

THIS WEEK IN “LITTERLAND”

litterpreventionprogram.com

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[Plastic-trolling barge busts apart](#)

More troubled waters hit the solar powered rig designed to corral loose plastics and remove them from the Pacific Ocean. Already mired in some technical difficulties, the 600-meter-long floating trap broke apart in rough seas and had to be towed to Hawaii for repairs. As reported in *Litterland* Issue 45, the Dutch invention has yet to extract a single piece of plastic since its launch from San Francisco in September, but [The Ocean Cleanup](#) team remains confident the equipment will eventually work.

An anti-litter [campaign](#) comparing litterers to monkeys is playing out on the ground in Semporna, Malaysia, where a penalty for littering can take a decidedly embarrassing turn. Besides a fine, people who commit a littering offence perform court ordered clean-ups wearing a vest that says “Monyet”, meaning “Monkey”.



[Fines, education, or both? MPs wonder](#)

Rotorua, NZ politicians are divided on whether a bill proposing to increase littering fines to \$1000 from \$400 is the right way to go. MPs debated the Litter (Increased Infringement Fee) Amendment Bill at second reading, some arguing for hitting people in the wallet. Others, believing awareness-building is the route to go, spoke in favour of waste reduction and public education.

[Fermoy declared Ireland’s tidiest](#)

Coveted cleanest-town-in-Ireland honours go to Fermoy, which received its award from the business group running the competition at a ceremony Monday night. Athlone and Killarney earned second and third spots, said En Taisce, the national agency that scores entries from 40 towns and seaside areas on behalf of Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL). The top prize is a specially commissioned public sculpture worth €40,000 plus equally treasured bragging rights for Fermoy, which happens to be the home of Tom Cavanagh, who, in 1996, founded IBAL and the concept of jurisdictions competing to be the cleanest. Worst on 2018’s list was Dublin North Inner City, rated as seriously littered.

HEADLINE LITTER GRABBERS (JAN 6 - 13)

Some of what made our News Reel this week

Competition designed to suit them to a ‘T’ (1/7)

Ahead of its annual watershed spring cleanup on April 13, Clermont County kids in Ohio can design a t-shirt for a chance to win \$100 for themselves and another \$100 for their art class. Students from K-12 may enter the contest, sponsored by the [visitors bureau](#), [realtors](#) and [Duke Energy Fdtn](#). The best anti-litter message wins.

Durban harbour video highlights what’s wrong (1/9)

For evidence that waterways are choking on garbage, Clean Surf Project posted a now-viral [video](#) of a diver surfacing through a sea of litter in Durban Harbour, SA.

Muslim volunteers save parks in shutdown (1/8)

The partial government shutdown in the US means a litter crisis in federal parks. Groups of Ahmadiyya Muslim volunteers have responded with coordinated park cleanup events in six states.

Commuters needed by hazardous litter (1/7)

Litter in Manhattan’s West 181st Street subway station reflects a growing opioid crisis. Discarded hypodermic needles show up regularly now as litter a track level.

Cabinet minister makes a public appeal (1/9)

Littering remains a concern for the tiny island of Fiji, its Fisheries Minister, Semi Koroilavesau, told media, saying he wants people to change their mindset.

DID YOU KNOW?

Church leaders and environmental campaigners from EcoWaste Coalition in Manila put on a pre-holiday [blitz](#) to remind Black Nazarene devotees to go trash-less on Jan. 9, the celebratory day of Traslacion, and not to make the event “Trash-lacion” by littering. They said the 385 tons of mixed garbage collected along the 6 km route for Traslacion 2018 was up 11 percent from the 341 tons picked up during 2017’s procession.