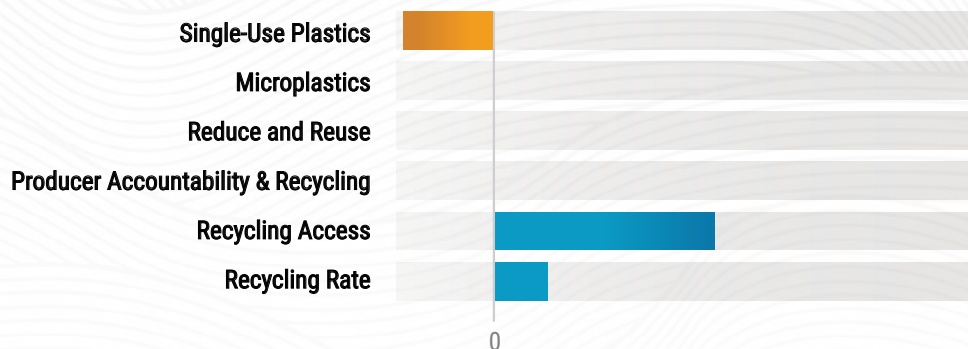


United States OF PLASTICS

South Dakota

MISSOURI-MISSISSIPPI DRAINAGE

South Dakota, though far away from a coastline, is integrally connected to the ocean through the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers, which ultimately drain into the Gulf. The Missouri River is a vital resource for the state, supporting agriculture, recreation, wildlife habitat and drinking water for many communities. South Dakota is home to both Badlands and Wind Cave National Parks as well as Mount Rushmore Memorial, attracting millions of visitors from across the country to enjoy its natural beauty. The state 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

South Dakota has a law limiting 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 or deposit return programs for packaging or beverage containers.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- South Dakota should remove restrictions on local governments and allow them to regulate single-use plastics in their communities.
- South 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.
- Since tourism to national parks and other outdoor spaces provides a major part of South Dakota'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 could lead to a significant reduction in waste and pollution.

Top 10 Items Collected by ICC Volunteers

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

¹ SB 54, 95th Legis. Sess. (S.D. 2020).