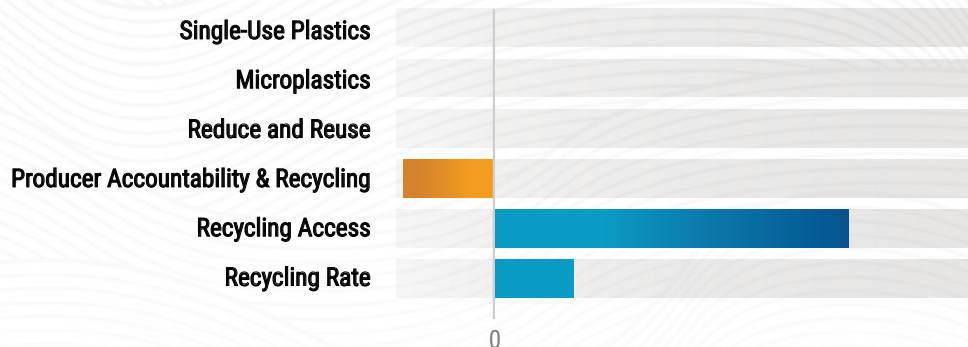


# United States OF PLASTICS

## New Hampshire

NEW ENGLAND

New Hampshire is home to the shortest shoreline in the U.S.<sup>1</sup> Despite its small Atlantic shoreline, New Hampshire has a vibrant maritime history and the state's economy benefits from commercial fishing, tourism and a thriving seafood industry centered in communities like Portsmouth and Hampton. One of the state's most important natural features is the Great Bay Estuary, a rich and biodiverse ecosystem that serves as a nursery for many marine species. Known for its natural beauty from the White Mountains to scenic lakes, New Hampshire has a strong history of environmental stewardship. The Connecticut River, the longest river in New England, flows along the state's border and plays a crucial role in sustaining ecosystems, supplying drinking water and providing opportunities for outdoor recreation and tourism. While New Hampshire depends on the health of its marine and freshwater ecosystems, the state has yet to pass legislation that would address plastic pollution and has enacted a law that could hinder further progress.



FINAL SCORE



*Needs Improvement*

<sup>1</sup> ["Shoreline Mileage of the United States."](#) NOAA Office for Coastal Management. Accessed May 2025.





### Single-Use Plastics

The state has not passed any laws restricting the single-use plastics reviewed 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

New Hampshire 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.<sup>2</sup>

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- The state 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.
- There are many opportunities to take action in the state. Policies that reduce our reliance on single-use plastics can have a near-term impact on preventing plastic pollution and raise awareness of the issue for future action.
- Since tourism is a major aspect of New Hampshire's economy, the state has an opportunity to champion sustainable tourism by phasing out single-use plastics for personal care products in hotels. Reducing the use of unnecessary single-use plastics by tourists in New Hampshire could lead to a significant reduction in waste and pollution.

## Top 10 Items Collected by ICC Volunteers

- 1 Cigarette Butts
- 2 Rope (1 yard/meter = 1 piece)
- 3 Food Wrappers (Candy, chips, etc.)
- 4 Beverage Cans
- 5 Bottle Caps (Plastic)
- 6 Beverage Bottles (Glass)
- 7 Beverage Bottles (Plastic)
- 8 Straws, Stirrers
- 9 Fishing Buoys, Pots & Traps
- 10 Grocery Bags (Plastic)

<sup>2</sup> N.H. Rev. Stat. §§ 149-M:4, 149-M:62. Ocean Conservancy considers chemical recycling technologies to be harmful when they do not recover plastic and create environmental and social harm. Learn more about our [position on chemical recycling](#).