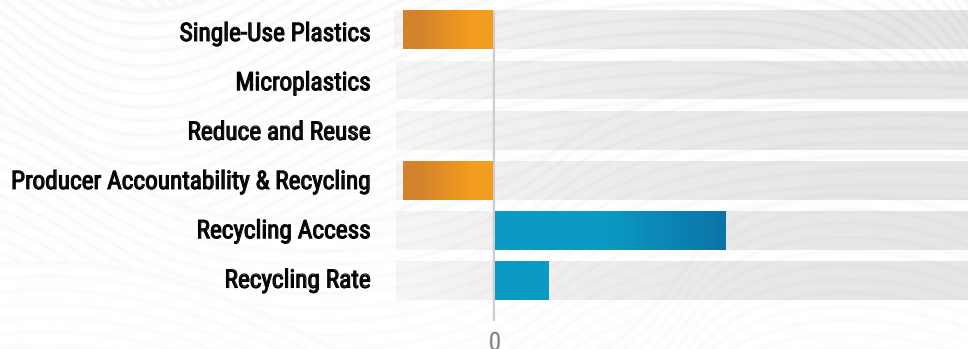


# United States OF PLASTICS

## Oklahoma

MISSOURI-MISSISSIPPI DRAINAGE

Oklahoma is connected to the ocean through the Arkansas and Red Rivers, both of which flow through the state before joining the Mississippi River and ultimately drain into the Gulf. Local communities are dependent on healthy rivers for drinking water and agriculture and also support the state's economy through transportation, power generation and tourism. The rivers play a key role in providing flood protection against storms through both engineered and natural features. Oklahoma 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

Oklahoma limits local governments' ability to regulate single-use plastics 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 harmful policies that support harmful chemical recycling.<sup>2</sup>

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Oklahoma 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.
- Oklahoma 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

- Beverage Cans
- Cigarette Butts
- Beverage Bottles (Plastic)
- Food Wrappers (Candy, chips, etc.)
- Beverage Bottles (Plastic)
- Fishing Line (1 yard/meter = 1 piece)
- Straws, Stirrers
- Lids (Plastic)
- Bottle Caps (Plastic)
- Cups & Plates (Plastic)

<sup>1</sup> SB 1001, 2019 Reg. Sess. (Okla. 2019).

<sup>2</sup> SB 448, 2021 Reg. Sess. (Okla. 2021). 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](#).