

BRITISH GARBAGE STRIKE – August 2022

1. Brighton and Hove residents worry about rats and foxes as more refuse and recycling walkouts planned

Caroline Davies

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Piles of rubbish outside the usually picturesque Montpelier Crescent. Photograph: Aleksandra Raluca Dragoi/The Guardian

Brighton’s sea air is taking on a distinctly unsavoury tang as the smell of rotting garbage gently permeates parts of the city.

One week into a strike by refuse lorry drivers – which could last until mid-November – bin bags are piling high on its streets to the dismay of its human residents and delight of its vermin.

“It’s obviously going to attract foxes and rats and gulls. We have loads of gulls here, and they are pecking the bags open,” said Marie De Vere, picking her way through a passageway in the shoulder-high piles of bags covering the pavement in one road in the Seven Dials area of the city.

“It is really dreadful,” she added, surveying the overflowing communal bins outside the genteel Victorian terrace of Montpelier Crescent, now home to one of largest rubbish mounds in Brighton and Hove.

2. Strike by waste workers in Scotland fills streets with garbage

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11:39 AM PDT



Waste is overflowing from bins on a street amid a strike by waste services workers in Edinburgh, Scotland, Britain, August 26, 2022. REUTERS/Andy Bruce.

LONDON, Aug 26 (Reuters) - A strike by Scottish refuse workers over pay is spreading to more cities, with garbage from unattended bins overflowing on to Edinburgh's high streets, raising a stink during the city's international arts and Fringe festivals.

Pay negotiations between local authorities and union leaders have been ongoing but Edinburgh's bin strikes, which began on Aug. 18, are set to continue until Tuesday, the day after the festival ends.

3. Rubbish to pile up in busy Australian city as workers refuse to clean up filthy streets and strike promising it will 'last as long as it takes'

- Garbage collection workers are striking in the Melbourne CBD over a pay dispute
- About 100 staff at contractor Citywide demand a \$50-a-week pay increase
- Their union said they were prepared to keep striking until Citywide negotiates

By BRETT LACKEY FOR DAILY MAIL AUSTRALIA

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About 100 garbage collection workers in Melbourne are on strike with rubbish left to accumulate in bins (file image)

Citywide holds the contract with the City of Melbourne for waste management services including emptying residential and council rubbish bins, along with kerbside collections and asphalt cleaning.

Municipal & Utilities Workers Union president Jennifer Marriott said the union has no intention of backing down.

4. Outside Climate Summit, Trash in Glasgow Piles High

The New York Times

At COP26, delegates address the need to curb emissions and mass consumption to save the planet while the reality of today's throwaway society is all too apparent nearby.



Trash piled up this week in Glasgow's streets in Finnieston, an area near the COP26 summit. Credit...Kieran Dodds for The New York Times

By Jenny Gross Published Nov. 11, 2021 Updated Dec. 6, 2021

GLASGOW — In Gaelic, “Glasgow” translates to “dear green place,” a nod to the parks, gardens and flourishing green spaces throughout the city. But according to Chris Mitchell, who was a garbage collector there for more than two decades, the only thing flourishing in Glasgow these days is “a mountain of waste.”

As diplomats at the U.N. climate summit in Glasgow this week preach about the need to curb both greenhouse gas emissions and mass consumption to protect the planet, the reality of today's throwaway society can be seen just a short way from the conference's doorstep.

Outside the gleaming center of Scotland's largest city, dumpsters and trash cans are overflowing. The city's rat population has surged, with four garbage workers treated at area hospitals because of attacks over the past 10 months. And litter is strewn across streets.

Mr. Mitchell, a senior official for the GMB Scotland trade union, which represents the city's 1,000 garbage collectors among other workers, said they staged an eight-day strike that ended on Monday because they were tired of poor working conditions, lack of respect from management and low wages.
