



HOW CIGARETTES HARM THE ENVIRONMENT



STATISTICS:

About **267 billion cigarettes** were smoked in the United States in **2015**.

The weight of all tobacco-attributable non-biodegradable (filter) **waste discarded** annually is about **386,249,883 pounds**.

Tobacco factories have deposited more than 45,000,000 metric tons of solid wastes, 6,000,000 metric tons of nicotine waste, and almost 4,000,000 metric tons of chemical wastes from 1995-2015.



DEFORESTATION

Deforestation for tobacco cultivation causes loss of biodiversity, soil erosion and degradation, water pollution, and an increase in atmospheric carbon dioxide.



SOIL & WATER DEGRADATION

Tobacco cultivation uses substantial chemicals which may affect drinking water sources as a result of run-off.

Tobacco cultivation also depletes soil nutrients by taking up more nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium than other major crops.



HIGH TOXICITY

Hazardous substances are contained in cigarette butts, such as arsenic, lead, nicotine, and ethyl phenol, causing health problems for humans and animals. These substances are leached from discarded butts into soils and aquatic environments.



AIR POLLUTION

Cigarettes are a huge source of air pollution, from the manufacturing process to secondhand smoke. They can emit up to 5.6 billion pounds of carbon dioxide and 11.5 billions pounds of methane into the atmosphere.



HUMAN RIGHTS

Tobacco cultivation can put many workers in dangerous or unsafe working conditions in developing countries. Child labor has also been documented in tobacco growing operations for large multinational companies.



LITTER

Cigarette butts comprise almost 40% of the litter collected on U.S. roadways and are the most commonly found litter item on beaches worldwide. Cigarette butts take up to 10 years to break down in the environment.



UNIVERSITY OF
SAN FRANCISCO

Office of Sustainability

FOLLOW US

 @sustainabilityusfca

 @sustainabilityusfca

 USFCA Sustainability

 myusf.usfca.edu/sustainability