

# THIS WEEK IN "LITTERLAND"

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

January 20, 2019



Photo, left, spells out the recycling rules in Carlaw, Ireland. Part of litter control involves teaching everyone what to put in the bin and how to pack it correctly to prevent blow-away materials and bin contamination, the last thing recycling programs need.

## ["Pigs" deported from New Zealand](#)

Obnoxious tourists from Britain have been booted from New Zealand for littering, intimidation, assault and bilking restaurants. John Johnson and his family members were ordered deported "for matters relating to character", an immigration official said. How bad were they? "Worse than pigs" is how Auckland Mayor Phil Goff described them. The family gained media notoriety after being caught on television leaving a beach strewn with beer boxes, bottles and rubbish. A shoe was thrown at a reporter who had asked for a comment. No bon voyage party for these louts.

Source: VOICEIRELAND.ORG/RAP #binsorted - the monikers of Carlaw's Recycling Ambassador Program, operating with the slogan "Yes Please! Just These In Your Recycling Bin."

## [Ghandi, a personified deterrent](#)

Organizers of the Republic Day Flower Show at Lalbagh Botanical Garden in Bengaluru, India have tapped into the spirit of Mahatma Ghandi to reduce littering at this year's event. They've hired actor Vemgal Somashekhar, 75, to play the spiritual leader and communicate his 'keep it clean' philosophy. Meanwhile, volunteers will be directing people's waste deposits into the right bins. Reusable bottles will be offered at water counters to reduce plastic bottle use.

## [Red light district is in for an overhaul](#)

A report from Amsterdam's Ombudsman calls for sweeping measures to fix that city's broken red light district. The world-famous hub of legal prostitution is also a galley of social problems. Aare Zuurmond cited seven key areas of concern: litter, over-tourism, public nuisance; homelessness, sex work, drugs and criminal infiltration. One of his ideas is to ban eating and drinking in certain areas to cut down on litter. He also advocates more camera supervision for waste dumping.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Northrop Grumman Foundation sponsored a just-released, seven-and-a-half minute [YouTube video](#) for Earth Echo International called *Plastic Seas*. It is hosted by Philippe Cousteau and features some of Australia's prominent litter prevention voices such as Tangaroa Blue and Sustainability Victoria. [www.earthecho.org](http://www.earthecho.org)

## **Gulls to gum: old problems, new solutions**

The traditional plastic garbage bag is no match for seagulls in Aberystwyth, Wales. The town has [switched](#) to reinforced fabric bags in an effort to stop the bothersome birds from pecking bags, ripping out and strewing their contents. In Colchester, UK an [attack on chewing gum](#) litter has begun in the town centre with the installation of 34 Gumdrop® collection bins, made out of recycled gum to receive more raw material - people's chewed gum. The borough is giving away personal gum-collecting key rings too.

## **HEADLINE LITTER GRABBERS (JAN 13 - 20)**

Some of what made our News Reel this week

### **New York governor on the move again [\(1/15\)](#)**

New York Governor Andrew Cuomo announced he will expand his bottle bill and plastic bag ban in part to cut down on litter. More types of beverage containers will be in line for a five-cent returnable deposit fee.

### **Texan students can compete for cash [\(1/16\)](#)**

It can pay for high school seniors in Texas to care about litter. If litter engaged and university bound, they have until March 29 to apply for Don't Mess With Texas scholarships, one for \$6,000 and two for \$2,000.

### **Not enough business, company calls it quits [\(1/17\)](#)**

3GS, a litter enforcement company, split amicably with Bradford, UK saying profits weren't sufficient to warrant the contract. Use of the firm saw penalties surge to 850 in 2018 from two in 2016. The council hopes to build on that success using in-house personnel.

### **Councillor rails against bad ranking [\(1/17\)](#)**

Ireland's recent cleanliness grading method is under fire. Councillor Mary Fitzpatrick of Dublin panned IBAL's Litter League 2018 report and disputed her area's rock-bottom ranking, calling it unfair and demoralizing to hardworking and effective local clean-up groups. She blamed Dublin's low score on a recent policy change that ended bin waivers and caused increased dumping.