



How to make your community tobacco + smoke free

Design a policy to regulate smoking and tobacco use in your community's indoor and outdoor areas. Use this road map to discover a menu of policy options.

Investigate & Assess

- Assess the political environment and talk to decision makers.
- Determine the issue: tobacco, e-cigarettes, and/or smokeless tobacco.
- Identify the location and the goal of the policy.
- Identify how to determine if the policy is making a difference.

Strategize & Plan

- Use the checklist on the back of this page to develop a strategy and identify components of the policy.
- Set a timeline for the policy, its enforcement activities, and for creating opportunities to quit tobacco.

Recruit

- Identify a team that will draft policy language, alert the public, implement the policy, and enforce the policy.
- Suggested team members include local partners: government representatives, health department, law enforcement, community members, business leaders.

Create a Campaign

- Create a plan and determine how to alert the public of the upcoming policy changes. Ideas include: news releases, public meetings, social media outreach, public signage, etc.
- Solicit feedback and involve the community in the policy creation.

Implement & Evaluate

- Identify how to implement the policy and notify people of the change
- Integrate policy enforcement into existing systems.
- Work to collect and analyze data to determine if policy was a success



**Lorain County
Public Health**

For the Health of Us All

**Contact Lorain County Public Health for help planning
your tobacco-free policy and technical assistance.**

440-322-6367 HealthEd@LorainCountyHealth.com



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A checklist of options for a tobacco-free policy

What is regulated?

- Smoking (including tobacco products that produce smoke and electronic smoking devices)
- Cannabis - medicinal and/or recreational
- Other tobacco products that do not produce smoke or vapor (i.e. chewing tobacco, snus)

Where is smoking and/or tobacco use prohibited?

Indoor:

- Places of employment
- Multi-unit residence common areas
- Public places
- Except in up to 10% of hotel/motel guest rooms
- Except in retail tobacco shops that meet certain criteria
- Except in theatrical productions

Outdoor:

- Recreational areas
- Service areas
- Dining areas
- Places of employment
- Multi-unit residence common areas
- Other public places
- Only public places when being used for a public event
- Within a reasonable distance (i.e, 25 feet) of any vent into an enclosed area where smoking is prohibited
- Within a reasonable distance (i.e. 25 feet) of any unenclosed area where smoking is prohibited
- Except streets and sidewalks being used in their traditional capacity
- Except for designated "smoking areas" that meet certain criteria

What else can the policy include?

- Require that "No Smoking" signs be posted
- Prohibit ash cans and ashtrays in the areas where smoking is not permitted
- Require property owners and managers to enforce the policy with patrons and guests

How to enforce the policy:

- Designate who will enforce the policy
- Make the policy enforceable by peace officers or code enforcement officers
- Declare violations of the policy as infractions with a fixed fine amount (must be less than \$100 for a first violation)
- Allow the city or county to file a civil action for any violation (i.e., monetary fine, injunctive relief or nuisance abatement)
- Declare that violation of the ordinance constitutes a nuisance
- Allow private citizens to get an injunction against individuals or businesses for repeat violations of the ordinance