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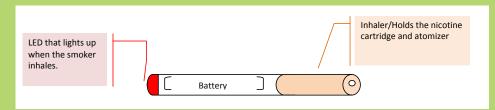
# **Trending: E-Cigarettes**

Electronic cigarettes, also known as e-cigarettes or e-cigs, are battery-powered devices people use to inhale nicotine and other additives. They look like regular cigarettes and, instead of smoke, release a vapor. Using an e-cigarette is commonly referred to as 'vaping.' In September 2013, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released national data on the high rates of e-cigarette use among youth. The findings from the National Youth Tobacco Survey (NYTS) confirmed that e-cigarette use doubled among U.S. middle and high school students from 2011 to 2012, increasing from 1.1% up to 2.1%. In 2012, more than 1.78 million middle and high school students nationwide had tried e-cigarettes.

About 90% of all smokers begin in their teens, and with the marketing and availability of e-cigarettes to youth, these devices can become a gateway to conventional tobacco products.

At this time, e-cigarettes are not regulated by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and there is not enough known about the health effects of using them.

For help with quitting all forms of tobacco, visit the Nebraska Tobacco Quitline at Quitnow.ne.gov or call I-800-QUIT-NOW.



## **Work Tobacco Free**

It makes good business sense to have a tobacco-free work environment (indoors and out). There are many reasons why implementing a tobacco-free policy is a good idea for your business and your employees.

Save Money

employee.

- Employees who smoke generally cost employers more in workers' compensation, health care, and lost productivity. In addition, tobacco-free businesses can save money on cleaning costs, property damage, and fire insurance.
- Increase Productivity
   An employee taking four 10-minute smoke breaks a day will be away from his/her job for more than one extra week per year than a non-smoking

- Reduce Absenteeism
  - Smokers, on average, are absent from their jobs 2.3 more days per year than non-smokers.
- Lower Your Liability
  - A tobacco-free work environment reduces the risk of lawsuit and disability claims due to secondhand smoke exposure.
- Protect Your Employees' Health
   Quitting tobacco reduces the risk of
   lung cancer, heart attack, heart disease
   and upper respiratory infections.

To learn more about the benefits of a tobacco-free business campus, visit TobaccoHurtsBusiness.ne.gov or call 402.593.3022.<sup>2</sup>

http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6235a6.htm

<sup>2</sup> TobaccoHurtsBusiness.ne.gov,Accessed September 30, 2013.

### **MISSION**

Tobacco Free Cass County will work collaboratively as a coalition to prevent and reduce tobacco use in order to improve the health of our community.

#### Goals

- Prevent youth from ever starting to use tobacco.
- Reduce exposure to secondhand smoke.
- · Reduce tobacco use among adults
- Advocate for tougher standards regarding tobacco issues.
- Establish Cass County as a leader in the tobacco prevention and control movement.

TO JOINTFCC, CALL 402.593.3022

## MEET BECKY, THE NEW ASSOCIATE OF TFCC!

Becky Smart is the newest member joining TFCC as a Tobacco



Associate. She is a wife and mother of three who resides in Louisville. She is a committee member for the Omaha chapter of the Women in the Outdoors (WITO); which is an Outreach Program of the National Wild Turkey Federation. As a dedicated volunteer with WITO, she helps with the planning of multiple events that educate Women from the age of 14 and up in outdoor skills in a friendly, noncompetitive manner. Becky is thrilled about the position she has stepped into as a TFCC team member and is excited to help educate her community.