

Radio

September 11, 2006

Cigarette Butts

This is <name> with <affiliation>. Did you know that the most littered item in America is the cigarette butt? Each year trillions of cigarette butts are tossed on roadways, sidewalks, parks, and beaches. Many Americans don't believe cigarette butts are litter. Cigarette butts can absorb hazardous substances, such as lead and arsenic. This poses a threat to humans, animals, plants, and water bodies. There are steps Kentuckians can take to reduce cigarette litter. If you are a smoker, use an ashtray or receptacle to dispose of cigarette butts. If you own a business install receptacles for smokers to dispose of cigarette butts at entrances, exits, and other high traffic areas. Host a community clean-up event to pick up cigarette butts and other litter. For more information, contact your County Extension office or Solid Waste Coordinator.

Written by Ashley Osborne, University of Kentucky Extension Associate for Environmental and Natural Resource Issues, October 2006.