

# THIS WEEK IN “LITTERLAND”

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## America leads in plastic pollution

The United States ranks third globally in its contribution to plastic pollution in the oceans, says a new study published in the journal, *Science Advances*. Scientists from DSM Environmental Services, University of Georgia, Sea Education Association and Ocean Conservancy collaborated to analyze how well the world's largest plastics user manages its waste. They took a broad look at the impact of the US exporting plastic waste to developing countries and concluded this has caused 2.25 million metric tons of plastics to be dumped illegally. Of this, up to 1.5 million metric tons of plastics ended up in coastal environments within 50 km of a coastline, the study reported. Although comprising just 4 percent of the world's population Americans generate 17 percent of all plastic, twice as much as the Europeans.

## 'Snip the straps': wildlife agency

Since the UK's COVID-19 pandemic lockdown last spring more than 900 wild creatures have been ensnared and injured after becoming entangled in the straps on face masks. The RSPCA took to social media to plead with mask wearers to “snip the straps” before disposing of masks, comparing the elastic strings to six-pack rings that are slowly being phased out in the beverage industry because of their hazard to wildlife.

## Pakistani youth part of solution

College and university students in Islamabad are engaged in picking up litter in the city's hotspots, a trend that government officials say has emerged among youth in Pakistan lately.

## Young people in Borneo on board

Miri Eco Beach Fest took place in Borneo, where 60 youth ages 17-24 engaged in an all-day bid to provide litter-free beaches to the public. The day, sponsored by Paint the World, involved a cleanup, installing awareness signs, virtual and physical workshops, including Sunrise Yoga at 6:30 a.m.

## DID YOU KNOW?

2020 British Beach Clean tallies (pieces found per 100 metres of beach surveyed): Plastic and polystyrene pieces (0-50cm) – 167; Plastic and polystyrene caps and lids – 19.7; Wet wipes – 17.7; Cigarette stubs – 16.2; Plastic string – 15.8



## Woodsy Owl revival time

A popular anti-litter bird from 1971 has been coaxed out of the retirement nest to help promote tidy outdoor conduct in the Rio Grande National Forest. A Colorado group, San Juan Mountains Association, saw Woodsy Owl as the perfect pitchman, um, bird, for the job. “Give a hoot, don't pollute” was a very popular campaign in the '70s featuring the feathered, litter prevention superhero.

## HEADLINE LITTER GRABBERS (NOV 1 - 8)

Some of what made our News Reel this week

### **Halloween monsters leave fireworks behind (11/2)**

Some Vancouverites took to Twitter with photos of trash they picked up after the Halloween weekend. One person bagged “40lbs of trash, mostly fireworks remnants.” The fire department reported \$450,000 damage Halloween night. Selling and possessing fireworks became illegal in Vancouver on November 1.

### **Litter-picking documentary in the works (11/2)**

Eddie Platt, 42, of Leeds, is trekking from Marseilles to Paris picking up littered face masks as he goes. He has collected 2,543 so far. Journalist Fred Munsch is filming for a documentary film he's making about the journey, which is due to end in Paris on November 19.

### **Ticket-ripping man receives another ticket (11/4)**

After police in Diego Martin, Trinidad & Tobago ticketed a pedestrian for not wearing a face mask, he tore up the ticket and cast it to the ground right in front of them. So the officer then handed him a ticket for littering.

### **Group reacts to ban on booze in mini-bottles (11/5)**

As jurisdictions across the state move to ban small 50ml liquor bottles, or “nips”, the Massachusetts Package Store Association has partnered with Keep America Beautiful to sponsor cleanups of all types of litter, arguing that strategy will work better than a ban on nips.