

Make Your Outdoor Event Smokefree

Today, people expect smokefree air where they work, live and play and they appreciate attending outdoor events that are smokefree, too. The air is healthier, and the grounds stay cleaner when smoking is not allowed.

Most people do not smoke. Because smoking restrictions at workplaces and indoor public locations assure healthier, smokefree indoor air, few people want to be around secondhand smoke when they're enjoying the outdoors.

Four Reasons Why Smokefree Outdoor Events Are a Good Idea:

There is no safe level of secondhand smoke. The U.S. Surgeon General has said there is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke. It is a serious health hazard, even in small amounts. The level of secondhand smoke in the air near a person who smokes outdoors can be as high as indoor secondhand smoke. Harmful chemicals in smoke affect breathing and are especially dangerous to children and people with asthma and heart conditions.

Smokefree outdoor policies reinforce positive role modeling for children and young people. When adults smoke in view of children at outdoor events, children get the message that smoking is associated with enjoyable, outdoor activities. Smokefree outdoor places reinforce the message that smoking is NOT the norm. Smokefree environments reduce the likelihood that children and youth will start using tobacco.

Outdoor smoking bans help people quit. Smokefree outdoor places support people who are attempting to quit because it is less convenient to smoke. People also smoke less as a result of smokefree policies.

Restricting outdoor smoking can reduce litter and pollution from discarded cigarette butts. Discarded cigarette butts pollute land and water. Cigarette butts do not biodegrade. They are poisonous and may be eaten by toddlers, pets, fish and wildlife.

Outdoor smoking bans are becoming more common locally and nationally. Parks and recreation centers in the city of Vancouver are tobacco-free. All farmers markets in Clark County prohibit smoking. Many cities in Washington and across the country have made their outdoor areas smokefree including beaches, water parks and sporting complexes. Places with no-smoking policies have found few problems with enforcement, largely because of the public's own efforts.



Three Steps to a Smokefree Outdoor Event:

1. Make a commitment to not allow smoking at your next outdoor event.
2. Let all event organizers, staff, volunteers and community partners know the event is smokefree. Include the rule in contracts with all vendors.
3. Inform the public and promote the event as smokefree with signs, publicity and reminders. Post free signs available from Clark County Public Health (see photo below), or use a tagline on your promotional materials.

Need help? Clark County Public Health offers:

- Examples of no-smoking policy language
- Free loaner signs & stakes (see photo below), sample messages, taglines and promotional ideas for your smokefree outdoor event
- Information you can share with your vendors. We include smoke free outdoor event information in application packets vendors get from us

Sample taglines:

I  Smokefree Outdoors

Clean Air: It's Ours to Share

We've Cleared the Air

Play Smokefree and Breathe Easy

Breathe Easy, You're at (fill in the name of your event)



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