

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF SMOKING AND VAPING TOOLKIT



Environmental Impact of Cigarettes & Vaping Toolkit Overview

Cigarettes and vape devices pose a huge threat to the environment. With knowledge about the environmental impacts of smoking as well as resources to help people quit, we hope to reduce the impact these items have on our environment.

The tobacco industry isn't held accountable for proper disposal of cigarette butts and vape devices. Cigarette butts are one of the most littered items around the world. Vape devices contain plastic, electronic, and chemical waste that can significantly impact the environment when improperly disposed.

This toolkit includes fact sheets, a brochure, social media posts, and a sample press release to support education about the environmental impact of cigarettes and vape devices and resources to quit.

To order branded or non-branded social media images or to receive printed copies of the fact sheets or brochure, email projectfilter@dhw.idaho.gov.



Facts

- When cigarette butts and vape devices are disposed of improperly, they release harmful chemicals into the environment
- **600 million** trees per year get cut down by the tobacco industry
- For every **15 packs** of cigarettes, 1 tree gets cut down

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The best way to not contribute to these environmental problems caused by cigarettes and vape devices is by quitting!

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Free help to quit

- ✓ Project Filter has free resources to help Idahoans quit smoking
- ✓ Project Filter provides support, including quit coaching & planning, educational materials, patches, gum, or lozenges, and referrals to local resources
- ✓ Call 1-800-QUIT-NOW or visit www.projectfilter.org



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Environmental Impacts of Smoking and Vaping

Knowing how smoking and vaping harm the planet can lead to proper disposal and more reason 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.

The tobacco industry contributes to several environmental impacts such as greenhouse gas emissions, secondhand smoke, pollution, and litter.

Cigarettes: Thousands of acres of land are burned each year for commercial tobacco production. This contributes to greenhouse gas emissions as well as polluting the air. Trees improve air quality and human health. By burning down millions of trees annually, the tobacco industry is impacting the cleanliness of our air.

Vape Devices: The vape industry does not provide any guidance to consumers on properly disposing vape devices.



Pollution

Cigarettes and vape devices contribute to pollution.

The chemicals in cigarettes and vape devices contaminate our soil, water, and air.

Cigarettes: Toxins from cigarettes end up in the air that we breathe.

Vape Devices: From 2015 to 2020, there was a 400% increase in vape device sales. Vape devices contain plastic, electronic, and chemical waste that leaks into the soil and ends up in waterways when improperly disposed.



Litter

Cigarette butts and vape devices are some of the most littered items across beaches, waterways, retail areas, storm drains, construction sites, and recreational areas.

Cigarettes: Cigarette butts are one of the most frequently littered items in the U.S.

Vape Devices: Several vape devices are single use, meaning they are meant to be disposed of after each use.

Many people who vape can find it inconvenient to properly dispose of the waste, which leads to vape devices ending up in places they shouldn't be.

1-800-QUIT-NOW

ProjectFilter.org

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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The Environmental Impact of Vaping

Since vape devices are fairly new compared to cigarettes, we are still learning about the risks they pose to the environment. However, there are still things we do know about their negative environmental impacts.



PROPERLY DISPOSING VAPES

To properly dispose of vape devices, contact your local waste department to see if their household hazardous waste program accepts vaping devices. If they do not, the battery should be taken out and brought to a designated recycling location. The rest of the vape device can be brought to prescription take back days (odp.idaho.gov/take-back-day).

HOW DO VAPES IMPACT THE ENVIRONMENT?

Vape devices contain metal, single-use plastic, batteries, and toxic chemicals, such as nicotine. Guidance on properly disposing of vape devices have not been provided to consumers. Since there is no specific process in place, the toxic chemicals and electronic waste from vape devices puts our environment at risk.

POLLUTION FROM VAPE DEVICES

Vape devices break down into microplastics and chemicals that pollute waterways and affect wildlife. Both the battery and device contain hazardous substances, such as heavy metals and nicotine that ends up in the environment.

VAPE LITTER

Many vape devices on the market are single-use. This means they are no longer usable once they run out of vape juice. This contributes significantly to vape litter.

FACTS

- From 2015 to 2020, there was a 400% increase in vape device sales.
- Most people who vape find it inconvenient to properly dispose of the waste.

QUITTING

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



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SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS

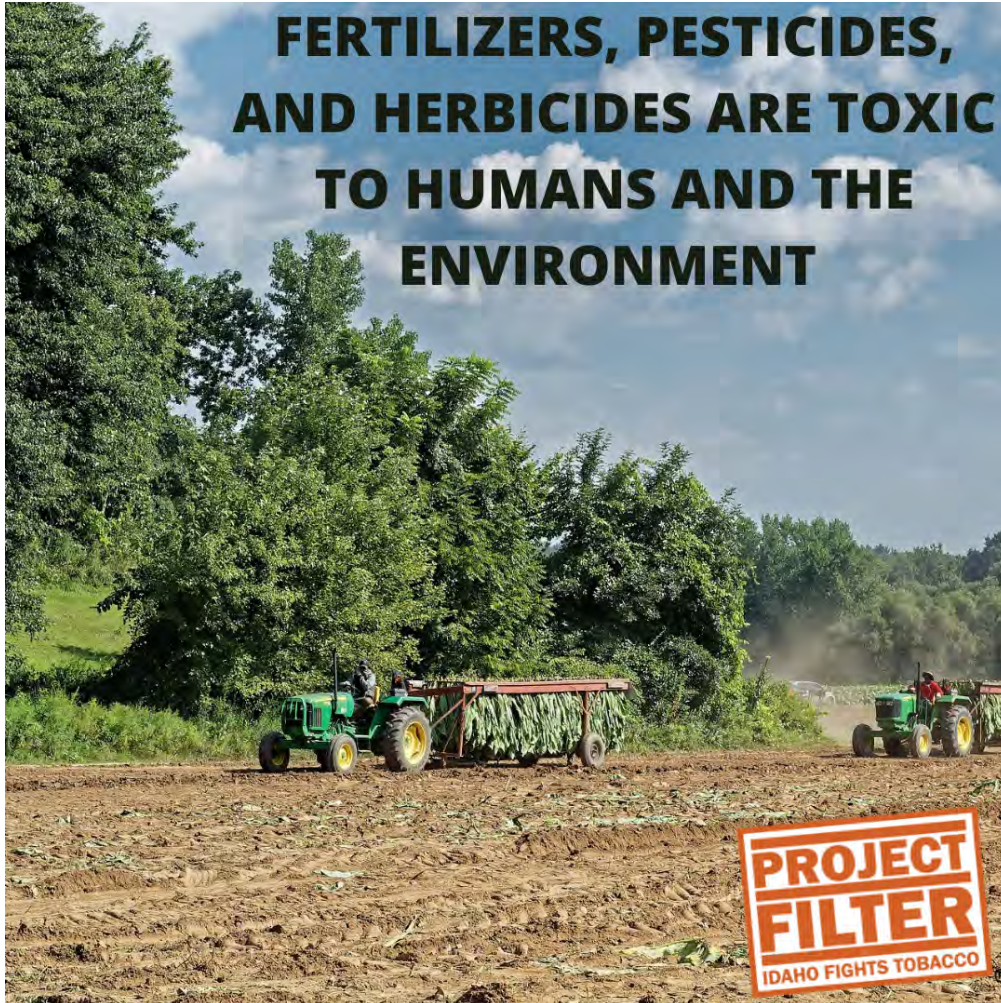


Both the vape battery and vape device contain hazardous substances that negatively impact the environment when improperly disposed. The best way to reduce your contribution to the environmental problems caused by vaping is to quit! For FREE help visit projectfilter.org or call 1-800-QUIT-NOW.



600 million trees get cut down annually by the tobacco industry for manufacturing tobacco products. 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.

**FERTILIZERS, PESTICIDES,
AND HERBICIDES ARE TOXIC
TO HUMANS AND THE
ENVIRONMENT**



Large amounts of fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides are used for growing commercial tobacco. 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.



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

CIGARETTE BUTTS ARE NOT BIODEGRADABLE



Cigarette butts are made of plastic that is not biodegradable. When cigarette butts are improperly disposed, they remain in the environment for a very long time. Animals and humans alike are impacted by cigarette litter. 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.

REDUCE THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF VAPING BY QUITTING



A large quantity of vape devices are single use, which means after use, they are disposed of. The best way to reduce your contribution to the environmental problems caused by vaping is to quit! For FREE help visit projectfilter.org or call 1-800-QUIT-NOW.

LEARN HOW TO PROPERLY DISPOSE OF VAPE DEVICES



In recent years, vaping has increased significantly. Most people who vape find it inconvenient to properly dispose of the waste. The best way to reduce your contribution to the environmental problems caused by vaping is to quit! For FREE help visit projectfilter.org or call 1-800-QUIT-NOW.

Sample press release for Earth Day

You can help keep Idaho beautiful this Earth Day and every day!

Cigarette butts are the second most littered item globally and the most littered item in waterways, roads, retail areas, storm drains, construction sites, and recreational areas. Cigarette butts are made of plastic that does not break down and the chemicals drain into the soil, rivers, and our drinking water. Many vape devices on the market are single-use and contribute significantly to vape litter. Like cigarette butts, vape devices break down into smaller plastic pieces that end up in waterways and impact wildlife. Vape batteries and vape juices contain hazardous waste that is difficult to properly dispose. This Earth Day, the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare wants to remind people that the best way to reduce your contribution to the environmental problems caused by cigarettes and vape devices is to quit!

Even though there are no regulatory polices aimed at holding the tobacco industry accountable for waste and environmental impacts of smoking, when you quit, you can do a small part in reducing cigarette and vaping litter and secondhand smoke in the air. *[Insert relevant quote from Project Filter program manager or other relevant staff prior to routing for release]*

Quitting smoking and vaping is one way you can contribute to a more beautiful Idaho by reducing the amount of litter, secondhand smoke, and other harmful chemicals that impact our land and air. If you or someone you know is ready to quit using tobacco products, there are two ways to sign up for free help to quit with Project Filter:

1. Online

Visit ProjectFilter.org to sign up for free online resources to help you quit smoking. You can order 4 weeks of free nicotine patches, gum, or lozenges after sign-up. Online resources include quit planning, forums with other people trying to quit smoking, and the option to chat message with a quit coach.

2. Over-the-phone support

Call 1-800-QUIT-NOW anytime 24/7 to sign up for free unlimited coaching calls with a quit coach. Up to 8 weeks of free nicotine gum, patches, or lozenges can be mailed to you when you complete coaching calls with a quit coach.



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