

THIS WEEK IN "LITTERLAND"

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Marine wildlife sanctuary gets help

In 16 days a team of eleven volunteers retrieved 82,000 pounds of trash in an effort to clean up the sensitive waters of the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument in Honolulu. The Hawaiian atoll of Lalo and the tiny, sandy Pacific isles around it house turtles, seals and 18 varieties of seabirds, which risk injury, choking and entrapment from litter. Heavy lumber, fishing nets, steel cable and plastic formed part of the haul and was attributed to 2018's Hurricane Walaka. Find more info at the [Marine Debris Project](#).

Parks achieve big drop in butt litter

Four state parks in Pennsylvania registered a combined 92 per cent drop in cigarette butt littering in 2019 thanks to a \$10,000 grant from Keep America Beautiful. Main planks of the Cigarette Litter Prevention Program are ash receptacles, enforcement and pocket ashtray giveaways on top of education.



Brantford Sunrise Rotary Clubs - now that's service! They donned their casuals, grabbed their gear and kicked off their first "clean up our parks" event in five Brantford, Ontario parks - a model for others.

Complaint launched over 'flushables'

Ontario's Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks says it will respond to a complaint letter from Litterland's creator about wipes products that are promoted as "flushable". Wipes are plastic sheets whose final resting place should be the garbage. They don't disperse or breakdown in water like tissue. Instead they form clogs that lead to water and sewer equipment breakdowns at a frightful cost to taxpayers. Never flush them.

Plastic used to make hydrogen

Wales is funding a Welsh/India study team at Swansea University looking at converting medical waste such as masks and gloves into a hydrogen fuel using sunlight and a new process called photoreforming. It's ready for industry partners to help ready the technology for market. It kills viruses while turning non-recyclable waste into clean hydrogen fuel.

Texas seeking the perfect song pitch

If you know a Houston crooner or an Austin artist, tell them Don't Mess With Texas is searching for a 30-second theme song. Contest closes Dec. 31.

HEADLINE LITTER GRABBERS (NOV 15 - 22)

Some of what made our News Reel this week

'A pandemic for the ocean' fear is floated (11/17)

PPE, the horrible, new litter type that people are failing to control, is prompting a dire warning from the Marine Conservation Society: Unchecked ridding of gloves and masks is creating "a pandemic for the ocean" with some item of PPE being found every 100 meters of UK beach.

South Carolina gets staff involved (11/17)

South Carolinian Governor Pamela Evette joined Palmetto Pride at Clemson University for the kick-off of a statewide "Grab a Bag SC 2020". State employees took part in a cleanup Tuesday to inspire citizens to clean up litter one bag at a time.

Masks get top billing for wrong reason (11/18)

Hull, UK residents use 199,943 disposable face masks each and every day, according to new figures. They are fingered as the cause of "a major new environmental crisis" - 58.8 million used daily across the UK, 53 million of which goes to landfill, and 29 billion a month used worldwide. A Hull waste company official called them "the new cigarette butt".

One million dollars given to litter projects (11/20)

New South Wales [announced](#) the worthy recipients of 1.1-million dollars in community litter prevention project grants, an annual program in that Australian state.

DID YOU KNOW?

In October a single region of the Greater Toronto Area found 120,000 items of PPE wrongly placed in recycling bins instead of the garbage. This resulted in contamination of York Region's recycling loads. Usually municipalities must pay processors cash penalties for impure loads.