



Community Designation Resource Guide

Cigarette Litter

This guide provides information about one of 15 Clean California Community Designation criteria – 10 of which are needed to earn the designation. The [2020 Keep America Beautiful \(KAB\) National Litter Study](#) found that cigarette butts are the number one littered item in the category of items counted under four inches. This accounts for over 9 BILLION butts counted on any day in the United States.

[KAB's Cigarette Litter Prevention Program \(CLPP\)](#) is the nation's largest cigarette litter reduction program. Communities who have implemented similar CLPP's have shown consistent reduction in cigarette litter – up to half based on local measurements taken in the first 4-6 months of implementation.

THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX

- Have a contest for the design of cigarette receptacles.
- Institute a Program for [Upcycling](#) Cigarette Butts. [These Cities are Trading in Cigarette Butts for Cash.](#)
- Encourage smoke shops to be a depository to upcycle cigarette butts. Suggest they give out coupons to those who bring in butts.
- Give out personal, portable ashtrays at community events or festivals. Hold a community craft workshop to create DIY personal ashtrays using old plastic medicine bottles, etc.

SAFE E-CIGARETTE DISPOSAL

- Contact the local waste departments' household hazardous waste (HHW) program and see if they accept e-cigarettes.
- If HHW is not available, remove the battery (if possible) and bring the battery to recycling. Bring the rest of the e-cigarette to an electronic recycling day.

DID YOU KNOW?

- [95% of cigarette butts](#) are composed of cellulose acetate, not cotton! Cellulose acetate is a plastic that does not naturally break down and has been found to take 18 months to 10 years to degrade (depending on conditions) and is toxic to some animals. The good news? They are recyclable! Check out [TerraCycle's recycling program](#) and consider participating to turn butts into something new.

Check out these projects & resources!

- [TerraCycle](#)
- [I Love A Clean San Diego](#)
- [Hold on to your Butt Project](#)
- [Cigarette Receptacles](#)

Additional resources are available at <https://keepcabeautiful.org/>.

