



Secondhand Smoke Protections in Tribal Communities

Mission and Core Values

To provide commercial tobacco secondhand smoke awareness and resources to New Mexico tribal communities, improving health outcomes.

Respect, Culture, Family Responsibility to Community, Humility, Health, Love, Empowerment, Sustainability, and Community

Local Policy Change

New Mexico Mortgage Finance Authority proposes mandatory smoke-free policy

The New Mexico Mortgage Finance Authority (MFA) [proposed a mandatory policy](#) for any property that receives Low Income Housing Tax Credits to go smoke-free. Under the proposed policy, all individuals who apply for tax credits would be required to implement a smoke-free policy and be certified through the American Lung Association's Smoke Free NM program.



Since this is a proposed rule, the MFA is holding a comment period from September 16 through October 5, 2017 at 5:00 PM. American Lung Association is calling on the public health community in NM for support by providing comments stating why having a smoke-free policy in place is so important. Written comments on the Draft QAP may be delivered by email, mail, courier service or by hand to the following address:

MFA
Attn: Susan H. Biernacki
344 Fourth St. SW
Albuquerque, NM 87102
sbiernacki@housingnm.org

You can view the proposed smoke-free policy on page 29 of the MFA's [2018/2019 Qualified Action Plan](#).

Tobacco in the News

Cigarettes detrimental impact on the environment

Adapted from *Collective Evaluation*

It's no secret that smoking commercial cigarettes is bad for your health, but what does it do to the environment?

The World Health Organization (WHO) recently conducted [a study](#) on tobacco and its environmental impacts, taking into account not only the financial costs, but also the cost to the environment in terms of deforestation, pollution, and littering. Tobacco cultivation impacts the planet in many ways:

- The tobacco industry is giant, and commercial tobacco farming takes place all over the world on an



astounding 4.3 million hectares of agricultural land, which is comparable to 4.3 million sports fields.

- **Ecosystem:** Tobacco farming also contributes to significant land degradation because it's often grown as a monocrop. A monocrop, which is a single uniform crop that's grown without being rotated with other crops, can lead to **decline in biodiversity** and can greatly impact population dynamics and ecosystem roles.
- **Water and soil pollution:** As one of the largest producers of litter in the world, the tobacco industry, from production to consumption, expends a significant amount of resources and is responsible for releasing **harmful chemicals into the soil and waterways**.
- **Deforestation:** Approximately 11.4 million metric tons of wood are required per year for curing, the drying of tobacco leaves. In other words, every 300 cigarettes produced requires one tree.
- **Air Pollution:** An estimated 967 million smokers daily were responsible for consuming approximately 6.25 trillion cigarettes globally, contributing to "**6,000 metric tons of formaldehyde and 47,000 metric tons of nicotine, which are released into the environment**," explains Dr. Peruga, one of the study authors.
- **Litter:** Cigarette (butts) are the most common type of litter and **are not biodegradable whatsoever**. The WHO estimated that cigarette butts represent as much as 40% of all items picked up during coastal and urban clean-ups. That's not even including the two million tons of paper, foil, ink, and glue that are used within cigarette packaging.

Smoke Free Spaces

This workbook is a comprehensive guide for achieving policy change specific to tribal communities. It outlines step-by-step procedures for writing, passing and enforcing tobacco-related policies. Specific sections include tribal workplaces, clinics, casinos, businesses, youth, and traditional tobacco usage.

You can access the Smoke Free Spaces guide [here](#).



Event Calendar

Join in the pack in the [Lobo Cancer Challenge](#). Help New Mexicans get outstanding cancer care and benefit from the latest cancer research.

Ride, volunteer, or donate to raise money and awareness for cancer treatment, cancer research, clinical trials, and cancer education. Bike rides are 25, 50, or 100 miles that start and finish at University Stadium.



The Lobo Cancer Challenge offers excellent pre-ride and ride-day support. All funds raised go to support cancer patients and research at the UNM Comprehensive Cancer Center.

Kick-off is September 22, 2017
Ride Day is September 23, 2017

Learn more, stay updated, and register at LoboCancerChallenge.org

What now?

We encourage you to read all the articles in this and upcoming newsletters, and to share and forward these emails to people within your network to help keep everyone up to date!



This is a free notification service that provides the latest on commercial and traditional tobacco news, events, topics and successes.

View an archive of past newsletters [here](#). Sign up to receive future newsletters [here](#).

Smoke Free Signals | 505-837-2104 | smokefreesignals@gmail.com |
www.SmokeFreeSignals.com