

THIS WEEK IN "LITTERLAND"

litterpreventionprogram.com

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[The Marine Litter Art Competition](#), organised by Ulster Wildlife and the NI Science Festival invites school children to enter artistic creations made from littered items. The contest opens young eyes to plastic pollution and marine litter.

[Floating barge hits troubled waters](#)

A rough start for the 600-meter-long, solar-powered tube structure that is trolling for plastic waste off the coast of San Francisco: Touted as a way to remove a stew of littered plastic from the so-called Great Pacific Garbage Patch, the massive floating invention hit a snag and has yet to trap any plastic since its launch in September. The speed of the vessel has been unable to keep pace with the drifting plastic. But adjustments are being made and Dutch inventor Boyan Slat, 24, and his team of 80 engineers are confident that tweaks will get the high tech contraption working as it should and trapping some of the trash accumulating in the ocean at a rate equal to about a dump truck a minute, according to Ocean Conservancy. The team had anticipated encountering a few operational bumps on the high seas of innovation. Slat's organization, The Ocean Cleanup, aspires to develop an entire working fleet of the devices and claims it could remove up to half of the plastic in the gyre. [Critics caution](#) that the project represents just one part of a larger solution.

[Ghana's talking about change](#)

Former President Jerry John Rawlings went public with criticism of his compatriots in Ghana and their tendency to litter. He was speaking in Accra at a corporate Thanksgiving service and used the occasion to bemoan what he perceives as a prevailing disregard for the environment. "There are still heaps of refuse, choked gutters, rivers overflowing with filth and our own coastal belt doomed with a sinking amount of waste," he said. He'd support vigilante neighbourhood groups being empowered and trained to ticket for littering.



SEASON'S GREETINGS!

DID YOU KNOW?

New South Wales boasts Australia's largest [waste and recycling fund](#), this year granting one million dollars in total to individuals and groups with good ideas for reducing litter and waste and boosting recycling. The latest [call for applications](#) closed December 21.

HEADLINE LITTER GRABBERS (DEC 16 -23)

Some of what made our News Reel this week

New enforcement team proves productive [\(12/17\)](#)

A new four-person team handled 1,000 complaints about littering, graffiti and vandalism in its first two months on the job in Folkestone & Hythe.

Irish Councillor calls for attitude adjustment [\(12/17\)](#)

David Doran, a councillor in Thurles, wishes that the same attitude applied to parking fines would be applied in enforcing litter laws. He finds litter enforcement is inconsistent and unevenly applied across the county.

'Ambitious' EU targets trumpeted [\(12/19\)](#)

The EU has targeted ten plastic items and fishing gear in a provisional agreement reached in Brussels on Wednesday. It lays out a process for Europe's attack on single-use plastics. The list names plastic cotton buds, cutlery, plates, straws, drink stirrers, sticks for balloons, products made of oxo-degradable plastic and food and beverage containers made of expanded polystyrene.

The action plan requires European Parliament and Council approval and would take effect after two years.

Fiji campaign to begin next week [\(12/21\)](#)

Fiji is out to be known not just for fun and sun, but for cleanliness as well. The environment minister says litter is affecting waterways and ruining drainage systems. A campaign and clampdown will commence next week.