



The Environmental Impact of Cigarettes

Each year billions of dollars are spent on tobacco-related environmental issues. From production to disposal, cigarettes contribute to environmental damage. Knowing how smoking harms the planet can lead to proper disposal and more reasons to quit.

The Tobacco Industry and the Environment

There are no regulatory polices aimed at holding the tobacco industry accountable for waste and environmental impacts of smoking. Each phase of commercial tobacco production contributes to negative environmental impacts, such as greenhouse gas emissions, secondhand smoke, and litter.

Cultivation

An estimated 494,000 acres of land is cleared for commercial tobacco cultivation. Soil is often not suitable for growing commercial tobacco long-term, so forests are often burned to make room for more land. Burning land increases greenhouse gas levels by generating pollutants. Six hundred million trees get cut down per year by the tobacco industry. For every 15 packs of cigarettes, 1 tree gets cut down.

Large amounts of fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides are used for growing commercial tobacco. Not only does this impact the land the tobacco is grown on, but the toxins and chemicals from these products remain on the tobacco that people eventually inhale.

Manufacturing and Smoking

Toxins from cigarette manufacturing and secondhand smoke are released into the air that all people breathe.

Cigarette Litter

Cigarette butts are the most frequently littered items in U.S. beaches, waterways, roads, retail areas, storm drains, construction sites, and recreational areas. They are the second most littered item globally.

Cigarette butts are made of plastic that is not biodegradable. Chemicals from cigarette butts drain into the soil and can end up in rivers and oceans eventually getting into our drinking water.

Quitting

The best way to reduce your contribution to the environmental problems caused by cigarettes is to quit! For FREE help visit projectfilter.org or call 1-800-QUIT-NOW.



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