The University of California system is committed to going zero waste by 2020!

# Take Responsibility Do Your Part to Eliminate Cigarette Butts and Litter

UCR Healthy Campus and UCR CleanWater are working together to eliminate trash and improve water quality through the Zero Butts & Litter campaign.

The University of California system is committed to going zero waste by 2020. To get all the way to zero waste, we need everyone to pitch in — that means you!

UC Zero Waste http://bit.ly/2EqLvAP

**#MyLastTrash** zerowaste2020.universityofcalifornia.edu

#### **Zero Waste Club**

UCR's very own Zero Waste Club is a student organization led by people who are interested in living a more sustainable lifestyle and tackling that goal through behavioral observations and adaptations. Zero Waste Club really strives to make sustainability a feasible option for the busy college student who feels that it may be an impossible expectation to meet. Find out more by following @UCRZerowasteClub on Instagram or by emailing us at UCRZeroWaste@gmail.com.



Zero Butts & Litter is a collaborative effort by UCR Healthy Campus and UCR CleanWater to inspire and educate the campus community to take action everyday to improve health, water quality and beautify our campus environment.



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The Facts about Cigarette Butts & Litter

# UC RUNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA



Can you imagine a world without litter? We're making it happen, and you can help.

# Are Cigarette Butts Litter?

Yes! Litter includes trash such as cigarette butts, paper and plastic, fast food containers, plastic grocery bags, and cans and bottles.

Individuals who would never litter beverage cans or paper packaging, typically don't consider tossing cigarette butts on the ground as littering.

#### Litter and Our Community

Although it's one of the smallest pieces of litter, cigarette butts are the most common form of litter in the world. Fast food, snack, and other product packaging make up the next largest type of littered materials.

All this litter has impacts on the places we study, work, and live, and also on water quality.

# Litter is Unsightly

Litter accumulates in corners, gutters, outside doorways and in parking lots. Litter around buildings, on roadways and recreation areas creates a sense that no one cares about the community. Individuals are much more likely to litter into littered environments.

# Litter is Harmful to Waterways

Litter, especially cigarette butts, is easily carried in storm water runoff through drainage systems and eventually to the Santa Ana River and the ocean.

Cigarette filters contain cellulose acetate, a form of plastic that does not biodegrade and can persist in the environment.

Litter is a threat to aquatic habitat and aquatic life as soon as it enters surface waters and ocean waters.

Ingestion and entanglement can be fatal for freshwater, estuarine, and marine life. Habitat alteration and degradation due to litter in surface waters can make natural habitats unsuitable for spawning, migration, and preservation of aquatic life.

# Litter is Costly to Clean Up

Litter requires additional street sweeping, landscape, and storm drain system maintenance. Litter must be cleaned up at building entrances, exits, adjacent sidewalks and parking lots.

