

THIS WEEK IN "LITTERLAND"

litterpreventionprogram.com

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The new New York

Today marks the beginning of an era of plastic bag-less shopping across New York State. The statewide bag ban stops retailers from doling out plastic grocery bags and forces them to make customers pay a fee for a paper bag alternative. In an effort to reduce plastic bags in the environment by the billions, shoppers are being coaxed to bring their own bags with the promised sweetener of a 10-cent per bag discount when they do. (Photo, left.) New York is the third US state to implement such a ban.



This Savannah, Georgia garbage truck sign says, "There's a word for people who litter: CRIMINAL."

We think and thank the way this think tank thinks

A right-wing Conservative think tank in the UK issued a [report](#) this week promoting a £500 minimum fine for littering. The group [Bright Blue](#) says this and other measures are crucial for protecting wildlife. In all, there are 50 recommendations including a ban on black plastic and wet wipes.

Cigarette toxins proven to pollute

Toxic chemicals leach from extinguished cigarette butts long after the butt is out, new research from Maryland's National Institute of Standards and Technology has found. The study warns of the health and environmental dangers of "after smoke", a term coined to describe the residual emissions of nicotine and triacetin that linger and pollute their surroundings for up to five days after being stubbed. The duration of extended toxicity surprised the researchers.

Nigeria proposes ban on plastic

Following moves by several other African governments, Nigeria [is banning](#) the plastic bag. And the final strokes are being put to a bill meant to prohibit the production of plastics which pollute the environment. The goal is to eliminate land-based sources of marine litter within five years. Nigeria is among the 20 countries generating 80 percent of the land-based plastics found in the oceans, said the environment committee chair.

DID YOU KNOW?

York County, Pennsylvania has a [free litter disposal program](#) operating under the auspices of [York County Solid Waste Authority](#). For people who decide to pick up litter, one of the issues can be the cost of disposal. This program fixes that head on. It enables volunteer groups to bring up to two tonnes of bagged litter to the depots free of charge.

HEADLINE LITTER GRABBERS (FEB 26 - MAR 1)

Some of what made our News Reel this week

Breaking News: NY bag ban being contested [\(2/28\)](#)

New York's statewide bag ban is already the subject of a court challenge from three plaintiffs to be heard on March 24. No fines will be issued pending a ruling.

Turkish survey finds the biggest trouble spot [\(2/26\)](#)

An examination of Turkey's coast has identified the Black Sea province of Samsun as the country's most littered area, recording 58,000 cubic meters of sea litter.

Litter Gitter trolls for trash in park's waterway [\(2/27\)](#)

A trap to keep detritus out of Irwin Creek in Revolution Park is up and running in Charlotte, North Carolina. It's called the Litter Gitter from the company Osprey Initiative. The city is testing it. So far, so good.

Irish farmers would like to see action [\(2/26\)](#)

The Irish Farmers Association has called for action on dumping in rural areas. Most of the mess can be traced to construction debris and online shopping purchases. The group wants to see a recycling program funded by retailers and names of serial litterers published.

Western Canadian city receives an update [\(2/23\)](#)

Administrators for Alberta, Canada's capital city of Edmonton have generated a report that could be a framework for future actions such as hiking the fine for dumping waste on private lands. It notes a 25 percent drop in littering since 2018 owing to a comprehensive Capital City Cleanup strategy, founded in 2005.