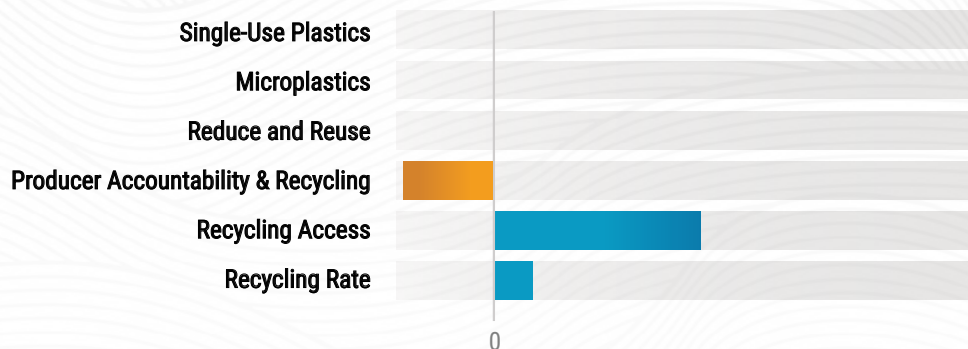


United States OF PLASTICS

Louisiana

MISSOURI-MISSISSIPPI DRAINAGE

Louisiana is a state with a rich culture and economy built on its ties to its rivers, wetlands and coasts. Louisiana is a Gulf state with a massive seafood industry that has a \$2.4 billion annual economic impact on the state, including through the harvest of crawfish, shrimp and oysters.¹ Louisiana is also the last state that the Mississippi flows through before draining into the Gulf. The Mississippi River sustains healthy wetland habitats throughout the state that serve as natural barriers to storms and sea-level rise. Louisiana is a major hub for petrochemical and plastic production, with dozens of facilities concentrated along the Mississippi River corridor in an area known as “Cancer Alley.” This region has some of the highest rates of toxic air pollution and associated health impacts in the country.² Louisiana has yet to pass legislation to address plastic pollution and has enacted a law that could hinder further progress.



FINAL SCORE



Needs Improvement

¹ [“The Economy of Seafood.”](#) Louisiana Seafood Industry. Accessed May 2025.

² [“The Fight for Life in a Louisiana Fossil Fuel Sacrifice Zone.”](#) (2024). Human Rights Watch.



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 (EPR) or deposit return programs for packaging or beverage containers. The state has also adopted policies that support harmful chemical recycling.³

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Louisiana 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.
- The state has both a low recycling access rate and a low recycling rate. Policies like comprehensive EPR with a deposit return system could 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 Bottle Caps (Plastic)
- 3 Beverage Bottles (Plastic)
- 4 Food Wrappers (Candy, chips, etc.)
- 5 Beverage Cans
- 6 Beverage Bottles (Glass)
- 7 Straws, Stirrers
- 8 Cups & Plates (Plastic)
- 9 Rope (1 yard/meter = 1 piece)
- 10 Grocery Bags (Plastic)

³ La. Rev. Stat. § 30:2153. 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.