

# THIS WEEK IN "LITTERLAND"

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

November 28, 2021



LITTER FREE SUPPLY STATIONS

## Chicago's shack

From Annette Anderson of Friends of the Chicago River: "Just a quick note to say thank you for Litterland! We are working on Litter Free Supply Stations in Chicago, a strategy you shared which was successful in the UK. Keep up the great work. You are so appreciated."



Non-profit [Friends of Chicago River](#) is the only organization solely dedicated to the 156-mile Chicago River system.

## [Pennsylvania's first-ever action plan](#)

Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf and other bigwigs unveiled a statewide litter action plan on November 22. The plan, a first for this state, recognizes the need for behavior change and not just cleaning up the mess, which costs \$14 million annually for highways alone. Backing the drive to shift to litter prevention are measures such as providing the right litter-fighting tools in public-facing facilities. There will be an integrated advertising campaign in the spring of 2022 and enhancements to the existing Leave No Trace and Operation Clean Sweep programs. A pledge was made to bring affordable, convenient waste disposal and recycling service to rural areas of Pennsylvania that currently can't afford it.

## [Mask-picking mom goes high profile](#)

Annamarie McGuffin, of San Mateo County, CA, wasn't content to simply pick up the 400-plus littered masks in her San Carlos neighbourhood since June. She cut off all their elastic strings, then sewed together the masks to make a six-foot mummy sculpture on her lawn for Halloween. She labeled it with a QR code so people could scan it and guess how many masks were used, and gave a prize of a digital gift card for the closest guess. For Thanksgiving? A giant lawn turkey.

## [True cost of littering calculated](#)

Research in the UK by Eunomia and Waste Recovery Action Plan (WRAP) has produced a model that can be used to tally the economic cost of litter, useful for computing the toll litter places on taxpayers. Now, as producers have to start paying for the waste generated by their goods and packaging, governments can use the model to calculate the actual dollar figure they should charge companies. The findings break down the cost of clean up and the cost by litter type.

### Environment ministry raked over coals

Ontario's environment ministry (MECP) has taken heat from the Auditor-General for not undertaking concrete action to increase abysmal industrial and business waste diversion rates. A-G Bonnie Lysyk says this "would likely" mean that the province's landfills will be full within 11 to 14 years. While residences divert their waste at a 50 per cent rate, commercial and industry divert just 15 per cent.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Globally, Plastic Free July's ten years of nudging people to trade plastics for reusable has reduced the use of all bottled water by 2.3%, cut use of all plastic straws by 4% and the use of all fruit and vegetable packaging by 3.1%, the agency says.

## HEADLINE LITTER GRABBERS (NOV 21 - 28)

Some of what made our News Reel this week

### [Cinema litter gets tweets rolling \(11/22\)](#)

A [Tweet](#) from Indonesian singer-songwriter and musician Oslo Ibrahim showing snack bar litter under and around two seats of a movie theatre in Jakarta ignited a discussion about cinema etiquette and generated 107.3K likes and 28K retweets.

### [Dog nearly dies, littering to blame \(11/23\)](#)

A dog owner in Surrey, England is speaking out after her Samoyed rescue dog, Mya, 12, had a near-fatal occurrence after swallowing a littered, 5cm skewer.

### [Meghalaya politician has the right idea \(11/22\)](#)

H.M. Shangpliang, a legislator in Meghalaya, a state in northeastern India, urged the government to come up with an anti-littering policy in a speech to the Assembly.

### [Littering labeled "inhuman behaviour" \(11/23\)](#)

Ladakh MP Jamyang Tsering Namgy [tweeted pix](#) exposing the littering of the Sindhu River during a recent festival and pilgrimage to "strongly condemn" the conduct as "inhuman behaviour". He called for tourists and Pushkaram pilgrims to be slapped with the fine of ₹ 500, equal to about seven dollars American.

### [Litter Commission established in small town \(11/24\)](#)

Maumee, OH has formed a nine-member environment commission comprised of three staff and six citizens.