

# THIS WEEK IN "LITTERLAND"

www.litterpreventionprogram.com

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## Vote: Is it time to rein in tobacco users?

In Australia carrying a bag to pick up the family pooch's poop piles is mandatory. It's an offence not to carry a dog waste bag whilst walking the dog. Should the same stance apply to smokers to curtail the rampant littering of cigarette butts? Readers, what is your view -- would you agree with a law requiring smokers to carry and use personal, portable ash receptacles, like the one pictured at left? [Vote here](#). Forward to your contacts so that they can have a say too, especially the smokers.

## [New study pinpoints tobacco's true cost](#)

It's the environment that pays the highest cost for littering smokers. On Wednesday the World Health Organization issued a new report warning of the damage inflicted by tobacco production and waste, described as "a cancer to the lungs of the Earth" by consultant Dr. Armando Peruga, who reviewed the report for WHO and formerly led the agency's Tobacco Free Initiative. When added to the annual health costs from smoking, damage caused by deforestation, pollution and littering totals \$1.4 trillion.

Question - should a law require smokers to use pocket ashtrays? Images and idea courtesy of [WasteAdSpace](#).

## [Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup](#)

Saturday began the annual major effort in Canada to remove litter from beaches, coasts and shorelines, a key project spearheaded by the Vancouver Aquarium and World Wildlife Federation. Communities and volunteers are called upon to clear the accumulated garbage that comes to rest by the country's oceans and lakes. Find more information [here](#).

## [World Environment Day in India](#)

The prime minister of India kept his five-year *Clean India* drive alive by announcing the provision of litter bins in 4,000 town across the nation. PM Narendra Modi released the news just ahead of United Nations' World Environment Day, June 5. Modi used his "monthly radio address, Mann Ki Baat", to spread the UN theme of connecting people to nature. India's goal is to become a cleaner, greener and more energy efficient country through a bevy of new programs and plans.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Volunteer litter pickers in British Columbia's Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine will benefit from a [new cleanup incentive policy](#). They won't have to pay for garbage bag tags when they register with the district before going out to pick, a saving of \$2 per bag.

## HEADLINE LITTER GRABBERS (MAY 28 - JUN 4)

Some of what made our News Reel this week

### **Scotland debuts online prevention tools (5/30)**

Scotland's latest contribution to the fight against litter is [Our Litter Knowledge Network](#), a lively website full of tools and strategies for preventing littering and fly-tipping. Zero Waste Scotland says 250 million items are littered every year and half were recyclable goods.

### **Zimbabwe minister gives litter a profile (5/31)**

Zimbabwe's tourism minister, Dr. Walter Mzembi, urged an end to littering in cities ahead of Friday's launch of the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development. "I can't market a dirty city," he said, noting littering squashes hopes of sustainable tourism.

### **Qatar's cabinet gives nod to cleanliness law (5/31)**

Qatar's draft law on public hygiene that bars littering in public places won cabinet approval this week.

### **Bangkok clears litter to tackle flooding (6/3)**

A boat tour to pick up garbage launched a Metropolitan Bangkok (BMA) campaign: "No Litter into Canals: More Garbage, More Floods". BMA's principal secretary, Patarut Tardaranon, blamed litter-clogged drains for floods - 10 tonnes a day pulled out, 20 tonnes if it rains.

### **Texan city contemplates can ban on river (5/30)**

A plan to ban cans on a river used for recreational tubing will go to New Braunfels Council at its first meeting in June. Tubers toss too many cans overboard.