

Tobacco-Free Beaches

By making all Oregon public beaches tobacco-free, we improve the quality of life for all people in Oregon. We have invested significantly in our parks and recreation system, and taking the next step to go tobacco-free will promote the health of our community, environment and the state's bottom line.

For Health

Providing tobacco-free beaches for outdoor recreation and enjoyment protects Oregon residents from secondhand smoke, helps smokers quit and shows youth that tobacco use is not the norm.

- 650 Oregonians die annually due to secondhand smoke.¹ Secondhand smoke exposure outdoors can equal amounts in indoor spaces.²
- Newer studies indicate that sitting three feet away from a smoker outdoors can expose you to the same level of secondhand smoke as if you were sitting indoors with a smoker.^{3 4}
- Secondhand smoke exposure can trigger asthma attacks and other adverse health effects for parks users.
- Eighty-one percent of Oregon smokers want to quit.⁵ Tobacco-free environments help reinforce their important and difficult decision to become tobacco-free.

For the Bottom Line

Tobacco-free beaches will save money by reducing maintenance costs, lowering the risk of fire, and decreasing the health cost impact of tobacco use—which costs Oregon more than \$2.4 billion per year.⁶

- Cleaning up cigarette butts is time consuming and expensive.
- All Oregonians pay nearly \$2.4 billion in direct medical expenditures and lost productivity due to premature death from tobacco use. That equals \$1,600 a year per household.

For the Environment

Tobacco-free beaches promote cleaner, safer and more beautiful environments now and for generations to come.

- Cigarette butts are the most common source of litter, take decades to decompose and release toxins into the water supply.⁷
- Tobacco butts are commonly ingested by young children, wildlife and pets.

For Oregonians

There is an overwhelming demand for tobacco-free spaces. By establishing tobacco-free beaches, Oregon will join a growing list of public beach systems across the state and country protecting health and the environment.

- Tobacco-free beaches are succeeding with good signage, education, and self-enforcement.
- To find out more about the states that are adopting tobacco-free beaches, visit:
<http://www.no-smoke.org/pdf/SmokefreeBeaches.pdf>

¹ Oregon Tobacco Facts, 2013.

² Journal of the Air and Waste Management Association, [Stanford Study](#), 2007.

³ Wayne Ott and Neil Klepeis. Journal of the Air and Waste Management Association (JAWMA), May 2007.

⁴ Barnoya and Glantz. Cardiovascular Effects of Secondhand Smoke: from the Center for Tobacco Control

⁵ Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2011

⁶ www.smokefreeoregon.com

⁷ Ocean Conservancy, ["Trash Travels, 2010 Report."](#)