

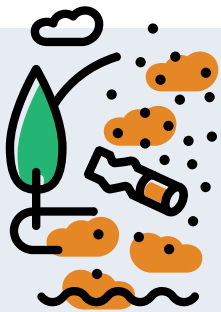


ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Tobacco not only harms the health of individuals.
IT ALSO ENDANGERS THE HEALTH OF THE ENVIRONMENT.

Cigarette butts are the second most littered item on earth, with **~4.5 trillion cigarette butts** polluting the environment every year. This totals

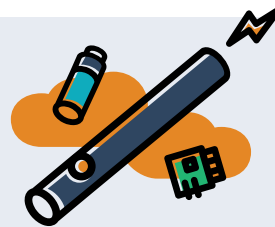
**750,000 TONS
OF TOXIC WASTE.**



Smoking releases hazardous pollutants into the environment, contaminating it with toxic chemicals and heavy metals.

Tobacco waste leaches nicotine, arsenic, and heavy metals into the soil and water before turning into **microplastic pollution**. Microplastics contaminate the food and water humans consume, resulting in **exposure to chemicals linked to reproductive harm, obesity, organ problems, and developmental delays in children.**

Tobacco waste can poison animals, resulting in **severe illness or even death for pets and wildlife.**



E-cigarette waste may be a worse environmental threat than cigarette butts, as it contains circuitry, single-use plastic cartridges, metal, batteries, and toxic chemicals.

E-cigarette waste cannot biodegrade. Currently, **there is no standardized way to recycle e-cigarettes** in the U.S., worsening the environmental impact of these products.

~600 MILLION TREES are chopped down by the tobacco industry every year, adding carbon dioxide to the air and preventing the absorption of existing pollutants.

~900,000 POUNDS of toxic chemicals are released from tobacco facilities in the United States every year.