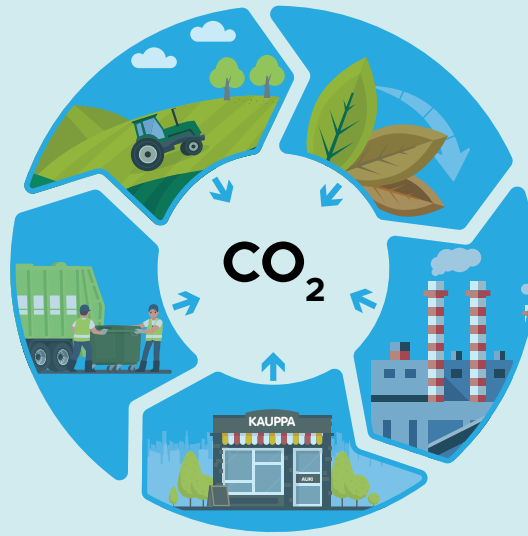


Tobacco, nicotine and the environment

Every stage of tobacco production, from the cultivation and drying of tobacco plants to the manufacture, distribution and disposal of cigarettes, depletes natural resources and generates waste and emissions.



The pesticides and fertilisers used in tobacco farming end up in water bodies, polluting lakes, rivers and drinking water.



E-cigarette batteries contain minerals, such as lithium. Mining consumes enormous amounts of water in the regions where water resources are the most scarce.

Waste and emissions generated in the production chain pollute and spoil terrestrial as well as underwater ecosystems and contribute to climate change.

Production

The tobacco industry produces six trillion cigarettes per year. Tobacco farming depletes the soil and accounts for roughly 5% of global deforestation.

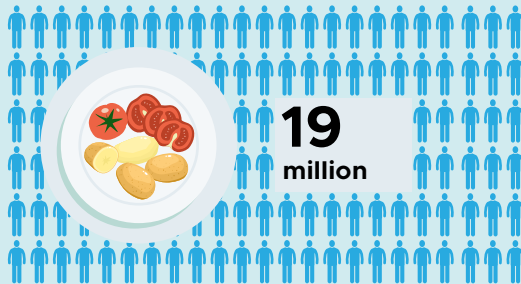
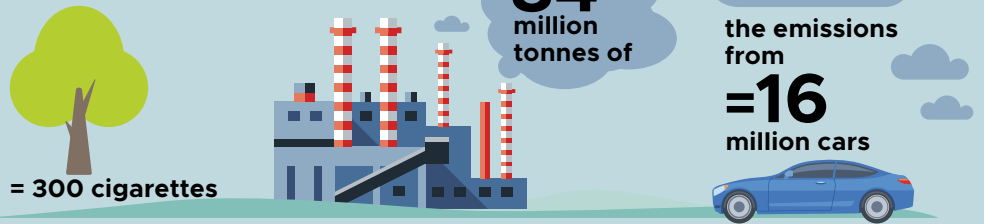
1 tree
= 300 cigarettes

Tobacco industry:

84
million tonnes of

greenhouse gases:

the emissions from
=16
million cars



Tobacco competes for limited natural resources with commodities vital to humans. If food crops were grown instead of tobacco plants, more than 19 million people would be provided with food.

Consumption

A person who smokes a pack of cigarettes a day consumes five times more water and almost twice as much fossil fuels every year as the average red meat eater.

The best way to prevent nicotine product waste is by not smoking or using nicotine.



Read more

about the environmental impact of tobacco in *New Things in the Air*, a publication by the Organisation for Respiratory Health.



Quitting the use of nicotine products is good for the climate and respiratory health.

Cigarette, snus and e-cigarette waste is expensive

Cigarette filters are non-biodegradable plastic. It takes roughly 18 months for a cigarette butt to decompose in fresh water and three years in sea water. Cigarette butts break down into microplastics and end up in water bodies with storm water. Cigarette butts also leach water-soluble toxins, such as cadmium, arsenic and lead, into aquatic ecosystems. From water, cigarette butts may be ingested by animals, potentially injuring or killing them.

Did you know...

that in Finland, more than **2,3** billion cigarette butts end up in the environment every year?

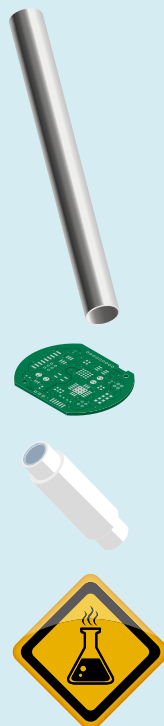
that roughly **40** percents of all waste collected from beaches around the world is smoking-related?

E-cigarette waste contains:

- ▶ metals
- ▶ electronics
- ▶ disposable plastic cartridges
- ▶ lead and mercury from batteries
- ▶ toxic chemicals such as nicotine salts and heavy metals from e-liquids.

When a cartridge is thrown on the ground, the leftover liquid leaches into the soil and waters.

E-cigarette waste is an even more serious environmental problem than cigarette butts.



Check and act:

- Does your municipality have enough cigarette bins? By 2026, there should be one for every 300 inhabitants.
- Does your municipality inform people about the harm caused by cigarette butts? It is your local government's duty.
- Don't litter nature! Carry the cigarette butts with you in an airtight jar to the trash can.
- Prevent hazardous waste and quit using nicotine products!