



Swiss association
for tobacco control

POLICY BRIEF

FILTERED LIES

TOBACCO KILLS PLANET AND THE TRUTH

Unfiltered Harm: Time for Policy Action

Cigarette filters are made of plastic that breaks down into micro-plastic, pollutes land and water [1], and eventually end up in human food chain. In other words, when someone smokes, they are making everyone on this earth consume toxic remnants of tobacco.

Policy Recommendations

1 Ban the Sale of Cigarette Filter

Filters offer no health benefit.

2 Classify Cigarette Filters as Hazardous Waste

Toxic and persistent filters should be regulated.

3 Prohibit Greenwashing 'Solutions'

So-called biodegradable filters and recycling schemes are ineffective and deceiving.

4 Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Without Industry Interference

Make tobacco companies commit full responsibility for their waste.

5 Tobacco-Free Generation (TFG) Laws

Implement TFG to ban tobacco sales to future generations.

6 Lobbying Registries and Disclosure Rules

Require lobbyists to register, make affiliations publicly available, and create an independent monitoring system.

Sources

[1] Novotny, T. E., Lum, K., Smith, E. A., Wang, V., & Barnes, R. L. (2009). Cigarettes butts and the case for an environmental policy on hazardous cigarette waste. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 6(5), 1691–1705.



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