

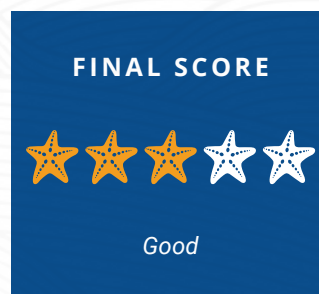
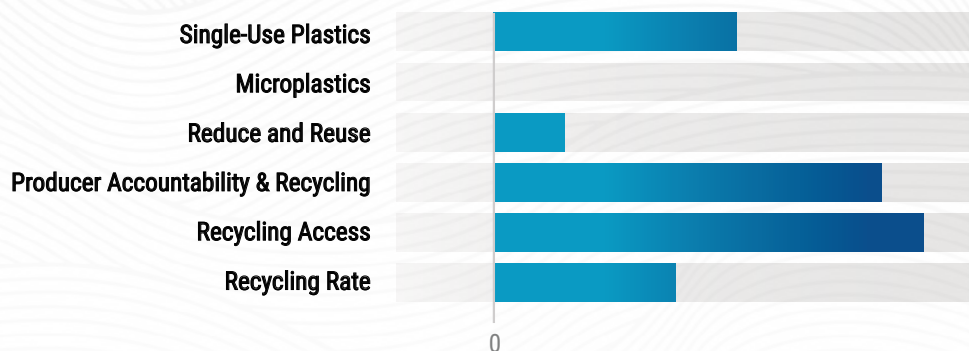
United States OF PLASTICS



Oregon

PACIFIC AND COLORADO RIVER BASINS

Oregon's identity is deeply intertwined with its diverse and beautiful ecosystems and Pacific shoreline, which are vital to the state's economy and culture. Key industries such as commercial fishing, forestry and tourism depend heavily on the health of the state's waterways and marine environments. However, plastic pollution poses a significant threat to these ecosystems, jeopardizing the wildlife, personal livelihoods and communities that rely on them. A study by Environment Oregon found microplastics in 100% of the waterways they tested around the state.¹ The state has been an early and long-standing leader in environmental leadership, including tackling plastic pollution, from passing the first bottle bill in the country to phasing out problematic single-use plastics.



¹ Meiffren-Swango, C. "Microplastics in Oregon: A survey of waterways." (2021). Environment Oregon Research & Policy Center.



Single-Use Plastics

Oregon has phased out many of the most problematic single-use plastics such as expanded polystyrene foodware, coolers and loose fill packaging and restricts the use of single-use plastic carryout bags.² Oregon also requires that single-use plastic straws be provided to consumers only by request.³



Microplastics

The state has not passed any laws to address microplastic pollution.



Reduce and Reuse

Oregon's extended producer responsibility (EPR) law includes funding for reuse infrastructure and the state has gone further by updating their health codes to ensure consumers can bring their own containers for reuse.⁴



Producer Accountability and Recycling

Not only does Oregon have the oldest and one of the best performing bottle bills in the country,⁵ it was the second state to pass EPR for packaging.⁶

RECOMMENDATIONS

- While Oregon has been a strong leader on reducing plastic pollution, the state could do much more to tackle microplastics. Oregon is home to many leading microplastics researchers that can help inform policies based on the best available science. The state should consider policies to address microplastic pollution such as requiring filters for new washing machines to reduce microfiber pollution.
- Oregon should consider additional policies to promote plastic source reduction and reuse, such as considering reuse targets in their existing bottle bill and EPR program, to build on policies already in place.

Top 10 Items Collected by ICC Volunteers

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

Funding for the Future

While Oregon's EPR law does not include requirements for reusable packaging, it did establish the Material Impact Reduction and Reuse (MIRROR) program, an initiative aimed at reducing environmental impacts through waste prevention strategies. Funded by producer fees in the EPR program, MIRROR provides grants and loans for projects throughout the state that are focused on reducing waste at its source. The funding of this program will help build out critical infrastructure needed to assist small businesses scale up reuse infrastructure to have a significant impact in reducing plastic pollution.

² SB 543, 82nd Leg., 2023 Reg. Sess. (Or. 2023) (expanded polystyrene); SB 551, 83rd. Leg., 2025 Reg. Sess. (Or. 2025) (bags).

³ SB 90, 80th Leg., 2019 Reg. Sess. (Or. 2019).

⁴ SB 582, 81st Leg., 2021 Reg. Sess. (Or. 2021) (EPR); SB 545, 82nd Leg., 2023 Reg. Sess. (Or. 2023) (container reuse)

⁵ "Redemption Rate and Other Features of 10 U.S. State Deposit Programs." (2025). Container Recycling Institute.

⁶ Or. Rev. Stat. §§ 459A.700 et seq. (bottle bill); SB 582 (Or. 2021) (EPR).