

Tobacco-Free Workplaces: Good Business Sense

Businesses and employers should be concerned about tobacco use

Healthy employees are happy and more productive.

- Wisconsin businesses lose \$1.6 billion in worker productivity each year due to illness and premature death caused by smoking.¹
- Employees who take four 10-minute breaks a day to smoke actually work one month less per year than workers who don't take smoking breaks.²
- Smokers, on average miss 6.2 days of work per year due to sickness compared to nonsmokers, who miss 3.9 days of work per year.³

Smoking in the workplace costs \$\$\$...

- Smoking in the workplace means higher expenses to your business for cleaning, maintenance, and property insurance.⁴
- Annual healthcare costs related to tobacco use in Wisconsin are \$2.1 billion.¹
- Smoking costs employers an estimated \$3,391 per smoker per year, comprised of \$1,623 in direct medical expenditures and \$1,768 in lost productivity.⁵

What's the bottom line?

Tobacco-free workplaces make good business sense.

It's the right thing to do – for the health of your employees and customers,
and for the wealth of your business.

Make it your business.

- Seventy percent of smokers want to quit – businesses can help with tobacco-free workplace policies.¹
- *Make It Your Business: Strategies For A Tobacco-Free Workplace in Wisconsin* is a first of its kind resource for Wisconsin businesses. It is a guide for:
 - Helping interested employees quit using tobacco
 - Helping businesses go tobacco-free

Order or download this toolkit online at www.tobwis.org in the "Employees & Business Owners" section.

¹ "Burden of Tobacco in Wisconsin." Umland MH, Palmersheim KA, Ullsvik JC, Wegner MV. University of Wisconsin Comprehensive Cancer Center. Madison, WI: February 2006. Available at: <http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/tobacco/countyreports/counties.htm>

² Action on Smoking and Health, March 1994.

³ Halpen, M.T.; Shiklar, R.; Rentz, A.M. Khan, Z.M., "Impact of smoking status on workplace absenteeism and productivity," Tobacco Control 10(3): 233-238, September 2001.

⁴ "Making Your Workplace Smokefree: A Decision Makers Guide," U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Office on Smoking and Health. Download at www.cdc.gov/tobacco/research_data/environmental/etsguide.htm.

⁵ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "Annual smoking-Attributable Mortality, Years of Potential Life Lost, and Economic Costs – United States 1995-1999" MMWR 2002; 51: 300-303.

This resource was created by the Tobacco Control Resource Center for Wisconsin

It may be found at www.tobwis.org, or ordered by calling (800) 248-9244

The Tobacco Control Resource Center is a part of the Wisconsin Clearinghouse for Prevention Resources

