How can we reduce tobacco product waste?

★★★★★ $

Upstream Solutions

Policies preventing tobacco product waste at the source are the most effective and cost the least.

- Ban the sale of filtered cigarettes

★★★ $$

Midstream Solutions

Policies addressing the use of existing tobacco products are helpful.

- Educate about how cigarette filters release microplastics & toxic chemicals into soil and water as they degrade
- Pass and enforce ban on tobacco use in public spaces

★ $$$

Downstream Solutions

Policies focused on managing tobacco product waste are the least effective and cost the most.

- Cigarette butt return programs
- Installing ash cans
- Tobacco product waste cleanups

Published October 2025. The Policy Research Center is a partnership between SAY San Diego and San Diego State University, funded by the Tobacco-Related Disease Research Program #T33PC6863.