



Benefits of Tobacco-Free Outdoor Public Spaces

The benefits of making outdoor public spaces tobacco- and vape-free are many and include:

- Protecting visitors from the harmful and damaging effects of exposure to secondhand smoke and aerosols emitted by e-cigarettes.
- Reducing tobacco litter which protects people, pets and the environment.
- Providing an environment that supports tobacco-free choices.
- Being responsive to the majority of NYS residents who support tobacco-free shared spaces.

With the spread of COVID-19, providing tobacco- and vape-free shared spaces offers the additional benefit of eliminating people's exposure to toxins that can increase their susceptibility to COVID-19 and their risk of experiencing severe health-related consequences.

Consider instituting protections on all properties where people recreate, gather and receive public services:

Recreation areas: Includes parks, beaches, pools, boat launches, sports fields, bike paths, walking trails, nature preserves, golf courses

Public gathering places: Includes public squares, plazas, greens, gazebos

Municipal services property: Other properties where municipal services are provided such as city/town/village hall, police/fire/other emergency services, public works, local courts

Consider including all Tobacco Products that pose a risk to the user, to others, and to the environment:

Combustible tobacco products: Any product made or derived from tobacco, or which contains nicotine, which is smoked, such as cigarettes, pipes, cigars, cigarillos, hookah, herbal cigarettes.

Non-combustible tobacco products: Any product made or derived from tobacco, or which contains nicotine, such as chew, spit, dip and snuff.

Electronic Cigarettes: Any electronic device that, when activated, produces an aerosol that may be inhaled, whether or not the aerosol contains nicotine, such as e-cigarettes and vape pens.

NOTE: Tobacco Products and Electronic Cigarettes do NOT include drugs approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration for tobacco cessation.

To help local municipalities achieve their tobacco-free goals, Tobacco-Free Communities | Delaware, Otsego, Schoharie (TFC | DOS) provides:

- Information and technical assistance
- Tobacco-free signage
- Sample policies

There is no fee for any of our services. TFC | DOS is funded by the NYS Tobacco Control Program to provide whatever help you need at no cost to you. Email Jennifer.Hill003@SPHP.com to learn more.