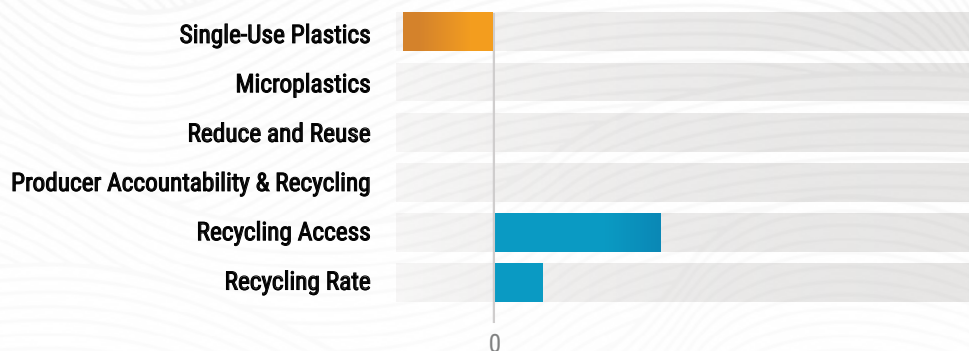


United States OF PLASTICS

North Dakota

MISSOURI-MISSISSIPPI DRAINAGE

North Dakota, though landlocked, is intricately connected to the Missouri River, which originates in Montana and flows southeast through North Dakota before eventually reaching the Mississippi River and ultimately the Gulf. Communities in North Dakota rely on the Missouri for drinking water and for agricultural and industrial uses, making the health of this river vital to daily lives. The river also supports local economies through energy production from dams, transportation and recreation. Wetlands along the river provide nesting grounds, food sources and migration pathways for wildlife within the state. North Dakota 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

North Dakota 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

- North Dakota should remove restrictions on local governments and allow them to regulate single-use plastics in their communities.
- North Dakota 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 Beverage Bottles (Plastic)
- 4 Food Wrappers (Candy, chips, etc.)
- 5 Cigarette Butts
- 6 Fishing Line (1 yard/meter = 1 piece)
- 7 Other Plastic/Foam Packaging
- 8 Cups & Plates (Plastic)
- 9 Bottle Caps (Plastic)
- 10 Grocery Bags (Plastic)

¹ N.D. Cent. Code §§ 23.1-08-02; 23.1-08-06.1.