

THIS WEEK IN "LITTERLAND"

www.litterpreventionprogram.com

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Backlash!

Fallout followed the May 15 airing of a BBC Panorama undercover investigation into the UK's prime litter enforcement company, Kingdom Security. The show revealed a cash bonus scheme that encouraged officers to issue as many tickets as possible. It recorded an employee talking about the extra £987 he received in one month under the company's "litter competency allowance" incentive plan to get its litter police to target the public with on-the-spot fines. Complaints arose about the high level of zeal for enforcement and ticketing. One woman was handed a ticket for pouring coffee in the sewer before depositing her cup in a bin and a man was fined for accidentally dropping a small piece of orange rind. The television exposé prompted several councils, such as Maidstone Borough, to cancel their contracts with Kingdom or review them. The nation's litter agency Keep Britain Tidy supports enforcement, but wants it to be fair and reasonable.



At left, the LitterBin, a new trash can out of the US for beaches, hikers, campers and boaters, has a lid for easy carrying in and out. Read the official press release [here](http://www.litterbin.net). www.litterbin.net

Remote island now spoiled

What should be an unspoiled remote island paradise has become stunning only for the amount of trash heaped up on its beaches. Henderson Island in the far Pacific has 3,500 pieces of litter a day wash up on the beach, says a report in the US peer reviewed research journal, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. The distant island 5000 km from New Zealand hosted 21 to 671 items of litter per square meter, 27 per cent of it identified as emanating from South America.

What a mess: Changes proposed

A ban on glass in San Francisco's Delores Park is one of the fixes a lawmaker proposes for reversing litter after a weekend litter dump left officials frowning with a huge mess on their hands. Supervisor Paul Sheehy wants to increase fines too. He'd roll revenue collected from issuing citations into the cleanup budget. His idea is set to come to a vote on June 9.

Charity gives state of the shirt report

Value Village has published its [2017 State of Reuse Report](#) on clothing recycling, an offshoot of the charity stores' Give a Sh!rt™ initiative that reclaims used clothing and gives it a new life.

DID YOU KNOW?

Ontario's Town of Markham has a rags to riches [story](#) all its own -- special, public smart bins for collecting used clothing and fabric and an outright ban on textiles in the garbage, a Canadian first. Already the program seems to be a hit with 1.4 million kg of textiles diverted from landfill in less than one year. Materials go to charities for resale or repurposing, made useful again in the secondary rag market. In Markham garbage must go in clear bags to enable workers to see the contents.

HEADLINE LITTER GRABBERS (May 14 - 21)

Some of what made our News Reel this week

Bad news for San Diego coastline (5/16)

An analysis of San Diego's shoreline found that 80 per cent of the litter there contains plastic.

Video from France an uplifting affair (5/17)

Toulouse city's transit agency, Métropole, is on the right track with its floating litter [video](#). Looking to reinforce the value of clean public spaces, the clever and illustrative ditty will play in cinemas and on social networks.

British plastic makers back Hubbub's effort (5/19)

The British Plastics Federation is climbing aboard a program to keep litter out of the River Thames, 'For Fish's Sake London', an initiative being floated by environmental charity Hubbub. See a [video](#) here and engage on Twitter @Hubbub #FFSLDN. At the root of the river's problem is "tidy littering", where people tuck litter near but not inside a bin.

Sinking their teeth into a gum litter campaign (5/19)

It was all smiles to mark year three of a concerted pitch to reduce gum litter in Laois called Bin It! Council officials see their educational push reaping results. A record-high 84 per cent in a survey now saying they dispose of gum correctly and 93 per cent agreeing that dropping gum is littering. Here the gum industry sinks its teeth into ways to reduce the littering of its products.