

# Tobacco & the Environment

- Cigarettes are the leading cause of fatal fires (one quarter of all fire deaths) in the U.S.
- It is estimated that one tree is consumed for every 300 cigarettes produced.
- Cigarette butts take an average of 25 years to decompose.
- Almost half of the items collected in the annual beach cleanup in California are cigarette butts.
- About 75% of all the land used to grow tobacco is in developing countries where starvation is more common than in Western countries.
- Making cigarettes leads to deforestation, soil erosion, flooding, the greenhouse effect, and global warming.
- Use of cigarettes by an average smoker destroys about one tree every 2 weeks.
- A cigarette manufacturing machine uses four miles of paper per hour to roll and package cigarettes.
- The fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides used to grow tobacco get into the soil, polluting waterways and food chains, and poisoning livestock, food crops, and farm workers.

Sources: [www.bigtabaccosucks.org](http://www.bigtabaccosucks.org), [www.globalissues.org](http://www.globalissues.org)