Save Money, Save Lives: Facts About Commercial Tobacco-free Workplaces

STRATEGIES TO INCREASE YOUR BOTTOM LINE

- Prohibit commercial tobacco use on company grounds – indoors, outdoors, parking lots, and in company-owned vehicles.
- Allow use of FDA-approved nicotine replacement therapies.
- Remove cost barriers by providing full coverage (100%) for commercial tobacco cessation, medication, and counseling.
- The Affordable Care Act gives employers greater flexibility to help employees quit.
- Provide information about free resources to assist with quitting, such as Quit Now Montana.
- Connect with your local Tobacco Education Specialist for guidance.

COMMERCIAL TOBACCO HAS A PRICE

In Montana, 1,600 adults die each year from smoking. The state of Montana's annual health care costs *directly* caused by smoking are $511 million with smoking-caused production losses estimated at $899 million.[1]

BENEFITS OF ADOPTING COMMERCIAL TOBACCO-FREE WORKPLACE POLICIES

Commercial tobacco-free workplaces create a healthier, more productive, and enjoyable environment for everyone. Comprehensive policies that prohibit the use of all forms commercial tobacco and nicotine products can:

- Increase productivity and decrease medical expenses (save an average of $4,056 annually per employee using commercial tobacco)[2]
- Lower absenteeism rates
- Lower health insurance premiums (tobacco users can have more and longer hospital stays)
- Decrease workers' compensation costs ($2,189 for smokers vs. $176 for nonsmokers)[3]
- Save on maintenance and cleanup costs (cigarette butts are the most littered item in the U.S.)[4]

LOST PRODUCTION

In a 2003 survey of nearly 29,000 U.S. workers, smoking was a leading cause of worker lost production time – greater than alcohol abuse or family emergencies. Quitting smoking can greatly improve a worker's productivity.[5]

CONTACT

Montana Tobacco Use Prevention Program
(866) 787-5247
infotobaccofree@mt.gov
tobaccofree.mt.gov

SOURCES

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