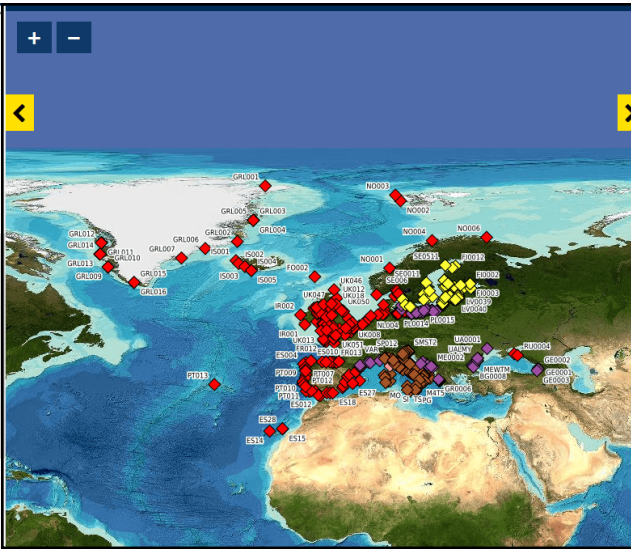


THIS WEEK IN "LITTERLAND"

litterpreventionprogram.com

May 23, 2021



The EU presented [new maps](#) showing the extent of marine litter in European oceans. [Press release](#)

[Toronto eyes Voluntary Measures Program](#)



VMP, or Voluntary Measures Program, urging bring-your-own bags, cutlery, coffee mugs and containers will be debated by a Toronto committee on Tuesday. A staff report calls for a plan to communicate with businesses about the move away from single use plastics, some of which are slated for [federal bans](#)

at the end of 2021. The city hopes to draw eateries and retailers onside as partners with a campaign of some sort to encourage consumers to make the switch and reduce their overreliance on takeaway plastics: straws, cups, etc. VMP was recommended over charging fees or surtaxes on these items. *Litterland* publisher [Sheila White asked the committee](#) to include litter messaging as part of the effort since single use plastics are a litter problem. "Since the goal is to target the food and restaurant industry it makes sense to incorporate litter prevention/reduction information into the messaging," she said. Meanwhile, announced this week, Rouge National Urban Park in Toronto has banned barbecues there because of littering. Open fires are already prohibited.

[Scientific breakthrough](#)

A microscopic marine invertebrate called tunicate is helping scientists to measure the level of minute plastics infiltrating our oceans. Findings from this high-level team project co-led by the European Commission and the National Institute of Standard and Technology were just published as a 'proof of principle' in the scientific journal *Microplastics and Nanoplastics*. The organism, the highly efficient *C. Robusta* tunicate species, is a filter that stores the near-invisible plastic particulate. Researchers created a chip that causes microplastics in the harvested tunicates to cluster and be measured.

[Warning of one month in jail](#)

The Islamabad Wildlife Management Board has cautioned that harsh penalties including heavy fines and one month in jail could befall anyone who degrades Margalla Hills National Park through smoking, bonfires, BBQs, tree cutting, littering and encroachment.

Quick tip: When cutting grass don't mow over litter.

DID YOU KNOW?

[A move is afoot](#) among residents in British Columbia's scenic Tofino-Ucluelet to remove hundreds of lovers' padlocks or "love locks" coupled with trash visitors keep adding to a chain link fence along Hwy 4 near Wally Creek in the scenic Vancouver Island region.

HEADLINE LITTER GRABBERS (MAY 16 - 23)

Some of what made our News Reel this week

Auckland hosts neat, useful workshop [\(5/17\)](#)

East Auckland, NZ held a six-hour Litter Intelligence Education Professional Development Day on May 17.

Greenpeace harps at Keep America Beautiful [\(5/19\)](#)

In a [press release](#) Greenpeace criticized litter agency Keep America Beautiful's focus on prevention, saying its corporate partners should instead be intent on ending their reliance on single use plastic packaging.

Litter kills, Smoky Mountain area sign says [\(5/20\)](#)

A mobile sign by the highway in touristy Sevier County, Tenn. illuminates park ranger warnings not to toss trash from vehicles because it draws creatures to the road, endangering them. "Litter kills bears," the sign blares. "If you litter you will be prosecuted."

Student uses robotics, invents 'trashketball' [\(5/21\)](#)

Two boys in Cumberland, Maryland used robotics to design hoops that fit above public waste bins and made eye-catching backboards for their 'trashketball' concept for promoting exercise and cleaning up the park.

Investments in dirty, Big Plastic sagging [\(5/20\)](#)

Reuters has reported a downturn in private equity going into the \$265-billion global plastic packaging sector from 2016 to 2020 - 30 percent less than the previous five-year period as environmental values gained credence.