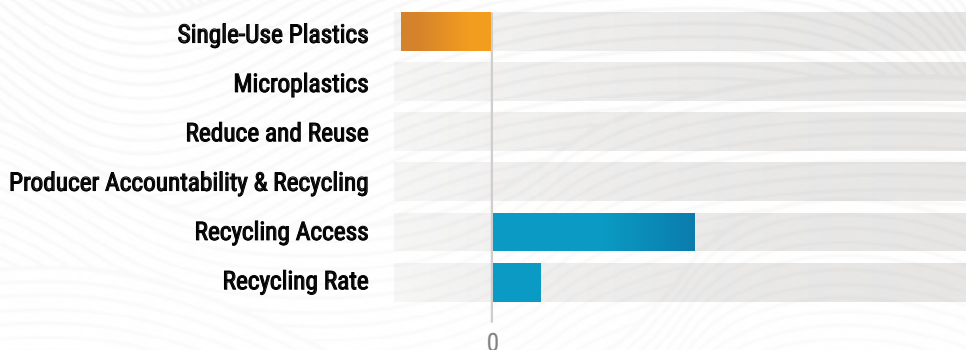


United States OF PLASTICS

Montana

MISSOURI-MISSISSIPPI DRAINAGE

Montana is connected to the ocean through the Missouri River, which flows into the Mississippi River, making it the westernmost state connected to the Mississippi River Drainage Basin that ultimately flows into the Gulf. Communities in Montana rely on the Missouri River, using its waters to support drinking water, recreation and transportation. The pallid sturgeon, one of the rarest and largest freshwater fish in North America, is an endangered species that relies on the health of the Missouri River, as do countless other wildlife. Missouri 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

Montana limits local governments' ability to regulate single-use plastics and has not passed any laws restricting the single-use plastics covered in our study.¹



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.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Montana should remove restrictions on local governments and allow them to regulate single-use plastics in their communities.
- Montana 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.
- 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 Beverage Cans
- 2 Beverage Bottles (Glass)
- 3 Fishing Line (1 yard/meter = 1 piece)
- 4 Food Wrappers (Candy, chips, etc.)
- 5 Cigarette Butts
- 6 Beverage Bottles (Plastic)
- 7 Cups & Plates (Plastic)
- 8 Bottle Caps (Plastic)
- 9 Clothing
*2022 onward
- 10 Footwear (Shoes/slippers)
*2022 onward

¹ HB 407, 67th Leg. (Mon. 2021).