

# Tobacco and the Environment

## “It’s Our Planet, Not an Ashtray.”

### FACT SHEET



## Facts and Trends

- A cigarette-manufacturing machine uses four miles of paper per hour to roll and package cigarettes.
- The tobacco industry burns as much as one acre of forest for every acre of tobacco cured, using 12% of all the timber felled in the world.
- On average, a tree is cut down for every 300 cigarettes (about a two-week supply for a pack-a-day smoker).
- In Brazil, the country’s 100,000 tobacco farmers need the wood of 60 million trees a year.
- Tobacco cultivation involves a great deal of pesticides, which must be used in the early stages of tobacco growth. Fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides poison farm workers, seep into the soil and pollute waterways and ecological systems, and poison livestock and food crops.
- In the U.S., the amount of cigarette butts thrown away in 1993 weighed as much as 30,800 large elephants.
- Cigarette butts are washed into rivers, lakes and the ocean from city streets, through storm drains. Seabirds, animals and fish eat them by mistake. Because their bodies have no way to digest the filters, they can die.
- Cigarette butts take an average of 25 years to decompose.

### Source

Tobacco and the Environment, Division of Public Health, Berkeley, CA (<http://www.ci.berkeley.ca.us/publichealth/tobacco/environ.html>).



### Appropriation #014-10A-9922-022

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) does not discriminate on the basis of disability, race, color, creed, gender, age, sexual orientation, or national origin, in admission to, access to or operation of its programs, services, activities or its hiring or employment practices. This notice is provided as required by Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and in accordance with the Civil Rights Acts of 1964 as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and the Maine Human Rights Act. Questions, concerns, complaints, or requests for additional information regarding civil rights may be forwarded to the DHHS’ ADA Compliance/EEO Coordinator, State House Station #11, Augusta, Maine 04333, 207-287-4289(V) or 207-287-3488(V), TTY: 800-606-0215. Individuals who need auxiliary aids for effective communication in programs and services of DHHS are invited to make their needs and preferences known to the ADA Compliance/EEO Coordinator. This notice is available in alternate formats, upon request