

# THIS WEEK IN "LITTERLAND"

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

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## [This state trying hard to be a leader against litter](#)

Louisiana wants to get tongues wagging over litter. Leaders Against Litter, an annual program sponsored by Keep Louisiana Beautiful and the office of Lieutenant Governor Billy Nungesser, sounded a statewide call on citizens to sign a pledge that they "will spread the word about the importance of preventing the throwing of litter and trash on roadsides." In Lafayette, high-ranking officials picked up litter to set an example during [Project Front Yard](#).

## [European Space Agency tests litter detection in orbit](#)

A marriage between marine litter experts and remote sensing specialists, led by Argans Limited in France and Plymouth Marine Laboratory in the UK, results of work using satellite imaging to find, track and map ocean litter debuted at the [International Marine Debris Conference](#) in San Diego, USA March 12 - 16.

## [Plymouth, UK takes a firm stand](#)

Plymouth's hard line stance against people who litter and its use of unforgiving private enforcers has drawn mixed reaction, mostly positive. A detailed look at a day in a litter officer's life by The Plymouth Herald indicates that instant fines - Fixed Penalty Notices - work, but observes that serving the papers can be risky. Hazards include abusive, belligerent or uncooperative offenders. In some areas of London officers have to wear stab vests for their own safety.

## [Does litter ever disappear? Answer below](#)

The litter people toss and leave to rot has a long life span and, duh, doesn't magically disappear. Examples: Banana Peel - two months. Notebook Paper - eight months. Cotton Diaper - four months. Comic Book - six months. Wool Mitten - one year. Cardboard Milk Carton - 5 years. Cigarette Filters - one to five years. Steel Can - 100 years. Aluminum soda can - 350 years. Toothbrush - 400 years. Plastic Sandwich Bag - 400 years. Plastic Six Pack Holder - 450 years. Disposable Diaper - 500 years. Styrofoam cup - unknown. Car tire - unknown. Glass bottle -



## **HEADLINE LITTER GRABBERS (MAR 18 - 25)**

Some of what made our News Reel this week

### **Chinese shipping company takes on waste [\(3/21\)](#)**

The Chinese Navigation Company will assume waste management for 21 Pacific island nations under a UN-backed deal inked with the region's environmental secretariat. The shipping company will collect their plastics, aluminium cans, waste oil and ozone depleting substances and deliver them to approved ports for sustainable treatment and recycling.

### **One-day Shop and Drop coming to Ireland [\(3/23\)](#)**

Irish retailers say that a consumer, anti-litter, anti-packaging, *Sick of Plastic Campaign* may infringe on the littering law. Shop and Drop on April 21 instructs customers to buy their items, but leave the packaging at the checkout. Groups VOICE and Friends of the Earth Ireland are behind the action.

### **New Zealand Member's bill debated [\(3/22\)](#)**

Introduced as an awareness builder by New Zealand parliamentarian Scott Simpson, his proposed legislation debated on Thursday aims to allow municipalities to increase fines for littering to \$1,000 from \$400.

### **UK Lord trashes idea of mandatory picks [\(3/21\)](#)**

British Lord Robathan's idea that UK schoolchildren should spend time cleaning up litter was panned by fellow Lord Winston, who warned that children would face "unnecessary danger doing foolish things."

### **Canada's chemical industry signs on to pact [\(3/22\)](#)**

CIAC, the Chemistry Industry Association of Canada, signed the Declaration of Global Plastics Associations for Solutions on Marine Litter, obligating itself to help research, prevent and solve the ocean plastics problem.

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

Prominent grocer Tesco Express is on the defensive over litter around its supermarket in the Saintfield area of South Belfast. Customers and Carpetworld next door have complained about Tesco's unsightly grounds and car park. Tesco says it provides a bin outside its store for customers to use. Staff "regularly check" the area for litter, a spokesperson [told Belfast Media Group](#). Not good enough, says its neighbour.