

CDPH/SDSU Tobacco Product Waste Environmental Economics: Key Terminology Fact Sheet

Cigarette Filter - An attachment to cigarettes typically made from non-biodegradable cellulose acetate that does not reduce the adverse health effects from smoking.

Cost Center - A unit of an organization or system that consumes resources but does not necessarily contribute to the productivity of that organization or system.

Economic Model - A simplified description of the reality of costs incurred by the use of a commercial product, designed to yield economic information that can be used for policy development regarding that product.

Ecosystem Services - The multitude of benefits that nature provides to society. Examples include: providing nutritious food and clean water, regulating disease and climate, supporting the pollination of crops and soil formation, and providing recreational, cultural and spiritual benefits

Electronic Cigarettes - Noncombustible tobacco electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS). Also referred to as e-cigarettes or e-cigs.

Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS) - Noncombustible tobacco products that use an “e-liquid” that may contain nicotine. Includes vapes, vaporizers, vape pens, hookah pens, electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes or e-cigs), and e-pipes.

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) - A policy approach under which producers have a significant responsibility - financial and/or physical - for the treatment or disposal of post-consumer waste products.

Heated Tobacco Products (HTP) - Sometimes marketed as “heat-not-burn” products. These heated tobacco products heat actual tobacco leaf, in contrast to electronic cigarettes that utilize nicotine salts in solution, and deliver this nicotine through inhalation.

Litter - Items thrown away that contaminate the environment. Littering is the behavior of dropping trash in a public place.

Microplastics - Plastic pieces, less than five millimeters long, resulting from disposal or breakdown of plastic products and constituting debris or pollution that can be harmful to the environment, animals, and humans.