

AN ENVIRONMENTAL DISASTER



Vape devices are contaminating communities across the state with hazardous and electronic waste.

The Fact is...

- **“Disposable” Vape Devices are not really disposable!**
The term “disposable” is misleading. “Disposable” vape devices may be designed for one-time use but are not environmentally safe, creating significant environmental dangers to waterways, soil and wildlife.
- Most vape devices contain liquid nicotine, a **hazardous waste material** that absorbs through the skin and can enter the environment when vape devices are thrown away.
- Vape devices containing nicotine or THC/marijuana, noted as disposable or not, **contain plastic, metals, mercury, lead, and lithium ion batteries** that are also serious environmental contaminants since they **don’t biodegrade** (break down in the environment) over time.

The Current Situation

The burden for disposal of vape devices currently falls on consumers and schools that confiscate devices from students instead of the manufacturer and/or distributor. Vape manufacturers are not required to provide guidelines, funding, or means to safely dispose of vape devices in communities. There is no organized community, state, or federal system for proper disposal of vape devices.

A Reminder! Research shows that vaping nicotine or THC (marijuana) can result in serious negative health consequences and can lead to addiction. Vaping during the teen and young adult years can damage the developing brain. For more information visit: www.cdc.gov (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.)