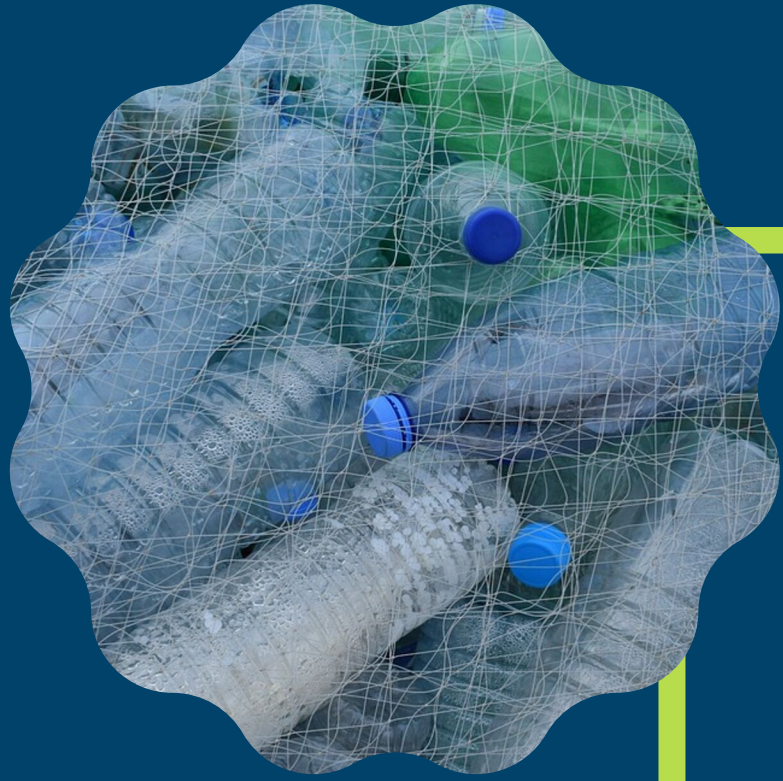


E-CIGARETTES & THE ENVIRONMENT

Cigarette butts are the most littered item in the world. Now there is another major form of tobacco waste... Electronic Cigarettes.



SINGLE-USE WASTE

Single use items result in a lot of waste. Much more waste than reusable products. Single use plastic products like straws and water bottles are even worse because plastic does not biodegrade. This means that products that are only used for minutes or hours will be around for hundreds of years. About 1/3 of e-cigarettes are made for single use and often contain plastic components.



CHEMICALS & HEAVY METALS

E-cigarettes contain plastics, electronics, and nicotine; all of which can leach hazardous chemicals or heavy metals such as mercury and lead into the environment.



COMPLICATED DISPOSAL

Disposal of e-cigarettes is complicated. E-cigarette batteries and electronic pieces are considered e-waste. Leftover nicotine in devices should be disposed of as hazardous waste. Due to their complex nature, there is currently no legal way to recycle e-cigarettes. Proper disposal would require the consumer to disassemble these devices and sort the various types of waste.



IRRESPONSIBLE PRODUCTION PRACTICES

Manufacturing and transportation of tobacco results in extensive water and energy use, CO₂ pollution, waste, deforestation, and health risks for farm workers.

Sources:

1. Hendlin, Yogi. (2018). Alert: Public Health Implications of Electronic Cigarette Waste. *American Journal of Public Health Perspectives* Volume 108.
2. Krause, M.J., Townsend, T.G. Hazardous waste status of discarded electronic cigarettes. *Waste Management* (2015).