

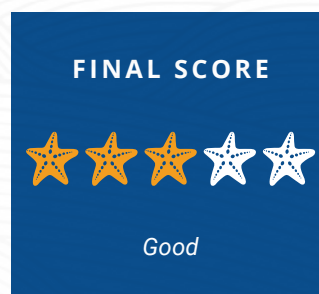
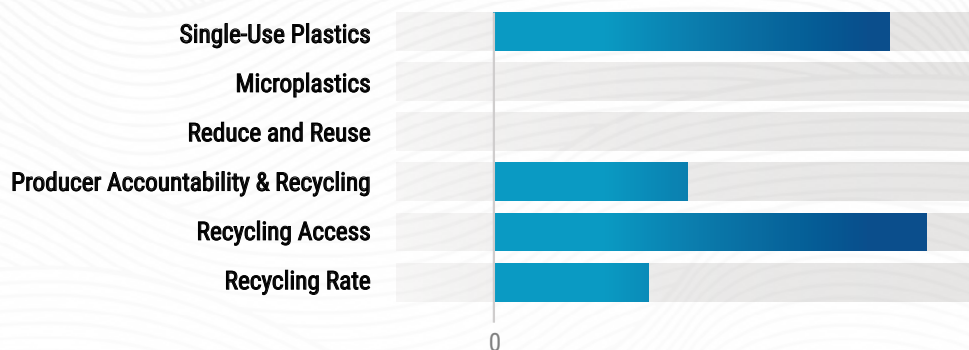
United States OF PLASTICS



New York

GREAT LAKES BASIN

New York has a deep and multifaceted connection to water, with its borders spanning from the Great Lakes in the west to the Atlantic Ocean on the east. The state borders Lake Ontario and Lake Erie, and the Hudson River flows through the heart of the state into the New York Harbor and the Atlantic Ocean, making New York a crucial link between inland freshwater systems and the marine environment. These waterways, which provide drinking water for millions of residents, support major industries including shipping, fishing, tourism and recreation. New York is also home to the largest and most voluminous waterfall in the U.S., Niagara Falls, as well as other scenic ecosystems like the Finger Lakes, the Long Island Sound and the New York Bight. New York is a national leader on environmental policy and has passed several laws to address plastic pollution, but many opportunities remain for continued action.





Single-Use Plastics

New York has phased out expanded polystyrene (plastic foam) foodware, loose-fill packaging materials and single-use coolers, as well as single-use plastic bags.¹ The state also prohibits hotels from providing personal care products in single-use plastic bottles and has a law that prohibits smoking on beaches.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

New York has a bottle bill that establishes a 5-cent deposit for certain beverage containers (including carbonated beverages, still water, and beer).³

RECOMMENDATIONS

- New York has a low recycling rate despite having an existing bottle bill. Policies like extended producer responsibility would complement the state's existing deposit return system and increase the amount of material that is recycled and kept out of the environment without increasing costs for local governments. Expanding beverage containers covered under the bottle bill and including incentives for reuse through that program would be another option to decrease plastic pollution and improve local recycling.
- New York should consider policies that support local reuse and refill systems, such as requiring reusable foodware at events, which could help reduce reliance on single-use plastics and increase awareness around plastic pollution.
- Given the important connection New York has to freshwater systems and the marine environment, the state should consider policies to address microplastic pollution such as funding for tire wear mitigation projects and requiring filters for new washing machines to reduce microfiber pollution.

Top 10 Items Collected by ICC Volunteers

- 1 Cigarette Butts
- 2 Food Wrappers (Candy, chips, etc.)
- 3 Bottle Caps (Plastic)
- 4 Straws, Stirrers
- 5 Beverage Bottles (Plastic)
- 6 Beverage Bottles (Glass)
- 7 Beverage Cans
- 8 Grocery Bags (Plastic)
- 9 Bottle Caps (Metal)
- 10 Other Plastic Bags

¹ N.Y. Envtl. Conserv. Law §§ 27-3001 et seq. (expanded polystyrene); § 1508C/A 2008C, 2019–2020 Reg. Sess. (2021) (bags).

² § 543/A 5082, 2021–2022 Reg. Sess. (N.Y. 2021) (hotel personal care products); § 4142/A 5061, 2021–2022 Reg. Sess. (2021) (smoking).

³ N.Y. Envtl. Conserv. Law §§ 27-1001 et seq.