

THIS WEEK IN "LITTERLAND"

litterpreventionprogram.com

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[Birmingham targets the D.U.M.M.Y](#)

They're after the person who's acting like the 'dummy' in Birmingham, Alabama. The city's mayor, Randall Woodfin, launched a new anti-litter campaign on Tuesday built on a clever acronym. [Don't Be A D.U.M.M.Y](#) for Dumping Ugly Mess in My Yard. It stresses that littering and dumping are illegal and encourages citizens to call 311 to report infractions. The mayor wants people to take photos and videos and work with the city's magistrate's office to make arrests. A first dumping offence carries a fine of \$500.

[Health brass gives nod to filter ban](#)

As the Tobacco Product Waste Reduction Act to ban filters on cigarettes and e-cigarettes in New York State winds through the lawmaking process, Broome County Health Department already offers free signage to businesses willing to deem their area a tobacco free zone. Officials say filters prompt deeper inhalation of tobacco toxins and increase the health risk to smokers. When littered, the butts pollute the environment and spoil appearances.

['Sky litter' ban exempts fireworks](#)

A new outdoor events strategy in Brighton and Hove puts the lid on uncontrolled 'sky litter'. It was designed to stop to the release of balloons and sky lanterns, also known as Chinese lanterns, while allowing the annual, supervised fireworks displays to proceed.

[Return and Earn churns out a monster](#)

A sea monster constructed from 4,000 plastic bottles and cans is on display until this coming Wednesday at the Australian National Maritime Museum, Darling Harbour, NSW. It draws attention to returnandearn.org.au, the two-year-old deposit-return system that has captured three billion containers and is currently raising money for bushfire and drought affected communities.



[A sculpture](#) on the West Columbia River Walk gives trekkers something to think about. To convey a bigger picture message about littering, artist Karl L. Larsen, of Columbia, SC made this giant bottle using 12,000 bottles found tossed on the site over time.

HEADLINE LITTER GRABBERS (JAN 19 - 26)

Some of what made our News Reel this week

Starbucks pledges to do better [\(1/23\)](#)

Seattle-based coffee marketing maven Starbucks has pledged to become more "resource positive", promising marked changes by 2030. The company will spend the next year on market research and developing a plan to cut its carbon emissions, water use and waste in half. Watch for a move to plant-based alternatives to dairy and fully sustainable/recyclable packaging.

Good is being done in the name of MLK [\(1/20\)](#)

Chickasaw National Park in Oklahoma fittingly chose Martin Luther King Day for doing some good. A litter pick was held to honour the man and the holiday.

Bins, be gone! Council takes away trash bins [\(1/23\)](#)

Over a local councillor's objection, Leitrim Council has ordered the removal of three more of its public litter bins - this time in Drumkeerin - in response to misuse. The no-no? People dumped household waste in the bins.

Ireland lays out the nation's annual statistics [\(1/21\)](#)

Ireland's EPA says local authorities received 78,000 environmental complaints in 2018. Ninety percent of them were about litter. There were 20,000 enforcement actions and more than 850 prosecutions flowing from 168,000 inspections relating to the environment. Many of the prosecutions were sparked by unpaid litter fines.

DID YOU KNOW?

The government of Austin, TX will spend \$500,000 for a yearlong examination of rampant rented scooter dumping and other litter pollution problems in city waterways with an eye on the impact and solutions. "For the love of Pete, act your age," said Council Member Ann Kitchen before [Council voted](#) for the study. "People, don't go throwing scooters into the dang creek."