

# THIS WEEK IN "LITTERLAND"

[www.litterpreventionprogram.com](http://www.litterpreventionprogram.com)

September 10, 2017

## [New York governor is all fired up](#)

Governor Andrew Cuomo took the press underground to announce a plan for dealing with subway fires sparked by litter on the tracks. He announced fines will double to \$100 starting September 13 and enforcement will step up in an attempt to quell litter-fueled problems of fires and clogged drains. State officers and transit police will bolster the ranks of city cops who ticket for littering in the subway, Cuomo said during his Union Square station "trash tour" Wednesday night and a walk along the tracks of the downtown No. 6 line to highlight litter hazards.

## [Fines to increase in Great Britain](#)

The UK is set to usher in higher penalties for littering, making £150 the new normal. After hearing from the public about Prime Minister Theresa May's election promise to do more to reduce litter, hiking fines above £80 became the centerpiece, but other tactics may include allowing trained laymen to hand out tickets.

## [Plastic found in salt, seafood](#)

An unappetizing finding has surfaced in research from NY's State University in Fredonia and University of Minnesota. In testing 12 kinds of table salt sold in US grocery stores, including ten sea salts from around the world, Professor Sherri Mason found many containing minute pieces of plastic, suggesting that Americans may be ingesting at least 660 particles of plastic every year in salt, fish, shellfish and beer. Disintegrating plastic bottles in the water are fingered as the main source of this plastic contamination.

## [Irish towns get their rankings](#)

Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL's) 16th annual Tidy Towns brings both good and bad news to light along with litter rankings from first to worst. On the bright side, the An Taisce inspections revealed the cleanest year ever. First round results have Tullamore on top, Dublin Airport environs in second place and Leixlip, Co Kildare in third. But socially disadvantaged areas have a bigger litter problem due to lacking the community cohesion required to conquer it, the report said while declaring that "dumping is the new litter."



Three years into Prime Minister Narendra Modi's *Swachh Bharat* campaign to clean India, one wonders if it has a hope of succeeding. The photo above shows what the nation is up against. Mumbai waters are wash with bagged garbage that people routinely toss into the sea.

Photo Source: AP

## HEADLINE LITTER GRABBERS (SEP 3 - 10)

Some of what made our News Reel this week

### **Kenya puts controls on plastic (9/5)**

It's an attempt to put plastic under wraps. The Kenyan government is moving to make it illegal to produce, sell or carry plastic bags. Those who do will risk up to four years in prison and a fine of up to \$40,000 US.

### **'Gulls begone' is the cry from North Yorkshire (9/7)**

Scarborough, UK is ready to fine people for feeding seagulls. From March to December, 2016 the borough council received 36 reports of "gull muggings" -- bird attacks on people with food. "The problem we have got is not stupid animals, it's stupid human beings," said public health councillor Bill Chatt.

### **Inventor chef has big mouth for sale (9/7)**

Former chef John Gargone, of Virginia, hung up his apron to devote his time to further his invention for making litter picking easier. He spent two years perfecting his "Bigmouth Leaf and Debris Bagger", an insert that keeps bags wide open and better able to receive trash and leaves. Now he has a [Kickstarter drive](#) for funds so he can donate his Bigmouth to clean up organizations. For info, see the [website](#).

### **Leithers language all about recruitment (9/9)**

Leithers Don't Litter is recruiting volunteer pickers to tidy up Marine Esplanade next Sunday during Great British Beach Clean weekend. The group's press release calls the current site "Marine Messplanade".

## DID YOU KNOW?

So far this year in New York City there have been 470 track fires across the subway system of 472 stations. Police gave out fewer than 100 tickets.