

THIS WEEK IN "LITTERLAND"

www.litterpreventionprogram.com

January 5, 2014

L.A. bans plastic grocery bag

The City of Los Angeles is saying 'adios' to plastic carrier bags. A new law forbids merchants to use plastic. If customers don't bring their own bags, retailers can sell them paper bags for 10 cents each or market reusable cloth shopping bags. Fines for disobeying the ordinance are steep: \$100 for a first violation, \$200 and \$500 for a second and third, respectively. Unpaid fines increase by the day. Los Angeles is the largest of Californian jurisdiction to legislate a plastic bag ban. In 2008 Rwanda was the world's first.

Hospital undergoes cleanliness drive

Sion Hospital in Mumbai cured a chronic litter problem in about five months. Prescription – a cleanliness drive. Four hired clean-up marshals dished out liberal fines. Problems of littering and spitting in halls and stairwells have all but disappeared, says Dr. Avinash Supe, the dean.

NEW YEAR'S NOTEBOOK

"Trashy New Year" is the 2014 greeting suited to London where littering by revelers was over the top this year. It took a city crew of 119 all night to tidy 85 tonnes of abandoned trash, including 15,000 empty champagne bottles. In Manila's historic Luneta Park (pictured above) an emphasis is placed on swift clean up and anti-littering reminders before big events, but still litter pervades. Singapore's National Environment Agency sent out extra litter enforcers on the celebratory eve. Keep Australia Beautiful pushes the keep clean message with extra vigor in the week of the New Year, identifying this holiday period as a litter "peak week."



HEADLINE LITTER GRABBERS (DEC 29 – JAN 5)

Some of what made our News Reel this week litterpreventionprogram.com/news-reel.html

Illinois butt law aims to extinguish littering [1/1]

This New Year makes it official: Flicking a cigarette butt in Illinois could cost you up to \$1500 under a new state law.

Litter in Thames worries exploring scientists [1/2]

A 'river of rubbish' is how scientists have described the litter they've found at the depths of the Thames River in London.

Scotland wants nation to set European standard [1/1]

The call for volunteers has sounded across Scotland, a nation bent on recruiting one million Scots to scour the nation and make it "the cleanest country in Europe" ahead of prestigious events in 2014, including the Commonwealth Games.

San Francisco may take out litter with fast food tax [1/1]

Eating on the go could add to the cost of your take-out meal. City council in San Francisco is contemplating levying a tax on fast food to help pay for the cost of litter cleanup.

Carlisle's 'grot spot' campaign reaps rewards [1/2]

Carlisle, UK is ringing in solid results from a reporting app launched Oct. 4 for "grot spot" complaints: a tripling of reports and 100 prosecuted for littering and dog fouling offences.

Power to parking officers in NE Lincolnshire? [1/3]

In its systematic approach to obliterating litter, North East Lincolnshire may empower parking enforcement officers to ticket for littering and other misdemeanors as well.



RecycleMania all set for a February sweep across 500+ colleges

Set to go for eight weeks starting Feb. 2 the annual RecycleMania flies into action across 523 mainly American university and college campuses. Teams strive to collect the most tons of recyclables to win the Waste Minimization Trophy (right). University of Missouri, KC, holds the 2013 grand champ title.



DID YOU KNOW?

In San Francisco 20 cents is added to the price of a pack of cigarettes as a litter tax. It has stoked city coffers by \$2.5-million a year to help offset the high cost of cleaning up tobacco litter, butts, filter tips, packaging, etc.