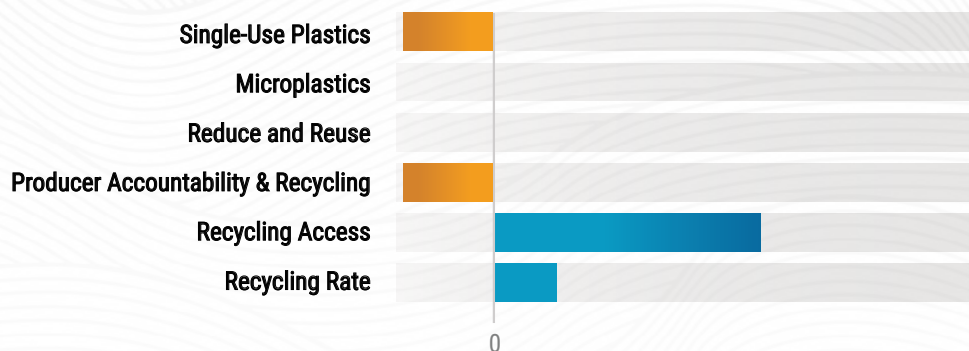


# United States OF PLASTICS

## Missouri

MISSOURI-MISSISSIPPI DRAINAGE

Although a landlocked state, Missouri holds a strong connection to the ocean through the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers, which converge near St. Louis and ultimately flow into the Gulf. Many people within Missouri rely on the river for drinking water, recreation and transportation. Additionally, St. Louis also has a major port on the river which supports its economy through shipping. Missouri's abundant freshwater systems support natural habitats and wildlife, including the endangered pallid sturgeon. While Missouri's communities, ecosystems and economy rely on healthy rivers, the state 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 plastic bags and has not passed any laws restricting the single-use plastics covered in our study.<sup>1</sup>



### 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.<sup>2</sup>

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Missouri 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 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 Beverage Cans
- 3 Beverage Bottles (Glass)
- 4 Beverage Bottles (Plastic)
- 5 Food Wrappers (Candy, chips, etc.)
- 6 Bottle Caps (Plastic)
- 7 Grocery Bags (Plastic)
- 8 Straws, Stirrers
- 9 Cups & Plates (Plastic)
- 10 Other Plastic Bags

<sup>1</sup> HB 722, 98th Gen. Assemb., 1st Reg. Sess. (Mo. 2015).

<sup>2</sup> HB 2485, 101st Gen. Assemb., 2nd Reg. Sess. (Mo. 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](#).