

TOBACCO, THE ENVIRONMENT, AND THE HEART

Tobacco claims over

8 MILLION

lives every year

including **1.2 MILLION** as a result of exposure to second-hand smoke

17% of all cardiovascular disease deaths



21% of all coronary heart disease deaths

...are attributable to tobacco

TOBACCO AND AIR POLLUTION



Tobacco use contributes to air pollution and can generate concentrations of particulate matter up to **10 TIMES HIGHER** than a diesel car engine

ENVIRONMENTAL TOBACCO SMOKE

Second-hand smoke contains **toxic substances**, such as ammonia, acetaldehyde, formaldehyde, nicotine, nitrosamines, and particulate matters



Second-hand smoke promotes atherosclerosis and thrombosis



Atherosclerosis and thrombosis lead to cardiovascular events, such as heart attacks and strokes



! THERE IS NO SAFE LEVEL OF EXPOSURE TO ENVIRONMENTAL TOBACCO SMOKE

TOBACCO AND ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE



Air pollution causes approximately 7 million deaths annually, including more than **3 million** as a result of heart disease.

Air pollution is responsible for



25%
OF ALL DEATHS FROM
HEART DISEASE

24%
OF ALL DEATHS FROM
STROKE



For decades, the tobacco industry has sought to greenwash its reputation and portray itself as an environmentally-friendly industry

HOWEVER THE CULTIVATION OF TOBACCO INVOLVES...



...the clearing of lands and agricultural burning, which contribute to



Nearly 5% of global deforestation



Air pollution

Deforestation is universally recognized as a **major contributor** to both air pollution and carbon emissions

THE CURING OF TOBACCO LEAVES INVOLVES...

...burning of wood and/or coal for extended periods of time, which contributes to



Air pollution



THE ANNUAL PRODUCTION OF 6 TRILLION CIGARETTES GENERATES

25 MEGATONS
OF SOLID WASTE

55 MEGATONS
OF WASTED WATER

84 MEGATONS
OF CO₂



...which contribute to greenhouse gas emissions and climate change



Climate change causes more frequent and intense episodes of extreme weather, such as **heat waves**

UV

Exposure to **extreme heat...**



Strains the heart



Increases cardiovascular morbidity and mortality



EVERY YEAR, THE GLOBAL USE OF TOBACCO ALSO GENERATES...

4.5 TRILLION littered cigarette butts, which are responsible for

1.69 BILLION pounds of toxic wastes being discharged into the air, soil, and water

In addition, filters present in cigarette butts are made of single-use plastic and may take a decade to decompose

RECOMMENDATIONS

The World Heart Federation recommends to all countries and relevant stakeholders to fully implement the measures established by the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC), especially the following:

Article 5.3

To protect tobacco control policies, including agricultural, environmental, and health policies, from tobacco industry interference

Article 8

To protect all individuals from exposure to tobacco smoke in indoor workplaces and to ensure that all indoor and outdoor public places are smoke-free

Article 13

To prohibit advertising, promotion, and sponsorship from the tobacco industry in order to counteract greenwashing

Article 17

To develop economically viable alternatives for tobacco farmers and workers

Article 18

To protect the environment and the health of tobacco farmers throughout the entire lifecycle of tobacco – from cultivation, to manufacture, distribution, consumption, and disposal

Article 19

To implement Extended Producer Responsibility schemes and make the tobacco industry liable for its environmental damage

Countries that have not ratified the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control should become Parties to the WHO FCTC to further protect the environment.

Sources: World Heart Federation, World Health Organization, STOP, Imperial College London, and US Center for Disease Control and Prevention.