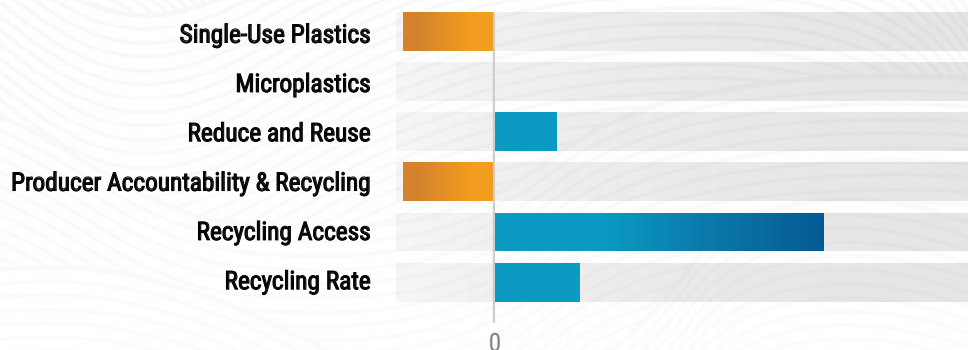


United States OF PLASTICS

Indiana

MISSOURI-MISSISSIPPI DRAINAGE

Indiana is connected to the ocean through its contact with Lake Michigan, the second largest of the five Great Lakes. Lake Michigan is connected to the Great Lakes system which flows into the St. Lawrence River, and ultimately the Atlantic Ocean. In addition to being a vital drinking water source for communities in Indiana, Lake Michigan also offers recreational opportunities and is a major economic driver for the state through the shipping industry. While the state is reliant on the health of the lake for multiple uses, Indiana has yet to pass legislation to 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 enacted two laws that support grant programs that fund projects focusing on reuse and reduction, in addition to recycling.²



Microplastics

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



Producer Accountability and Recycling

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

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Indiana 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.
- There are a lot of opportunities to take action in the state. Policies that reduce our reliance on single-use plastics can have a near-term impact on preventing plastic pollution and raise awareness of the issue for future action.

Top 10 Items Collected by ICC Volunteers

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

¹ HB 1053, 119th Gen. Assemb., 2nd Reg. Sess. (Ind. 2016)

² Ind. Code §§ 4-23-5.5-14, 13-20-22-2 (2024); "Indiana Recycling Market Development Program," Indiana Department of Environmental Management. Accessed May 2025; "Community Recycling Grant Guidelines," Indiana Department of Environmental Management.

³ SB 472, 123rd Gen. Assemb., 1st Reg. Sess. (Ind. 2023). 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](#).