built at a cost of EUR 5 billion between 2020 and 2023) has experienced catastrophic collapse, with more than one million tonnes of processing capacity lost since 2023.

> *Nobody can predict the future with certainty. But the probability that everything gets worse, absent structural action, is, based on published science and economic modelling, almost certain.*

What the next decade looks like

Horizon	Accumulation	Conditions
12 months | April 2027	+22 million more tonnes	Another year's worth of plastic escapes. A brief market window created by geopolitical disruption partially revives recycling economics, but the infrastructure to capitalise on it has already been dismantled.
2 years | April 2028	+60 million more tonnes	The market window closes. A second wave of recycler closures begins. Scientists establish, for the first time, a direct causal link between microplastic exposure and specific diseases. The first producer liability lawsuits are filed.
5 years | April 2031	+150 million more tonnes	The first generation with documented plastic exposure before birth reaches fifteen. The health evidence is clinical. The word 'irreversible' appears consistently in peer-reviewed papers.
10 years | April 2036	+300 million more tonnes	Children born today carry more microplastics than any generation in history. Rebuilding the recycling capacity that could have existed in 2026 costs 3 to 5 times more. Legal settlements reshape the industry, too late for the damage already done.

Section 2

Why hundreds of millions of engaged people have not been enough

The scale of public concern about plastic pollution dwarfs almost every other environmental issue in terms of measurable public engagement. Yet production continues to rise every year. The gap between what people want and what happens is not a gap of awareness or will. It is a structural gap: a failure of architecture.

700M+	800M	250M+	71%	8M
Social media users engaged	Environmental app users (2025)	Petition signatures on plastic	EU consumers wanting refill options	Active citizen science participants

Global plastic production is projected to reach 736 million tonnes per year by 2040 under business-as-usual. The recycled share, despite decades of effort, remains near 10%. The gap between what hundreds of millions of engaged people want and what the system delivers is not closing. It is widening.

Three structural weaknesses

Engagement without evidence has no legal standing. A petition, however large, cannot be cited in a courtroom. It carries no evidential weight in regulatory proceedings. It is routinely dismissed as emotional preference rather than factual grounding.

Engagement without a constituency architecture has no institutional leverage. Two million anonymous petition signatures carry far less institutional weight than ten thousand named, verified medical professionals co-signing a formal declaration, or fifty city governments publishing quantified cost audits.

Engagement without coordination dissipates its energy. Millions of people each individually concerned about plastic pollution are not, without a coordinating structure, a political force. The Threshold provides the structure that converts dispersed concern into coordinated institutional pressure.

> *The question is not whether enough people care. They demonstrably do. The question is whether caring can be structured into something that courts, governments, and capital markets cannot ignore.*

Section 3

The political trap: vested interest against public will

Politicians know exactly what the evidence says. The trap is that knowing and acting are separated by money.

The OECD has explicitly called for a plastic tax rising to $750 per tonne by 2060. The EU's own Environment Commissioner has publicly acknowledged the recycling industry is in a 'deep crisis.' Parliamentarians across Europe, North America, and Australia have been briefed on the health evidence and the economic consequences of inaction. They know.

What they face is a structural stalemate in which public opinion, moral obligation, and the financial pressure of organised vested interest are locked against each other. The petrochemical industry is the largest industrial sector on earth by capital value. As fossil fuel demand for energy declines with electrification, plastics have explicitly become its primary growth strategy. New cracker capacity coming online between 2026 and 2029 will add more than 50 million tonnes of annual polymer capacity.

A legislator who acts on meaningful upstream production controls faces simultaneously: organised industry opposition; direct employment consequences in their constituency; a short electoral cycle that makes ten-year policy investments politically risky; and an opposition that will characterise any action as economically reckless if the full social cost of inaction cannot be demonstrated in legally credible terms.

The Threshold is designed to remove every one of those barriers.

THE TOBACCO PRECEDENT: WHY THE POLITICAL TRAP EVENTUALLY BREAKS

For forty years, the tobacco industry maintained that its product was not proven to cause cancer. For forty years, that argument held political and legal ground, until the evidence base became unassailable, the litigation became financially existential, and state governments began quantifying their healthcare costs. The final settlement recovered $206 billion from US tobacco companies.

The plastic industry is ten years behind tobacco on this trajectory. The Threshold is designed to accelerate the arrival of the moment when the legal and political cost of continued inaction permanently exceeds the cost of acting.

Section 4

The role of journalism: a hungry media landscape

The media landscape is not the enemy of this story. It is one of its most powerful amplifiers, and it is hungry for exactly what the Threshold produces.

Investigative and science journalists consistently face the same problem: a vast volume of claims, counter-claims, industry-funded studies, and contested statistics, with very little reliable infrastructure to distinguish verified fact from wishful thinking. The programme's Fact/Opinion scoring system, which precedes every written assertion with a grade from A to F, is not primarily a quality filter. It is a professional tool for journalists, researchers, and litigators who need to know the evidential status of what they are about to cite.

A journalist writing about a corporate claim scored F by the programme's reviewers has something to publish that no press release can counter. That is what this programme produces that no existing platform provides.

The Story is not a nature film. It is a documentary, a podcast and short films, each ending in one of three actions: vote, add your voice to the Threshold Poll, or write your pledge. It draws on the Althing Round, in which twelve paid Members judge possible policy initiatives in closed session, without breaching their confidentiality. The format does not yet exist. The audience is demonstrably there. A single well-crafted documentary generated over 100 million Netflix views within weeks of release. Plastic-focused content consistently outperforms genre averages for streaming engagement.

> *Journalism is hungry for what this programme produces: evidence that is graded, verified, and legally defensible. The shortage has never been editorial interest. It has been the evidence itself.*
>
> Full media breakdown by outlet type: see Appendix C.

Section 5

The programme: what it is and how every element connects

The Threshold is not a single tool. It is a system, designed so that every element creates a condition that makes the next element possible.

Single-element interventions can each be absorbed and dismissed by the systems they are trying to change. A system in which citizens, scientists, medical professionals, city governments, investors, and legal funders are all contributing to and endorsing the same evidence base is structurally far harder to dismiss.

The Threshold is one Entity with three divisions. They run on different rules and different money, and they are kept apart on purpose.

Knowledge Base and App | Public

The core. Receives and protects evidence, checks its integrity, then grades it to a published standard, through contractors it oversees. Nothing is overwritten. The app, a free application for the public, feeds it. A contribution that does not pass the first screen as evidence is held ungraded. Led by the Knowledge Base Architect.

Althing Round | Closed, in development

Twelve paid Members, seated as those who cause harm, those who bear it, governors and enablers, and those who know. They judge possible policy initiatives, using the Knowledge Base as material, and never see how its evidence was graded. They judge independently, then again after seeing the group unattributed. Every dissent is published. Led by the Round Architect.

The Story | Public

A documentary, a podcast and short films, each ending in a vote, a voice in the Threshold Poll, or a pledge. Operational budgets are overseen by the Oversight Board. Editorial control rests with the Lead Architect alone. Led by the Media Architect.

The Knowledge Base is the spine. Alone, it would justify the mission. The Round and the Story are built on it, though each could in principle run without it. An Architect is the person responsible for the design and construction of a project, in the sense an architect is for a building. The Lead Architect oversees quality and standards across the three.

The chain of change: from citizen observation to legal proceeding

Step	Stage	What happens
1	The citizen submits	A citizen photographs plastic waste, reports a health concern, or documents a corporate announcement. It is received with its provenance. An AI system may triage it for relevance. A human reviewer decides whether it qualifies as evidence.
2	Evidence is held to a standard	Evidence is graded only when every link of its chain of custody is documented. At least two independent reviewers assign each grade, and each declares any relationship to the subject. The grade can be revised on new evidence, with the original left visible. A Reliability Index, where used, is a triage instrument only.
3	Evidence enters the Knowledge Base	The record is hashed on arrival and held on servers at two independently governed sites, Geneva and near Reykjavik. Neither site alone is the authoritative record.
4	Evidence informs deliberation	In the Althing Round, twelve paid Members use material selected from the Knowledge Base, sealed before the Round begins. They see the evidence, not its grades. The Round cannot alter, delay, re-grade or annotate the record.
5	Findings reach the public	The Story tells what the record shows without breaching the confidentiality of the Round. Each film ends in a vote, a voice in the Threshold Poll, or a pledge.
6	The public adds institutional weight	Citizens act at several levels: from a two-minute signature to a formal investor disclosure request. Medical professionals co-sign a declaration. City governments commission cost audits.
7	Evidence enters legal proceedings	Claimants, regulators and courts decide what to do with a record that holds up. Threshold does not litigate, lobby or enforce. It makes sure they have evidence that holds.

Section 6

Initiative governance: the Independence Charter

The Threshold cannot be sold, pivoted, or influenced. Its independence is not a promise. It is a structural commitment, written into the Canons and proposed for counsel to test before the Swiss entity is formed.

A platform whose outputs may enter legal proceedings, whose evidence is cited in parliamentary briefings, and whose findings are used to argue for binding regulation cannot be commercially compromised. Its credibility is its primary asset, and credibility requires independence.

THE THRESHOLD INDEPENDENCE CHARTER

1. No funder influence	No organisation providing funding receives any influence over analytical findings, grades, or programme methodology, at any investment level. No government or multilateral body funds the core or sits in governance. No funder ever holds a key.
2. Findings follow evidence	All conclusions belong to the evidence, not to any individual, institution, or funder. If the evidence changes, the conclusions change.
3. Split control	No person or group holds enough control to take the institution or shut it down. The Founder holds one vote of seven. Every key is split five ways and three must act together.
4. Transparent correction	When errors occur, they are corrected publicly and completely within 72 hours, never quietly amended.
5. Enforced by structure	Arbitration enforces the Oversight Board's rulings. An officer who refuses an arbitrator's ruling departs, the Lead Architect included.

The bodies

Body	Composition	Powers and limits
Oversight Board	Seven members. The Founder holds the only permanent seat, with one vote, and cannot chair. Fixed three-year terms. A panel of three outsiders seats the first Board.	Oversees the operations of the Knowledge Base and the Althing Round, never their content, never who a Member is, and never what Members decide. For the Story it oversees operational budgets only. Rules on whether the Canons are kept. Cannot direct administration. Can remove the Founder by a majority of the others.
Management Board	Five full-time members, phased from three at first to five by the end of Year 3.	Runs the Entity. Appointed by the Oversight Board.
Lead Architect	The Founder, while the post is held. The post can be removed or replaced.	Holds no grading authority over any item.

Users retain copyright over their submissions. The platform holds only a usage licence. Evidence cannot be sold or transferred to any commercial interest. No relative, partner or business associate of the Founder, of a funder or of a graded party may hold an office that votes, appoints, grades, audits or decides funding. These are proposed safeguards. Swiss counsel will test them before the entity is formed.

Section 7

The Youth Council: nothing about them, without them

The client of this programme is the generations who will live with its consequences. Nothing about them is decided without them.

The Threshold proposes a Youth Council to run alongside the Althing Round, not as a symbolic addition, but with the same protocol, the same tools, and the same analytical rigour. It is a proposal. It is not yet written into the Canons, and it is not part of the founding round or its budget. Youth participants aged 18 to 30 would be selected through the same transparent process as adult Members. The minimum age is 18, for legal consent and the legal defensibility of outputs; younger people take part through the Schools and Youth layer of the public app. Their findings would be published alongside the Round's. Where the two agree, the agreement is powerful. Where they diverge, the divergence is the most important data the programme could produce.

The generations now aged 15 to 25 carry a qualitatively different relationship to this crisis than any previous generation. Studies of cord blood and placental tissue published between 2021 and 2026 document microplastic concentrations in foetal tissue at levels not present in their parents' generation. They are the first generation for whom plastic contamination at birth is not a projection. It is a documented condition of their existence.

A policy decision made in 2026 with a ten-year implementation horizon will reach full effect when the children born today are ten years old. The moral case for their co-governance of a programme that exists to change those decisions is not symbolic. It is foundational.

> *Nothing about them, without them. The generations who will live with the consequences of our decisions have the right, not merely the opportunity, to co-govern the programme that exists to change those decisions.*

Section 8

Budget, timeline, and the case for urgency

CHF 3.85M	CHF 1.705M	CHF 910k	CHF 795k	CHF 2.145M
Five-year foundation budget	Founding round, Years 1 and 2	Year 1	Year 2	Years 3 to 5

The five-year build costs CHF 3,850,000. The founding round is Years 1 and 2: CHF 1,705,000. It builds the institution only: the Swiss entity, an independent Oversight Board seated by an outside panel, the Canons, legal cover and the evidence platform, with the Knowledge Base on two sites, Geneva and Reykjavik, inside the Year 1 budget. Year 2 adds search and access tools, recruitment, the public website, administration, structure, procedure and the running of the Oversight Board. Years 3 to 5 expand and run the Knowledge Base and the administration, including the Oversight Board. Full detail is in Appendix A.

Founding money and operating money are kept apart, on purpose. The Althing Round, the Story, verification, the Spotters network of public contributors and paid grading are separate operating rounds. None is costed yet, and each will be costed with the expertise that will lead it, before it is raised.

The three converging forces: why now

The market signal. Global conflict disrupting major shipping routes from February 2026 caused virgin plastic prices to surge by 40 to 42% within weeks. For the first time in three years, recycled plastic is price-competitive. This window will close when shipping normalises.

The health science. The scientific community is within one or two large-scale studies of establishing a direct causal link between microplastic exposure and specific diseases. The 2024 NEJM arterial plaque study was the first major clinical step. When that link is firmly established, the regulatory and litigation consequences will accelerate at a speed that will overwhelm an unprepared evidence infrastructure.

The generational shift. The generation now aged 15 to 25 are entering political life with measurable plastic loads present before their birth. The founding round is designed so that the evidence is in place before their frustration transforms into something less orderly.

THE COST OF WAITING

12 months of inaction: +22Mt to environment | cost of eventual reversal EUR 30 to 50 billion

2 years of inaction: +60Mt | recycling window closed; infrastructure rebuilding cost 2x

5 years of inaction: +150Mt | causal health link legally established; litigation begins without full evidence infrastructure

10 years of inaction: +300Mt | rebuilding recycling capacity costs 3 to 5x the 2026 price

The three interventions: all required simultaneously

Intervention	What it is	Why it is necessary
A liability framework	Plastic producers held financially accountable for quantifiable harm to human health, wildlife, marine ecosystems, and municipal infrastructure. Modelled on tobacco litigation ($206 billion recovered).	Creates the only financial pressure large enough to change the fundamental production economics of the industry.
A levy on virgin plastic	A charge of EUR 600 to EUR 800 per tonne on plastic placed on market, ring-fenced to directly subsidise recyclers and fund collection infrastructure. Generates approximately EUR 10.8 billion per year.	Makes every recycling stream permanently viable. Internalises the social cost (EUR 1,380 to EUR 3,400 per tonne leaked) that currently falls on society rather than producers.
Upstream redesign	Robotic bulk-dispensing supermarket model: products in reusable bulk containers, dispensed to customer quantities. 55 to 65% of food retail plastic can be substituted.	Breaks the causal chain before plastic enters the waste stream. Reduces food waste and lowers consumer prices by removing packaging costs (10 to 40% of retail price).

What we are choosing

Nobody can say exactly what the future holds. That is not the point.

The point is that the probability of things getting worse, absent structural change, is not speculative. It is the mathematically expected outcome of continuing a trajectory that is documented, measured, and published by the OECD, the United Nations, and the peer-reviewed scientific community.

A child born today will be ten years old in 2036. They will grow up in a world where plastic particles are measurably more concentrated in their food, water, and air than in the world you were born into. That is not a projection. It is already true for the children being born today.

> *The plastic crisis is not unsolvable. It is unsolved, because those who benefit from the current system have more organised power than those who are harmed by it. The Threshold is a systematic effort to reverse that imbalance using the one resource that cannot be lobbied away: the number of people who are already angry, and who need a structure that turns their anger into something courts and governments cannot ignore.*

What follows from reading this

You have now read the evidence. The medical evidence is in our blood and our children's. The economic case for recycling, as it has been sold, is dead. The policy interventions exist and have been costed. The architecture that would resolve a case of this shape has been mapped.

From this point you are an informed witness. That is the threshold.

The next question is not whether you care. The historical pattern is clear. Systemic harm has been resolved in every documented precedent (tobacco, asbestos, lead, opioids) not by enough people caring but by enough informed witnesses acting in ways small and large.

The relevant distinction is not between those who care and those who do not. It is between those who act and those who do not.

Three civic acts cross the threshold.

Vote. Vote for political representatives who will price the externality, build the levy, and pass the producer liability framework. Plastic is a political problem before it is a chemical one.

Vote in the Threshold poll. When the Knowledge Base presents the ranked interventions that emerge from the Althing Round, vote on them. The poll is the public record of which interventions citizens have endorsed.

Write your Pledge. In your own words. Write to your unborn grandchildren. Tell them what you knew, particularly about the consequences of plastic and when you knew. What you did, and what you did not do. What you felt and what you hope, in spite of everything, they will inherit. Seal it with your mark. It will be held in the Threshold Knowledge Base, protected and permanent, until the threshold is crossed, or until the year you choose to have it opened and by whom.

The Threshold Effect is the pattern by which documented systemic harm crosses a threshold making it increasingly difficult to ignore, legally, medically, and politically, in documented historical cases, deliberately and systematically. The Threshold Effect is in development.

The case has crossed every threshold but yours.

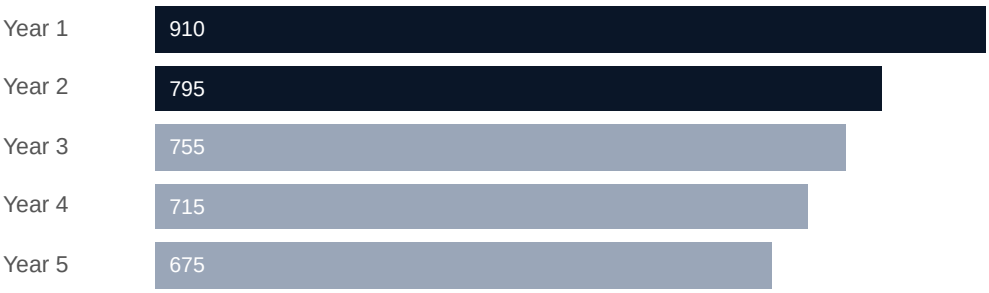
Whether you cross it is now observed.

THRESHOLD | thresholdinitiative.org

APPENDIX A

Full budget breakdown

Five-year foundation budget | CHF 3,850,000



CHF thousands. Dark bars are the founding round (Years 1 and 2). Pale bars are Years 3 to 5.

Stage	What it funds	CHF
Year 1	The Swiss entity, formed with CHF 50,000 of endowment capital that becomes the permanent reserve. An independent Oversight Board seated by an outside panel. Legal cover. The evidence platform, live in Year 1, with the Knowledge Base on two sites, Geneva and Reykjavik. A small grading pilot, tightly limited in scope and cost, to size the grading round.	910,000
Year 2	Search and access tools, recruitment, the public website, administration, structure, procedure and the running of the Oversight Board.	795,000
FOUNDING ROUND	**Years 1 and 2**	**1,705,000**
Years 3 to 5	Expansion and running of the Knowledge Base and the administration, including the Oversight Board. Verification of evidence is always a separate funding round.	2,145,000
TOTAL OVER FIVE YEARS		**3,850,000**

Operating rounds, not in the foundation budget

The Althing Round, the Story and documentary production, evidence verification, the Spotters network of public contributors and paid grading are operating rounds, on top of the foundation budget. None is costed yet. Each will be costed with the expertise that will lead it, before it is raised. Full grading is funded as a fixed, published envelope of reviewer-hours, drawn down until spent, with no funder above 30 per cent. The app described in the Investor Builder Brief is part of the Spotters network and belongs to a later stage; its euro figures there are indicative.

A founding funder pays for the institution to exist, not for any judgment it later reaches. A founding funder is named in public and may release Year 2 on the Year 1 report, tied to what was built and never to what the evidence finds. The round is open to several funders.

APPENDIX B

Who sits in the Althing Round

The Althing Round has twelve paid Members. They are not chosen to agree with each other. They are seated to represent the full landscape of positions on a question, including positions in fundamental tension, and the Round derives its credibility from that tension.

Seat	Who sits there
Those who cause harm	People from the industries and activities whose conduct is under examination.
Those who bear it	People and communities who carry the harm, including those who speak for the living world.
Governors and enablers	People who regulate, finance, insure or enable the activity.
Those who know	People who hold specialist knowledge of the evidence, such as scientists and clinicians.

Members judge possible policy initiatives independently, then again after seeing the group unattributed. Every dissent is published. They use material selected from the Knowledge Base and sealed before the Round begins, and they never see how its evidence was graded. The Oversight Board oversees the operations of the Round, never who a Member is, never the sealed record and never what Members decide. Nobody on the staff, no funder and no Member can add or remove a document once it is sealed.

The Althing Round is in development. The detailed seating rules are proposed in the Canons and await Swiss counsel.

APPENDIX C

Media strategy by outlet type

Each media category has a distinct need and a distinct offering from the programme. The Fact/Opinion scoring system serves all categories simultaneously, giving every outlet the evidential infrastructure they require.

Media type	What they need	What the programme provides
Investigative print (Le Monde, Guardian, Spiegel, NRC)	Credible, legally defensible data with institutional backing	Graded Knowledge Base; published grading standard; every dissent on record
Science journalism (Nature, Science, New Scientist)	Peer-reviewed data; institutional endorsement; novel findings	Medical Declaration; academic citation pathway; graded evidence
Broadcast and documentary (BBC, Arte, Netflix, streaming)	Narrative access; characters; programmatic structure over time	The Story: documentary and short films drawing on the Althing Round, each ending in a clear action
Digital and social media (independent creators, substacks)	Shareable, graded evidence; weekly hooks; interactive data counters	Fact/Opinion graded feed; Ledger Live counters; Pulse results maps
Local and regional press (municipal, regional outlets)	Local evidence; local costs; local officials on record	City cost audits; geographic evidence clusters; municipal commitments
Podcasting (news, science, policy genres)	Long-form narrative; expert voices; structured story over months	The Threshold podcast series
Trade and sector press (packaging, retail, chemical)	Market data; regulatory trends; competitor intelligence	Polymer market analysis; recycling economics; policy trajectory briefings

APPENDIX D

Technical architecture reference

The programme's technical infrastructure is specified in full in two dedicated documents. This appendix provides a summary orientation for institutional readers who want to understand the technical foundations before reading those documents in full.

The Knowledge Base

The Knowledge Base is the programme's permanent evidence infrastructure. It has four components: the Library (public, permanent record of verified evidence), the Vault (the sealed record of the Althing Round, opened only by a process agreed at founding), the Bank (evidence under active review), and the Signal Layer (published analysis outputs for external audiences).

The Vault is sealed once a Round concludes. The deliberation record of who argued what and what was decided is permanently protected. It cannot be accessed, summarised, or processed by any AI system. It opens only through a formal custodian process that cannot be changed by any individual. The findings of the Round, by contrast, are public once it concludes.

The record is a conventional archive, hashed on arrival, held on servers at two independently governed sites, in Geneva and near Reykjavik. Neither site alone is the authoritative record. The record exists only when the two agree, and if they diverge, publication of the affected records stops until the cause is found and disclosed.

Full specification: KBS-Knowledge-Base-Specification-EN-v2.pdf

The AI stack

The programme's AI system may triage incoming citizen evidence through four layers: a baseline safety filter, image and video intelligence, fraud and synthetic detection, and a behavioural pattern engine. The AI classifies, scores, and routes. It does not determine truth, and it does not issue a grade. No automated decision significantly affecting a contributor's standing is applied without human review.

The Reliability Index, where used, is a triage instrument only. It identifies which already-qualified submissions to review first. It is partly AI-assisted and fully human-supervised, and it does not direct where new evidence is collected. The determination of truth belongs to humans.

Full specification: MST-AI-Strategy-EN-v2.pdf

Legal status

The Threshold Initiative is in founding development and is not yet incorporated. A fiscal sponsor, not yet named and to be chosen for independence from any funder, holds funds first. A Swiss foundation follows in Year 1, with Swiss counsel chosen by competitive tender. The planned legal form is a foundation that holds the Knowledge Base and the mission, with the Round and the Story in separate linked vehicles. The AI pipeline is intended to meet the EU AI Act's requirements for human review.

Contact: Andrew Henderson | Lead Architect | info@thresholdinitiative.org | Marans, France | October 2026
The Threshold Initiative | thresholdinitiative.org
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