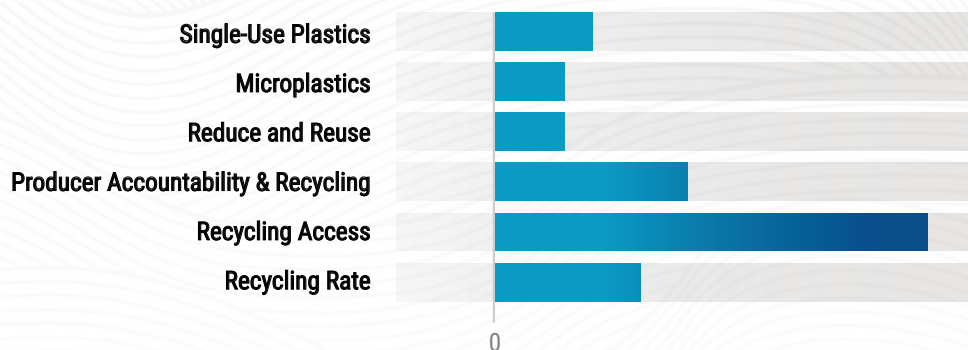


United States OF PLASTICS

Connecticut

NEW ENGLAND

Connecticut's identity and economy are deeply linked to its coastal location along Long Island Sound, a vital estuary that supports diverse marine life, recreational activities and a robust maritime economy. The Sound generates billions annually through commercial fishing, boating and tourism, and supports a diverse array of wildlife, including migratory birds, fish and shellfish. The Connecticut River, the longest river in New England, flows through the heart of the state and plays a crucial role in sustaining ecosystems, supplying drinking water and providing opportunities for outdoor recreation and tourism. Connecticut also enacted a law to ensure that all residents, businesses and institutions have access to recycling services.¹ Known for its scenic beauty, Connecticut has a strong history of environmental stewardship, including taking action to address plastic pollution; however, many opportunities remain for continued progress.



FINAL SCORE



Fair

¹ "Recycling...It's the Law." Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection. Accessed May 2025.



Single-Use Plastics

Connecticut has phased out single-use plastic bags.²



Microplastics

Connecticut passed a law establishing a microfiber pollution working group to develop a consumer awareness and education program to reduce microfiber pollution.³



Reduce and Reuse

The state enacted a law to support grants for projects that prioritize waste reduction and reuse.⁴



Producer Accountability and Recycling

Connecticut has a bottle bill for beverage containers that establishes a 10-cent deposit.⁵

RECOMMENDATIONS

- In its report to the legislature,⁶ the Synthetic Microfiber Working Group supported the use of filters to capture microfiber pollution and suggested that appliance manufacturers consider incorporating internal filters. To support this consumer awareness campaign and decrease microfibers in the state's waterways, Connecticut should consider requiring new washing machines to include a microfiber filter.
- While Connecticut has mandatory recycling access and a high recycling access rate, it has a relatively low recycling rate. Policies like extended producer responsibility would complement the state's existing bottle bill and increase the amount of material that is recycled and kept out of the environment without increasing costs for local governments.

Top 10 Items Collected by ICC Volunteers

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

² HB 7424, 2019 Reg. Sess. (Conn. 2019).

³ HB 5360, 2018 Reg. Sess. (Conn. 2018).

⁴ HB 5524, 2024 Reg. Sess. (Conn. 2024).

⁵ Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 22a-243 et seq.

⁶ "Report to the Legislature on the Findings of the Synthetic Microfiber Working Group." (2020). Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection.