

THIS WEEK IN "LITTERLAND"

litterpreventionprogram.com

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Panama acts

The signs going up around Panama read "less bags, more life" as the country settles into its role as the first Central American country to [ban plastic bags](#). They are banned immediately at retailers, supermarkets and pharmacies. Wholesalers are given until 2020 to comply with the policy, approved in 2018 and begun in earnest on Saturday. There are some exemptions for hygienic uses: raw meat, fish, etc.



No smoking anywhere in this business district

Soon smokers won't find a single place to puff in Sydney, Australia's second largest business district. City council recently moved to ban smoking in the 2.8 km² area of North Sydney CBD. A city survey taken before the decision was made indicated that most people (80%) support the ban, partly to solve the litter problem. There will be three months of education and promotion followed by a six-month grace period of trusting smokers' own 'self-enforcement' before council decides what to do about implementing fines and penalties.

East African island holds contest

Likoma Island Conservation Foundation just launched a contest promising cash prizes for the cleanest village, the cleanest market and the cleanest household. It's Malawi's bid to make the island "plastic litter-free" through aggressive disposal and bin use.

Litterland alumnus in America



ELIJAH MENSAH

Elijah Mensah, Founder and Executive Director of [Help Change Ghana](#) and featured several times in this publication, has landed in Connecticut to work with Keep America Beautiful as a Fellow. He applied for and received support from Atlas Service Corps, Inc., ([Atlas Corps](#)), a fellowship program for developing global leaders in areas of critical social impact. At KAB for the next year Mensah will work on cigarette litter prevention.

DID YOU KNOW?

The enforcement arm of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government had to fine a government hospital, several rest houses, the Wildlife Department and the Speaker's House for littering during a recent [agency-ordered crackdown](#) on littering in Nathia Gali, Pakistan.

HEADLINE LITTER GRABBERS (JUL 21 -28)

Some of what made our News Reel this week

A catch phrase for catch basins (7/20)

Baton Rouge, LA offers [storm drain education](#) to reduce street level flooding and water contamination caused by litter clogs. Remember: 'Your storm drain is just for rain.'

Going undercover over what's underfoot (7/22)

Plymouth has a public poop patrol starting Monday -- plainclothes officers on the lookout for irresponsible dog owners who walk away from their pet's mess instead of dealing with it. If caught, the fixed penalty is £100.

Incivility task force set up in south of France (7/22)

Nice, France is tackling uncivil behaviour. Christian Estrosi, the mayor, announced a task force Thursday and unveiled a new app called Allô Maires. It's for reporting littering, noise and parking offences.

Banana leaf packaging hits store shelves (7/23)

Could the banana leaf be the new plastic? The resilient foliage is being used as a wrap for produce on the shelves of grocery stores in Thailand and Vietnam.

Surveying the situation (7/25)

Loddon Mallee, Victoria, AU is surveying the community online to identify the top five littering issues there in advance of drawing up an action plan.

Man litters butt in vicinity of Arizona inferno (7/25)

A [video](#) posted to Facebook of a man flicking a lit cigarette butt in the Museum Fire zone in Arizona led police in Flagstaff to charge him with criminal littering.