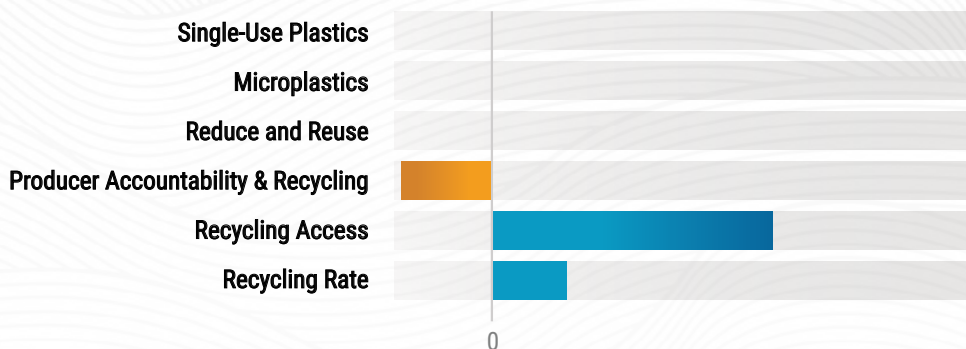


United States OF PLASTICS

Kansas

MISSOURI-MISSISSIPPI DRAINAGE

Kansas, while geographically distant from the ocean, is connected to it through the Missouri River, which flows along the state's northeastern border before ultimately flowing into the Gulf. The Missouri River serves as a key part of the state's watershed, supplying communities in eastern Kansas with water for drinking, irrigation and recreational activities. The river supports the state's agricultural economy by providing essential water for crops and livestock while also facilitating trade through connections to larger shipping routes downstream. Additionally, wildlife such as migratory birds, fish and beavers depend on the river's wetlands and riparian habitats for survival. Kansas has yet to pass legislation to address plastic pollution and has enacted a law that could hinder further progress.



FINAL SCORE



Needs Improvement



Single-Use Plastics

The state has not passed any laws restricting the single-use plastics covered in our study.



Reduce and Reuse

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



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.¹

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Kansas has policies in place that are impeding progress towards addressing plastic pollution. The state should reverse policies that enable harmful chemical recycling technologies and undermine reduction and effective recycling practices.
- Kansas would benefit from increased participation in Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup® (ICC). Organizing cleanup efforts removes harmful plastic pollution from the environment, helps raise citizen awareness and gathers important data to better target policy solutions. A great way to get involved and contribute valuable data is to download Ocean Conservancy's Clean Swell® app or join an ICC event.
- As microplastics have been shown to affect soil health and crop productivity,² the state should consider policies to address microplastic pollution such as requiring filters for new washing machines to reduce microfiber pollution and safeguard its agricultural industry.

Top 10 Items Collected by ICC Volunteers

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

¹ Kan. Stat. § 65-3402 (2024). 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](#).

² Hoang, V.-H., et al. (2024). *Science of the Total Environment*.