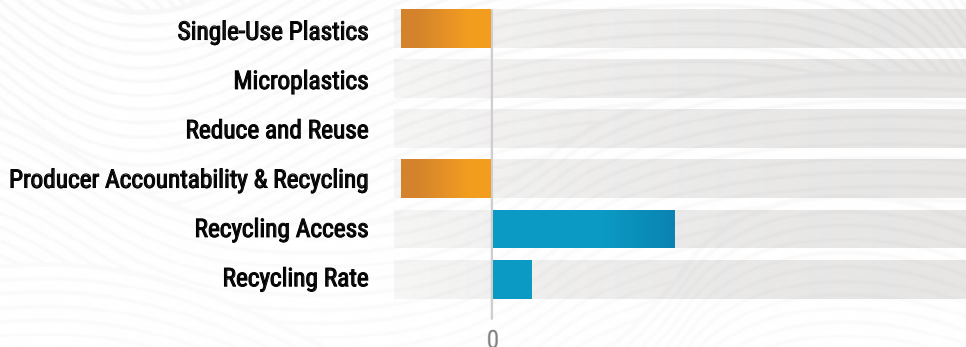


United States OF PLASTICS

Mississippi

MISSOURI-MISSISSIPPI DRAINAGE

The state of Mississippi was named after the Mississippi River. The river flows over 2,300 miles before reaching the Gulf. The Mississippi River Basin is the third largest drainage basin in the world; it includes 31 states and drains 41% of the continental United States.¹ Much of the state's culture, economy, communities and wildlife are supported directly by its connection to the river and coast. The river serves as a vital transportation hub while also supporting the economy through tourism and recreation. Mississippi also has several ports on its coast to support its shipping sector. While the state has deep ties to its river and coast, the state has yet to pass legislation to address plastic pollution and has enacted laws that could hinder further progress.



FINAL SCORE



Needs Improvement

¹ ["The Mississippi Drainage Basin."](#) U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Accessed May 2025.



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.²



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

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Mississippi 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.
- The state has both a low recycling access rate and a low recycling rate. Policies like comprehensive EPR with a deposit return system could reduce plastic pollution, 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 Beverage Bottles (Plastic)
- 4 Beverage Cans
- 5 Beverage Bottles (Glass)
- 6 Bottle Caps (Plastic)
- 7 Straws, Stirrers
- 8 Grocery Bags (Plastic)
- 9 Other Plastic Bags
- 10 Construction Materials

² SB 2570, 2018 Reg. Sess. (Miss. 2018).

³ HB 1135, 2022 Reg. Sess. (Miss. 2022). 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](#).