

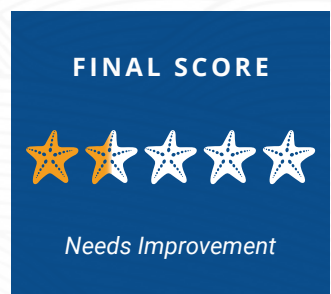
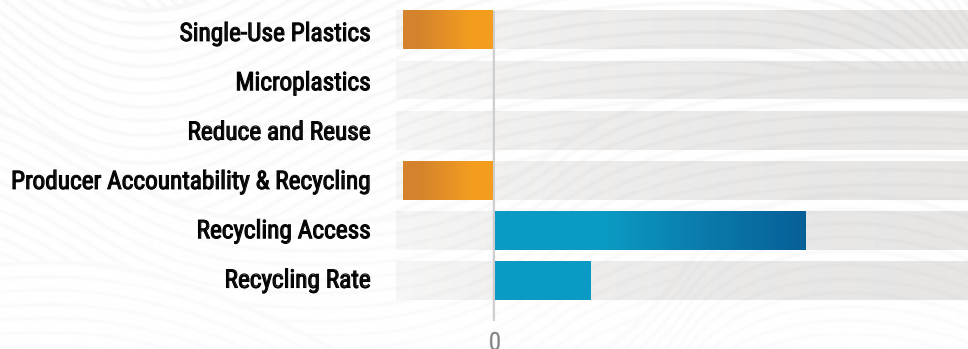
United States OF PLASTICS



Florida

SOUTH ATLANTIC-GULF

Florida is a deeply unique state. With over 8,000 miles of shoreline,¹ the state is home to some of the country's most unique and pristine ecosystems, supporting wildlife species like the manatee and green sea turtle in its coral reefs, mangroves and seagrass beds. This connection to the ocean is also an important part of the economy with coastal tourism accounting for billions annually as millions of visitors are drawn to Florida's beaches, marine wildlife and water-based activities like diving and snorkeling. While some communities in Florida have made efforts to address plastic pollution on the local level, the state has passed few laws to address plastic pollution and has enacted laws that could hinder further progress.



¹ ["Shoreline Mileage of the United States."](#) NOAA Office for Coastal Management. Accessed May 2025.



Single-Use Plastics

The state has laws limiting local governments' ability to regulate single-use plastics.² However, it has passed a law allowing local governments to restrict smoking on public beaches and parks.³ At least 55 municipalities have enacted cigarette smoking bans on beaches or in parks since this bill passed in 2021.



Microplastics

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



Reduce and Reuse

The state has not enacted any laws relating to plastic reduction or reuse.



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.⁴

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Florida 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 Florida'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 in Florida could lead to a significant reduction in waste and pollution.

Top 10 Items Collected by ICC Volunteers

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

Bye-Bye Balloon Releases

In 2024, Florida passed a law prohibiting the intentional release of balloons.⁵ This law closed a loophole in the state's existing littering law that allowed for the release of up to 10 balloons per person per day. Data from Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup® (ICC) show that balloons are a common form of plastic pollution on beaches worldwide and Ocean Conservancy scientists have found that nearly one in three seabirds that consumed even a single balloon died from balloon ingestion. They also concluded that balloons are among the highest-risk debris items—32 times more likely to kill seabirds than hard plastic. This type of policy is important to prevent devastating impacts to wildlife, especially in states where balloons are not covered under existing litter laws.

² SB 694, Reg. Sess. 2021 (Fla. 2021); HB 7007, Reg. Sess. 2016 (Fla. 2016).

³ HB 105, Reg. Sess. 2022 (Fla. 2022).

⁴ HB 335, Reg. Sess. 2017 (Fla. 2017). 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.

⁵ HB 321, Reg. Sess. 2024 (Fla. 2024).