

# THIS WEEK IN "LITTERLAND"

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

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## EDITORIAL

### Waste Reduction Week

Litter, being unlawful waste accumulation, is the antithesis of waste reduction. Across Canada it's Waste Reduction Week from October 18 to 25. And litter? Not a mention on the national [website](#) nor in any of the downloadable [educational materials](#) marking this annual week focused on responsible waste management. Equally sad, the [Recycling Council of Ontario](#) takes a lax approach to litter education, its website offering only [one old mention](#) from 2019! Similarly, Toronto gives the topic of litter prevention the short shrift by not including seminars on litter in its [roster of events](#) for the week. What does it take to get a platform for litter? Why do the agencies most closely linked to litter avoid concentrating on it as a topic area? These are questions *Litterland* would like lawmakers and policy developers to answer.

### Hungary for change

A green lecture series is part of Hungary's plan for consulting with the public on environmental problems. The national series of 12 lectures will include one on waste including the issue of shaping attitudes about and possible sanctions for illegal littering. To be staged at universities across the country, the first was launched on Tuesday by Secretary of State Attila Steiner at the Széchenyi István University in Győr.

### Bombshell beach research

Litter left unattended on Cornwall's beaches would quickly destroy its postcard appeal, a graphic included in new UK research shows. Korev Lager surveyed attitudes and levels of beach litter, then visually portrayed the findings next to a 'before' picture of existing manicured and maintained beaches, like comparing a resort setting to a dumpsite. In the study of 2,000 adults, four in ten admitted to leaving trash behind and more than half of those thought they'd continue their bad habit due to lack of bins, forgetting their litter bag or believing someone else will clean up for them.

Read [30 astonishing facts about littering](#).

## DID YOU KNOW?

Our friends at A Greener Future surpassed a 3 million piece milestone this week, marking the number of littered items their volunteers have rescued since 2014.



An illustrated duck is tripped up in a plastic six-pack ring, one of the litter hazards that causes injury and death in all manner of wildlife.

### HEADLINE LITTER GRABBERS (OCT 10 - 17)

Some of what made our News Reel this week

#### **Reduce plastics, college campuses told** [\(9/11\)](#)

India's University Grant Commission has told colleges to get serious on the 2019 promise they made to reduce plastic use, especially single use plastics, on campus.

#### **Palm Coast contemplates \$1000 fine** [\(9/13\)](#)

On the coast of northeast Florida the litter reality has prompted Palm Coast council member Ed Danko to suggest a local littering fine of one thousand dollars.

#### **Benefits of the UK lockdown identified** [\(9/13\)](#)

Even this nasty pandemic has an upside. Participation in UK cleanups is noticeably higher, says Keep Britain Tidy. Its [#LitterHeroes](#) Facebook group has doubled in size and there's been a surge in requests for litter kits.

#### **Metal-eating bacteria could come in handy** [\(9/11\)](#)

Chilean scientist, Nadac Reales, 33, has filed to patent a bacteria called an 'extremophile', which she discovered can quickly digest metal and convert it to powdery particles, suggesting a future use for it to be 'eating' abandoned farm equipment and other dumped metals.

#### **PPE, inanimate objects, fully safe to pick up** [\(9/13\)](#)

In this [Q&A](#) Dr. Joseph Gastaldo, medical director for infectious diseases at OhioHealth, debunks that COVID virus can transmit through picking up gloves and masks.

#### **'Not down the drain' a returning campaign**

Toronto's yearly reminder of what not to flush, put down a sink or drain is running until November 26. [See it here](#).