

THIS WEEK IN “LITTERLAND”

litterpreventionprogram.com

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Scientists want a ban on cigarette filters

Researchers from London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine and San Diego State University, writing in the *British Medical Journal*, say the sale of cigarettes with filters should be banned across the EU alongside other single-use plastics. Made of cellulose acetate, a non-biodegradable plastic, filters are littered globally by the trillions to the detriment of the environment. The experts found that filters don't make cigarettes safer and called them “the deadliest fraud in the history of civilisation”.



More and more places are waking up to the need to control not only smoking, but vaping.

Ontario to establish a “Day of Action”

The government of Ontario, Canada has set May 12, 2020 as its first designated province-wide cleanup day. Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) Jeff Yurek announced the plan in Innisfil on Tuesday during Waste Reduction Week. A spokesperson at MECP said Friday he'll “work on” answering questions from *Litterland*. They concern budget, public engagement, community supports like supplies, equipment and disposal services, private sector funding, outreach, advertising, and the government's overall litter abatement strategy beyond one day a year. For example, MECP doesn't mention “litter” on its website home page.

Litter wardens to walk the beat in Hull

Local Authority Support Ltd has won the contract from Hull City Council in UK to police the streets and issue £100 fines to people caught littering starting in December. The fine will drop to £80 if paid within seven days.

Butts banned from beaches, parks

A statewide smoking ban starting in 2020 covering 280 of California's state parks and hundreds of coastal beaches was recently signed into law. And Beverly Hills won't sell tobacco products at all by 2021.

Who's on Greenpeace's naughty list?

On October 9 Greenpeace Canada released [the results](#) of its second annual, nationwide, trash audit. Nestlé and Tim Hortons, a national coffee chain, topped the list of identifiable, branded items. Starbucks, McDonald's and Coca-Cola also came up big along the nine shorelines involved in the litter count. The top five types of plastic litter were cigarette butts, bottles, cups, lids, straws and stirrers. Click on this story's headline to read the corporations' responses and more of Greenpeace's critique.

DID YOU KNOW?

Environmentalist Emmanuel Emechete, a climate change expert, is pleading with fellow Nigerians to overcome their indiscriminate littering for health and safety reasons. In an interview with News Agency of Nigeria, he laid out his [antidote](#) for “trash blindness”, which includes intense public education that links littering to blocked drains and deadly flooding.

HEADLINE LITTER GRABBERS (OCT 20 - 27)

Some of what made our News Reel this week

Dear Tobacco Company: No thanks [\(10/21\)](#)

A dedicated picker upper of cigarette butts in the UK mails them back one thousand at a time to tobacco companies in a package marked #HaveYourButtsBack. Jason Alexander, 48, of Ipswich, figures he's picked up half a million butts this year in town and on the beaches.

Connecticut working to nip a bottle problem [\(10/21\)](#)

The state governor kicked off “Don't Trash Connecticut — Nip it in the Bin!” to pump up cleanup efforts there and dissuade the tossing of empty “nips” - tiny booze bottles - from cars. Non-profits have joined to help with the wine and spirits industry-led initiative.

Will Philadelphia go plastic bag-less? [\(10/22\)](#)

A city councilmember in Philadelphia is pushing to do away with plastic bags in that city, calling them “a bane to the environment.” Mark Squilla introduced a bill Tuesday to ban all plastic bags and place a 15-cent fee on paper bags and bags sold as “compostable.”

Student litter trackers at work in Moreland [\(10/21\)](#)

Litter Trackers, an RMIT University/Melbourne Water program funded by Port Phillip Bay Fund in Victoria, AU, has 150 students tracking the path of litter by releasing five plastic bottles fitted with GPS devices in Merri Creek, working with scientists and the community.