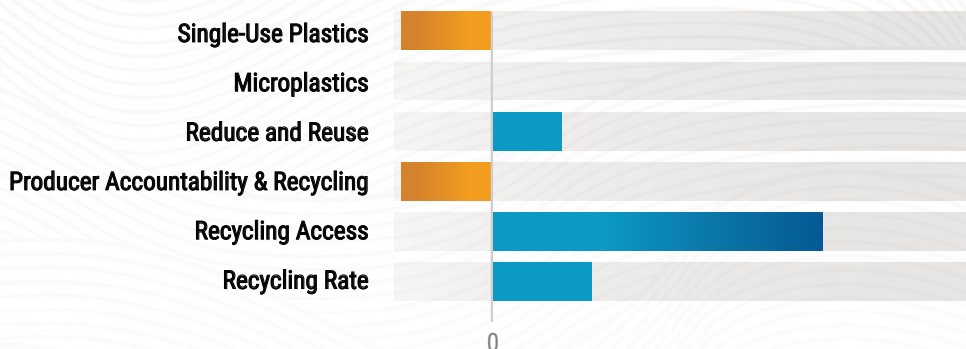


United States OF PLASTICS

Arizona

PACIFIC AND COLORADO RIVER BASINS

Arizona, although a landlocked state, is indirectly connected to the ocean and surrounding states through the Colorado River. The river supports agricultural irrigation, drinking water and the surrounding ecosystems vital to Arizona's diverse wildlife. The Colorado River flows through hundreds of miles of the Grand Canyon, providing water to many of the state's reservoirs including Lake Havasu and Lake Mohave. While Arizona's unique and picturesque landscape relies greatly on protecting this water source, the state has yet to pass legislation that would address plastic pollution and has enacted laws that could hinder further progress.



FINAL SCORE



Needs Improvement



Single-Use Plastics

The state has a law limiting local governments' ability to regulate single-use plastics and has not passed any laws restricting the single-use plastics covered in our study.¹



Reduce and Reuse

The state has a recycling grant program that can be used to fund waste reduction assistance, including the development of reuse infrastructure.²



Microplastics

The state has not passed any laws to address microplastic pollution.



Producer Accountability and Recycling

The state does not have extended producer responsibility or deposit return programs for packaging or beverage containers. The state has also adopted policies that support harmful chemical recycling.³

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Arizona has policies in place that are impeding progress towards addressing plastic pollution. The state should:
 - Remove restrictions on local governments and allow them to regulate single-use plastics in their communities.
 - Reverse policies that enable harmful chemical recycling technologies and undermine reduction and effective recycling practices.
- Since tourism is a major driver in Arizona's economy, the state has an opportunity to champion sustainable tourism by phasing out single-use plastics for personal care products in hotels. Reducing the use of unnecessary single-use plastics by tourists could lead to a significant reduction in waste and pollution.

Top 10 Items Collected by ICC Volunteers

- 1 Beverage Cans
- 2 Cigarette Butts
- 3 Beverage Bottles (Glass)
- 4 Beverage Bottles (Plastic)
- 5 Food Wrappers (Candy, chips, etc.)
- 6 Bottle Caps (Plastic)
- 7 Grocery Bags (Plastic)
- 8 Cups & Plates (Plastic)
- 9 Other Plastic Bags
- 10 Straws, Stirrers

¹ Ariz. Rev. Stat. §§ 9-500.38; 11-269.16.

² Ariz. Rev. Stat. §§ 49-831 et seq.; "ADEQ Recycling Grant Program." Arizona Department of Environmental Quality. Accessed May 2025.

³ SB 1156, 55th Leg., 1st Reg. Sess. (Ariz. 2021). Ocean Conservancy considers chemical recycling technologies harmful if they do not recover plastic and create environmental and societal harm. Learn more about our [position on chemical recycling](#).