



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 20, 2017

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CELEBRATE EARTH DAY 2017

Earth Day is celebrated this month by more than one billion people from over 190 countries, all demonstrating support for environmental protection, making this the largest civic observance in the world. You can make a difference every day by picking up litter and putting trash in its place. Oh, and don't litter.

What is the most littered object in the world?

Cigarette butts are the most littered item in the world, and cigarette butts are not biodegradable. According to Americans for Nonsmokers' Rights (ANR), 1.69 billion pounds of butts end up as toxic waste each year. That's like the weight of 555,555 Toyota Prius cars.

Tobacco-related litter can harm both small children and wildlife when it is ingested. Cigarette butts contain a filter made from the plastic called cellulose acetate, a compound that eventually breaks down but never disappears. And that plastic still holds parts of the dangerous chemicals found in cigarettes. Plus, cigarettes also cause fires that take the lives of more than 900 people in the U.S. every year.

"Tobacco litter is an ongoing problem and it's something that needs to be addressed in order to provide a healthy, safe place for our community to recreate and for wildlife to flourish," states Tom Reichard, Environmental Health Director for District Health Department #10. "We hope that this Earth Day helps call attention to the impact of tobacco litter on our community, and helps raise awareness about the need for tobacco-free outdoor areas to protect health and the environment."

Contact District Health Department #10 at 888-217-3904 for more information about tobacco-free outdoor areas. If you use tobacco or vaping products and would like to quit, there is local, free, and low cost help. Talk with your healthcare provider, call the Michigan Tobacco Quitline at 800-784-8669, or call a local tobacco treatment specialist at 231-305-8659. For more information about Earth Day, visit www.earthday.org.

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