

THIS WEEK IN "LITTERLAND"

litterpreventionprogram.com

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PLEASE
Do Not
Litter



Terre Haute City Council in Indiana voted to hike maximum fines for littering to \$500 from \$300 in a vote of 8-0 on Thursday. Some members did express doubt, however, that their decision would actually deter littering.



A doctored photo? We'd like to think so, but animal welfare and rights groups increasingly report harm and injury to wildlife due to littered face masks from strangulation and ingestion. [AFP is reporting](#) macaques in Kuala Lumpur were seen chewing on face masks, as apparently shown in this unattributed image.

Our laundry increases ocean microplastics

Scientists blame "fast fashion" and laundering synthetic fibers like nylon, polyester and acrylic for the microplastic soup degrading Arctic Ocean waters. Ocean Wise Conservation scientists in Vancouver, BC say washing machine discharges from Atlantic Ocean countries in Europe, Canada and the US are to blame.

Plastic-free resolutions for 2021

The Plastic Free Foundation has ideas for New Year's Resolutions for plastic addicts:

1. swap out one single-use plastic product with a reusable alternative e.g. coffee cup
2. take stock of how much plastic you currently use by doing this [plastic free quiz](#).
3. plan to participate in [Plastic Free July](#), the charity's signature initiative

Condom user chastised on a sign

A disgusted resident of Bishan, Singapore took the taboo issue of condom litter public after finding a used condom on the ground, apparently tossed from a building. A posted sign written in Chinese and English with a photo of the rubber said, "May the owner of this small, short and sad used condom please come bring it home. Also, remember that high rise littering is a crime! If you don't know how to use and throw properly then don't have sex (and please don't reproduce)." A timely reminder that sex-related litter is no joke.

DID YOU KNOW?

A [new poll](#) on our website canvasses opinion on the idea of lifting DNA from littered items and using the test results to identify and fine the person responsible. The poll also asks whether dog DNA tests should be registered so that poop left unattended can be linked to the dog owner.

HEADLINE LITTER GRABBERS (JAN 10 - 17)

Some of what made our News Reel this week

Beach clean revelation in New South Wales [\(1/12\)](#)

In Byron Bay, AU, the council's "Butt Free Byron Shire" drive operates with a state grant, to clean up beaches, educate and enforce with patrols. Cigarette butts account for 82 per cent of litter in this NSW locale.

'Lockdown litter' loose cups raise ire [\(1/12\)](#)

A Dundee councillor railed publicly about coffee cup carelessness in Broughty Ferry, Scotland. Cllr Craig Duncan says the height of disrespect is shown by "people who apparently can be bothered to lug around a hot drink" during the pandemic "but cannot be bothered to take the empty cup to the nearest bin."

Make Martin Luther King Day extra special [\(1/15\)](#)

Americans are being urged to pick up litter on Monday - Martin Luther King Day - as an act of service that day.

Vietnamese city pledges action on littering [\(1/12\)](#)

Ho Chi Minh City vowed to kick-start a dialogue with residents and local authorities to improve hygiene, protect the environment and ensure recycling exists along with cameras and fines as littering deterrents. The cumbersomely named 'City Dwellers Do Not Litter on Streets and Channels for a Greener City' is two years old and has conquered some trouble spots.

Scotland prepares for a litter emergency [\(1/14\)](#)

CEO Barry Fisher touts Keep Scotland Beautiful's new report, "[Time for a new approach to tackling litter](#)", and its eight-point plan to tackle a "litter emergency".