THIS WEEK IN "LITTERLAND"

<u>litterpreventionprogram.com</u>



@LitterNoMore

August 23, 2020



At left, Stay Out Of Tahoe. Don't Trash Our Home! Tourists -- Go Away! These were among the harsh and uninviting sentiments on signs at a protest rally last weekend in the California tourist town. Irate residents say the littering problem has never been worse. Crowds of visitors are not respecting the rules nor are they physically distancing during COVID-19. Some leave soiled baby diapers behind and build bonfires on the beach.

Germany goes after utensil makers

Producers of plastic cutlery will be paying for litter clean up if the German government has its way. A proposal to go after the manufacturers of single use eating utensils to recover the cost of litter remediation is on the table. That cost, pegged at €700 million a year by a study done for VKU, the country's network of utilities, includes in its calculation €225 million for cigarette butt removal and €120 million to deal with single-use plastic cups.

Vancouver cleanups are back on track

After an unwanted hiatus imposed by the arrival of COVID-19, badly needed group cleanup events are resuming in Vancouver, Canada. Groups are limited to 20 participants and they must leave sufficient space between one another. Still, the city wants volunteers to renew their involvement and is providing all the gear to ensure everyone's safety.

'All-natural' balloons? Don't believe a word of it.

A University of Tasmania study completely deflates any claim advertising latex balloons as "100% biodegradable". At the end of 16-weeks of stress tests in sun, saltwater, fresh water and a composter, the balloons were still intact.

Western Australia's strategy

Five years into its statewide litter reduction plan and Western Australia is entering Phase 2. Environment Minister Stephen Dawson unveiled WA's 2020-25 strategy. Efforts to date have brought a 30 per cent drop in the amount of litter. Looking to reduce another 30 per cent by 2025 it is believed a ban on lightweight plastic bags and the introduction of the container deposit scheme, Containers for Change, which is due to start on October 1, 2020, will help.

Face masks foil identification

In Vietnam Ho Chi Minh City's 200 cameras coupled with citizen cooperation have sharply reduced the rate of littering in some area hot spots but now there's a new, unanticipated glitch: face masks. When masked, people who litter can't be identified sufficiently to be slapped with any penalty unless they confess.

DID YOU KNOW?

A nose for litter, an eye for art, a hand for writing, <u>The Litter I See Project</u> combines all three in a website whose contributors use litter as a source of inspiration and creative output.

HEADLINE LITTER GRABBERS (AUG 16 - 23)

Some of what made our News Reel this week

Waste management takes a turn in Poland (8/21) How waste is managed in Poland will change this fall. A tenfold increase in fines for littering to €1,140 is part of the announced package as is a crackdown on dumpers. Apparently their aim is poor in Lausanne (8/21) Only one-quarter of trash in Lausanne, Switzerland makes it into public bins. Highway litter removal there totals 1,700 tonnes, draining the civic purse of 16 million francs a year. Part Two of the city's litter campaign is launching with a focus on the value of good deeds. Cyprus locals angry about beach invaders (8/19) Clean-practising Cypriots are unhappy. One activist told a Cyprus news agency about "a spike" in fires and "ugly scenes of rubbish" on Voroklini-Pyla beaches due to 'staycationers' and their lack of environmental insight. How to stop girls from littering again (8/17) Manchester police in an unmarked car sighted two teenaged girls throwing glass bottles on a Hulme street. They made the red-faced young women clean up the street to avoid receiving a fine, then tweeted about it. British group hopes its 'C.O.O.L.' gets hot (8/17) The Tiverton Volunteer Litter Pickers group devised Clean-up, Our, Own Litter (COOL) to show and teach young people that it's cool to pick up litter.