



**Tobacco-Free Community Partners**  
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*Working together for a healthier community*

## **For Immediate Release**

April 14, 2008

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### **Earth Day Awareness on the Harmful Effects of Butt Litter on the Environment**

Cigarette butt litter is the world's greatest environmental litter problem with 4.3 trillion butts littered worldwide each year. Cigarette butt filters are made of a thermoplastic, which is slow to degrade in the environment, and contain remnant tobacco and 165 toxic chemicals. Some of the chemicals include arsenic (used in rat poison), carbon monoxide (a poisonous gas), formaldehyde (used to embalm dead bodies), lead (a highly poisonous metal), and naphthalenes (used in explosives and moth balls). Discarded cigarette butts can take up to 15 years to breakdown leaking these and many more toxic chemicals into soil and water sources as they corrode into tiny plastic powdered particles.

Tobacco-Free Community Partners promotes the proper disposal of cigarette butts by discarding fully put out butts in appropriate butt receptacles. Individuals and businesses can purchase cigarette butt containers to discourage butt litter thereby reducing exposure of toxic chemicals to our environment. Cigarette butt litter is preventable. Please remember litter breeds litter. It is a community responsibility to keep the environment beautiful and clean. Tobacco-Free Community Partners is an education, resource, prevention, and connection network whose mission is to prevent first time tobacco use among youth and reduce its use across all ages in the Bennington Area. To learn more about the Tobacco-Free Community Partners, contact Julie Krawczyk at (802) 447-6478 or view the Web site at [www.tobaccofreebennington.org](http://www.tobaccofreebennington.org).