



Public Health
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Tuscarawas County
Health Department

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“Tuscarawas County Students Complete Tobacco Environmental Impact Projects”

DOVER – This spring, the Tuscarawas County Health Department (TCHD) collaborated with Empower Tusc to offer a Tobacco Environmental Impact Contest for the Youth-to-Youth high school and middle school groups in Tuscarawas County. The purpose of the contest was to help youth learn about advocacy, how to be an advocate, and to give youth a chance to be creative in their advocacy endeavors. Before starting their projects, participants received training to learn about advocacy and the impacts of tobacco and e-cigarettes on the environment.


High school students from Claymont, Strasburg, and Tuscarawas Central Catholic; and middle school students from Claymont and Tuscarawas Central Catholic submitted poster projects. A panel of community judges from the Empower Tusc Coalition conducted voting. Youth-to-Youth groups from Tuscarawas Central Catholic High School and Tuscarawas Central Catholic Middle School were the first place winners for the contest. Community members who attended the recent Run for Home Fitness Festival at Tuscora Park voted for Tuscarawas Central Catholic High School as the “People’s Choice” award winner. The posters can be viewed on TCHD’s Facebook page or website, www.tchdnow.org/tobacco-use-prevention.html.



“Creating the posters was a great way for students to develop research and advocacy skills,” explained Lana Schrock, a Public Health Educator for the Tuscarawas County Health Department. “According to the Truth Initiative, cigarette butts are the most frequently littered item on U.S. beaches and waterways. E-cigarette and cigarette waste can make its way into the environment where it pollutes water, air, and land with toxic chemicals, heavy metals, and residual nicotine.”



Until recently, there was no local place to properly dispose of e-cigarettes. E-cigarettes are difficult to properly dispose of due to the complex nature of the devices containing plastic, lithium batteries, and liquid nicotine. After outreach efforts with the Stark-Tuscarawas-Wayne Recycling District, the District updated their process to take e-cigarette and vaping devices for disposal at the Canton Recycle Center. This service is only available to residents of the district. Appointments can be made online at www.timetorecycle.org/resources/schedule-an-appointment and selecting “Household Hazardous Waste” for e-cigarettes/vapes.

If you or someone you know needs help quitting nicotine and/or tobacco products, call the Ohio Tobacco Quit Line at 1-800-QUIT-NOW (1-800-784-8669) to connect with a free quit coach today! For more information about help quitting, contact Lana Schrock at 330-343-5555, x1860 or lschrock@tchdnow.org.

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