

# THIS WEEK IN "LITTERLAND"

[litterpreventionprogram.com](http://litterpreventionprogram.com)

February 20, 2022

## Mayor in hot water

New York Mayor Eric Adams is in the hot seat for comparing current approaches to growing problems linked to homeless people who inhabit the subway system to "putting a BandAid on a cancerous sore" after unveiling a 17-point enforcement plan for cleaning up rule-breaking conduct in the underground such as drug use, littering, lying down on seats and "using the subway for any purpose other than transportation." One housing advocate decried his remark as "sickening." Adams says homeless people need treatment.

**PHOTO: Getting eight litter bins placed along busy East 86th Street in New York City was one of new Councilmember Julie Menin's first items of business in her district.**



## Louisiana looking at its problem

The office of the Lieutenant Governor of Louisiana will lead the 26-member task force announced one month ago by Gov. John Bel Edwards. At the first meeting of the governor's Task Force on Statewide Litter Abatement and Beautification held on Feb. 15 Lt. Governor Billy Nungesser spoke to the newly formed body about the goal to stop the growing amount of litter. He briefed members on the need for education and gave them a keen understanding of the issue, saying best practices, good lessons and strong committees are essential to the success of the task force - a hybrid of non-profit interests, business and levels of government. Louisiana consistently ranks as a trashy state. In 2017 it became mandatory to have litter education [in the school curriculum](#) for grades K-5.

## Probe root causes: research

Win Cowger, an environmental researcher at University of California, Riverside, is urging policymakers to attack the root causes of littering rather than relying on cleanups as the answer. Drawing from analysis of his litter audits at 18 sites, he found that cleanups are no permanent solution to littering and don't appear to actually lessen future accumulations. Published last week in the journal, [Environmental Research](#), his findings run counter to the commonly held belief that cleanups reduce the likelihood of littering and deter the rate of occurrences. Cowger hopes his findings will be used to support evidence-based solutions to the litter problem, such as litter taxes and holding brands accountable for packaging of theirs that becomes litter. He found that some of the most common trash items in the region were single-use food packaging, and that nearly 60% of all litter was plastic. The most common brands identified were Mars Inc., Jack in the Box, and tobacco companies Phillip Morris and RJ Reynolds.

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

Responding to a question in Singapore's Legislature on Friday, environment minister Amy Khor explained why high-rise littering receives more focused enforcement attention than cigarette butt littering. See [video](#).

## **HEADLINE LITTER GRABBERS (FEB 13 - 20)**

Some of what made our News Reel this week

### **Attempts made to control political litter (2/14)**

Campaigning for the May elections in the Philippines began Feb. 8 prompting Metropolitan Manila to tell people not to litter at rallies. The environment ministry issued [a statement](#) telling candidates to be responsible.

### **Manatees stuck in trashy Florida river (2/15)**

A video shows littered trash in Hillsborough River, FL making life inhospitable for about a dozen manatees whose habitat is being overtaken by garbage. Officials recorded 1,100 manatee deaths in the state last year, boat strikes and polluted waters among the causes.

### **Come Home Year Cleanup in Canada's east (2/15)**

2022 is Come Home Year in Newfoundland & Labrador. To celebrate, the government is funding community clean up activities with grants of up to \$5,000.

### **Beach smoking bill headed to Senate (2/15)**

Florida Republican Joe Gruter's anti-butts-on-beach bill is headed for the Senate. The Rules Committee passed [Bill SB-224](#) Tuesday. It empowers local governments to create smoking zones and bans in parks and beaches.

### **Upcoming UN says pact on plastic is crucial (2/18)**

The United Nations says this month's 100+-nation agreement for attacking plastic pollution is as important to the planet as the Paris climate accord of 2015.