

THIS WEEK IN "LITTERLAND"

www.litterpreventionprogram.com

November 6, 2016

NOVEMBER 15 is AMERICA RECYCLES DAY

A 'grave' situation: littering cemeteries

Something particularly ghoulish this time of year is the amount of littering occurring during festivals honouring the dead. The past seven days have seen [Halloween](#), [Diwali](#), [All Saints Day](#) and [Undas](#) come and go in a variety of global locales. The latter two holidays involve massive treks to cemeteries, and the mountainous mess left behind constitutes a perennial complaint. All these occasions have become a pain in the candy bag. As revellers indulge in their celebrations they tend to litter at will. In Manila the [EcoWaste Coalition](#) struggles every year to convey a no-littering edict to "hardened litterbugs", as the group's National Coordinator, Aileen Lucero, calls them. The coalition monitored 15 cemeteries. News wasn't all bad. Eleven of them received a ranking of "generally clean" owing in part to conscientious visitors, but also round-the-clock cleanup efforts by civic authorities and cemetery

Students create a positive impression

Making art projects from litter turned into a fantastic learning experience for students at Guthrie Jr. High in Oklahoma. Finding and repurposing refuse was a fun way to tune them into respecting the environment, part of the [educational package](#), "Every Litter Bit Hurts."



Toilet caper results in charge

North Carolina lawmakers handcuffed and arrested a protester for littering after a rainbow-coloured toilet was dumped in protest in front of the governor's mansion. Gigi Burkhalter, an avowed non-litterer, says she is fighting House Bill 2 banning gender-neutral washrooms. A sign roared, "Gov. McCrory, your hands are not clean. Cut the Crap! #We Came 2 Slay HB2." Officers went out of county to track her down. Now a judge will decide whether to hear or throw out the case.

New research says size matters

The larger the littering offence the more reluctant bystanders are to speak up, a new study indicates. People will admonish equally whether an item is big or small. But fear of retaliation rises as the level of dumping grows. University of Cologne researchers published their findings online in [Nature](#). They ran 800 trials, testing reactions of passersby after seeing a coffee cup dropped compared to a full bag of garbage. The study also questions the effectiveness of punishment.

DID YOU KNOW?

The recycling rate in America is 34 per cent and has been inching upward over the past 30 years. #AmericaRecyclesDay

HEADLINE LITTER GRABBERS (OCT 30 - NOV 6)

Some of what made our News Reel this week

Soccer team game shirts are made of litter (11/5)

Several EU soccer clubs will wear shirts made from plastic marine litter to open eyes to the world's littering problem. Bayern Munich players sported the outfits during Saturday's game against Hoffenheim. Real Madrid will wear a kit designed by the same shirt maker on November 26 when they play Sporting Gijon.

Protesting is a messy business in Jakarta (11/5)

Jakarta cleaners had their work cut out for them after protest rallies Friday generated 75 tons of garbage in the streets. Tidying up required 500 daily workers, 31 road sweeper cars, 15 trash trucks, 11 toilet buses, eight pickups, seven compactor trucks and four toilet containers. Demonstrators were protesting the governor for his "blasphemous" remarks about the Quran.

Cambridge Council promotes a Litter Code (11/1)

Cambridge, UK puts its distaste for litter up front. The city's website trumpets the Litter Code and urges townspeople to sign a pledge and live up to it.

Mayor finds it pays to speak up (11/1)

Newark, UK Mayor Dean Hyde reports he's encouraged by the response, especially from young people, to his call for involvement in the town's anti-litter campaign, "Bin there, dump that." He picks up litter twice a day.