

## Tobacco & the Environment

- Tobacco smoke contains more than 172 toxic substances. These include: 3 regulated outdoor air pollutants, 33 hazardous air pollutants, 47 chemicals restricted as hazardous waste and 67 known human or animal carcinogens.
- Worldwide, approximately 20-50 million trees are cut down each year for land to cure tobacco. Deforestation leads to approximately 30% of the greenhouse gases released into the atmosphere each year, not only increasing atmospheric carbon dioxide, but inhibiting water recycling, triggering severe flooding, aquifer depletion, soil degradation and plant and animal extinction.
- Tobacco production is responsible for 27 million pounds of pesticides being used just in the U.S. Many of these pesticides are known to harm small animals and cause soil depletion, while a few, like methyl bromide, cause ozone depletion.
- Cigarettes are not biodegradable; researchers have found that one used cigarette butt placed into a liter of water will kill half of all exposed freshwater fish or marine fish.
- Within an hour of contact with water, cigarette butts can begin leaching chemicals such as cadmium, lead and arsenic into the marine environment.

## Benefits of Adopting Tobacco-Free Policies at Colleges and Universities

- College smokers often describe themselves as “social smokers”. They smoke more with others, often while consuming alcohol. Many do not consider themselves a smoker; do not think they are addicted; expect to stop smoking after leaving school; and are concerned about the acceptability of tobacco use.
- Colleges and Universities provide an ideal site for tobacco prevention interventions, and cessation education, with the more than 1.76 million 18-24 year olds attending college nationwide.
- The tobacco industry relies on young people initiating use of tobacco in order to replace the 430,000 tobacco users who die each year from tobacco-related causes. We want to prevent students from starting to smoke and getting addicted to tobacco.
- Big tobacco spends 41 million dollars per day promoting their products, and due to smoke-free indoor regulations, the industry has increased smokeless tobacco marketing by at least one million dollars.