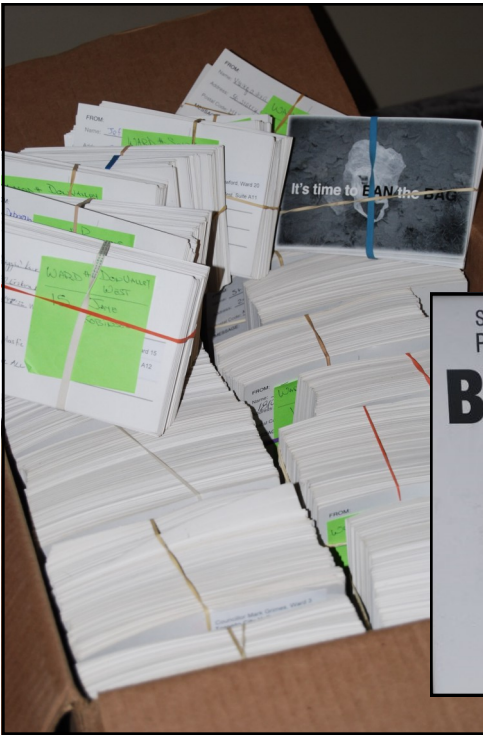


THIS WEEK IN "LITTERLAND"

litterpreventionprogram.com

January 16, 2022



"It's time to ban the bag"

Group delivers postcards to Toronto Council

StopPlastics, a volunteer group in Toronto, Canada is blitzing city council with postcards from people wanting plastic shopping bags banned outright. The group criticizes the city's go-slow approach toward the elimination of the plastic bag, one of the world's truly egregious litter problems. Instead of prohibition, council opted for something gentler, bag fees and an on-request plan for bags and other single use plastics.



Vancouver has a single-use strategy

The next phase of Vancouver's commitment to rid its environment of plastic kicked in on January 1. Now there's a ban on businesses using single use plastic bags and compostable plastic bags. They must charge a fee for paper and reusable bags and keep track of those sales. According to the city's website, about 89 million plastic shopping bags and 4 million paper shopping bags were thrown in the garbage in Vancouver in 2018. Plastic bags were the sixth most common type of litter found on shorelines in 2019, according to the Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup.

Packaging pact is promising

An all-in coalition involving University of Arizona and Arkansas State University, key corporations and NGOs was announced Tuesday. Its goal is to develop sustainable small format plastics - items smaller than two inches in size like bottle caps and packaging used in cosmetics and food services. Procter & Gamble, Colgate-Palmolive, Burt's Bees, recycling and packaging groups, non-profits and academics will cooperate on the project to make small format plastics recyclable, all of it steered by The Sustainability Council.

Singapore reports on use of cameras

In Singapore surveillance cameras with video analytics are deployed to curtail high-rise littering when all else fails. In the last five years they have detected the source of littering in about 40% of the cases and of those 96.5% of the time the offender could be identified, said environment minister Grace Fu in a [written response](#) to Parliament.

DID YOU KNOW?

Lead author of "[Increased personal protective equipment litter as a result of COVID-19 measures](#)", published in December, concludes that requiring the use of masks and gloves needs accompanying education campaigns, and support to limit their release into the environment.

HEADLINE LITTER GRABBERS (JAN 9 - 16)

Some of what made our News Reel this week

Scotland's enforcement failures questioned (1/7)

Of the 134,974 reports of fly-tipping received in Scotland only 34 of them faced prosecution. Glasgow and Edinburgh recorded the highest number of dumping incidents with 48,539 and 25,717 respectively. An opposition politician charged that the government has "effectively legalised littering" by doing so little.

Celebrity salutes hometown's "5 x 5" success (1/9)

East Kilbride Community Litter Pickers received a nice boost: a video from British TV star Lorraine Kelly, who took time to thank and commend the club of 1,500 volunteers for its 5 x 5 pledge to fill one bag with litter weekly for five weeks. East Kilbride is her hometown.

Elephants dining in garbage dump a shocker (1/11)

Conservationists in India studying the diet of wild elephants were shocked to find masks, plastic bags, biscuit wrappers, milk packets and what appear to be sanitary pads and hair bands in the animals' dung.

Pennsylvania's contest gives litter its focus (1/13)

Every year this local contest for amateur shutterbugs in Pennsylvania catches our eye. Lens on Litter searches for arresting litter images, judged on anti-litter message, originality, photographic technique, quality of photo, originality of title and severity of the litter. Cash prizes.