

# HOW DO VAPES HARM THE ENVIRONMENT?

Vaping is not only harmful to your health, it is also harmful to the health of our planet. The production, manufacturing and disposal of vapes cause destruction and pollution that will have a lasting impact on Earth if we don't take action!

## DEFORESTATION

Most nicotine comes from tobacco plants.<sup>3</sup> **Millions of trees are cut down every year** by the tobacco industry so they can plant more tobacco.<sup>2</sup>



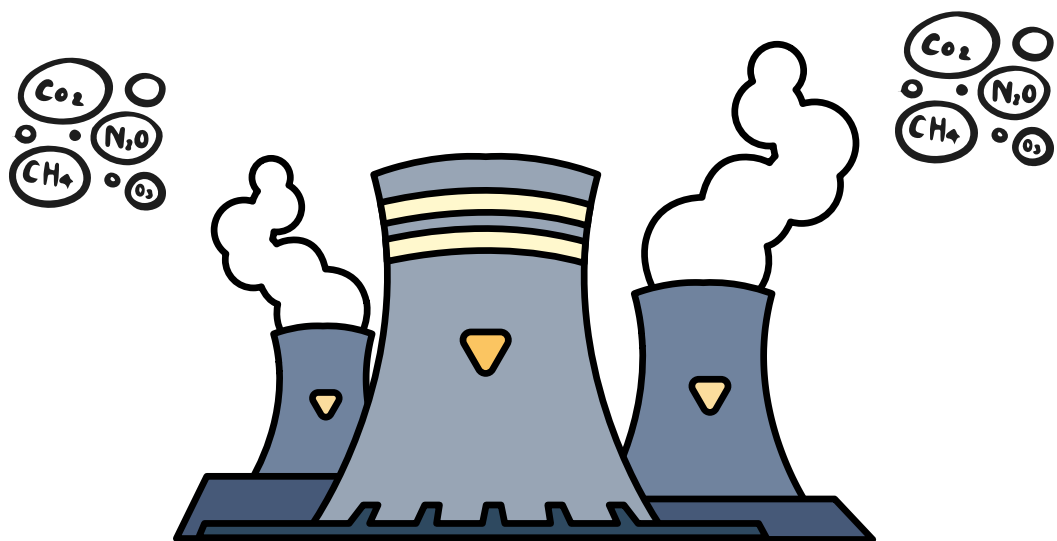
## HAZARDOUS WASTE

Vapes are considered hazardous waste, meaning **vapes cannot be thrown in the regular trash or recycling bin**. Improper disposal harms our environment.<sup>1</sup>



## GREENHOUSE GASES

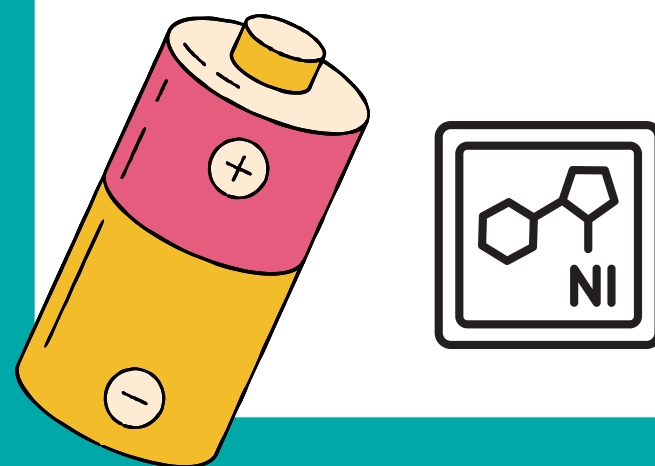
**The manufacturing of vapes and deforestation from commercial tobacco farms** contribute to an increase in greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide. High greenhouse gas emissions have been linked to climate change.<sup>7,8</sup>



## HARMFUL CONTENTS

Vapes contain **nicotine**, which is hazardous waste. Improper disposal of nicotine can poison humans and wildlife, and pollute our soil and water.<sup>1</sup>

Vapes also contain **lithium ion batteries**. If batteries are improperly disposed of, they can leak chemicals and pollute our soil and water as they degrade. Improperly disposed batteries have even caused fires in garbage and recycling trucks!<sup>9</sup>



## THEY'RE WASTE!

Vapes are thrown out more frequently than before due to the rise in popularity of disposable vapes. Vapes are made with **metals, chemicals and plastic**, and these materials can take hundreds of years to decompose.<sup>9</sup>



# DON'T LET THE TOBACCO INDUSTRY FOOL YOU!

The tobacco industry (which includes the vape industry) has a history of pretending to be environmentally friendly when they're really not. This is called **"greenwashing."**

Here are some examples...

Tobacco companies occasionally host **trash clean-up** events...<sup>1</sup>

...but refuse to take responsibility for making some of the **most littered products in the world**.<sup>9</sup>

Tobacco companies claim to **plant trees**...<sup>4</sup>

...even though a few trees won't make up for the **millions of trees they cut down** every year.<sup>2</sup>

Tobacco companies use words like **"natural"** and **"earth-friendly"** to market some of their products...<sup>5</sup>

...even though there's nothing "natural" about **plastic filters, added chemicals, or deliberately harming the planet for profit**.<sup>6,11</sup>

## TAKE ACTION

- ▶ Educate your friends about the harm vapes do to the environment.
- ▶ Don't start vaping. If you do vape, learn about free quit programs so that when you're ready to quit, you know where to find help.
- ▶ Talk to adults in your life about the problem.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



[Tobacco Prevention Advocacy Toolkits \(CYAN\)](#)



[Tobacco and The Environment \(Truth Initiative\)](#)



[Tips for Safe Disposal of E-Cigarettes and E-Liquid Waste \(FDA\)](#)



[Free quit programs for teenagers and adults in Minnesota \(MDH\)](#)



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