WHO NEEDS TO QUIT TOBACCO?

THE PLANET
EXAMINE   EXPLORE   EXPLAIN

EXPECT   EMPHASIZE
EXAMINE
Every year, tobacco is responsible for approximately:

- **600 Million Trees Lost**
- **5% Global Deforestation**
- **84 Million Tons Greenhouse Gas Emissions**
- **815,986 pounds Toxic Chemicals**
EXAMINE

- Tobacco horticulture uses large amounts of chemical fertilizer and pesticides.
- The negative impact of tobacco production and use are not balanced by positive contributions to society.
EXAMINE

○ The tobacco industry produces large amounts of tobacco product waste.
Cigarette filters are particularly problematic!

- Cigarette butts are the most littered item on the planet.
- An estimated 4.5 trillion cigarette butts are disposed of improperly every year.
- Filters are made of microplastics – tiny toxic fibers that pollute the environment.
- They result in approximately 1.7 billion pounds of toxic trash each year.
Cigarette filters contribute to microplastic contamination!

- A single filter can contaminate up to **132 gallons of water**.
- When ingested, the hazardous chemicals cause long-term mortality in marine life.
Filters do not reduce the damage to health caused by cigarettes.

- Their function is to make smoking less harsh, smoothing the way for initiation.
- Use of filters results in higher puff volumes and more frequent puffs.
Lithium-ion batteries are flammable and release dangerous chemicals into the environment.

Recent study suggests ~2,035 injuries in the U.S. resulting from an e-cigarette explosion (2015-2017)
EXPLORE
WHAT CAN WE DO?

Governments have the right and, under human rights law, a duty to protect their citizens from the consequences of tobacco, including environmental consequences.
WHAT CAN WE DO?

Phase out the sales of cigarettes altogether!

Ban single-use plastics at the local, state and national levels.

Urge the U.S. to push hard for a ban on single-use plastics (which includes most tobacco products) at the negotiations for the UN Treaty to Eliminate Plastic Pollution.
WHAT CAN WE DO?

Assess a fee for every cigarette and e-cigarette sold to pay for litter abatement.

- This would increase the cost of tobacco and lower demand.
WHAT CAN WE DO?

Ban filters altogether!
WHAT CAN WE DO?

Ban tobacco use in all outdoor public areas!
WHAT CAN WE DO?

Explore opportunities to raise awareness and educate the community!
EXPLAIN
Filters are designed to reduce tar and other chemical intake.

Many studies have shown that there is NO health benefit to filters.
The industry can police itself, funding litter cleanups, etc.

The industry has always denied the "polluter pays principle" and they have never kept their promises.
ARGUMENT

Eliminating filters might largely eliminate cigarettes.

COUNTER-ARGUMENT

Good!
ARGUMENT
Government budgets are dependent on tobacco revenues.

COUNTER-ARGUMENT
They should not be dependent on revenue from something that kills their citizens when used as intended. The long-term cost savings from ending the tobacco epidemic dwarfs revenues.
EXPECT
EXPECT OPPOSITION

Retail, wholesale, and distribution networks.
EXPECT OPPOSITION

Congress
- The Tobacco industry is among the largest donors to national and state political campaigns.
EMPHASIZE
EMPHASIZE

The end is coming!
RESOURCES

2. https://www.nysmokefree.com/FactsAndFAQs/Filters#:~:text=Why%20don't%20filters%20work,travel%20deeper%20into%20your%20lungs
3. https://www.fda.gov/tobacco-products/products-ingredients-components/cigarettes#:~:text=The%20basic%20components%20of%20most,cigarette%20smoke
7. https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6059254/
10. https://tobacco.ucsf.edu/health-care-costs-drop-quickly-after-smokers-quit#:~:text=Studies%20have%20shown%20that,attack%2C%20stroke%20and%20respiratory%20disease
Who Needs to Quit Tobacco?
Webinar Series Dates

April 26, 2023: Tobacco Industry

May 24, 2023: Government
Is your organization doing great work in tobacco control?

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