

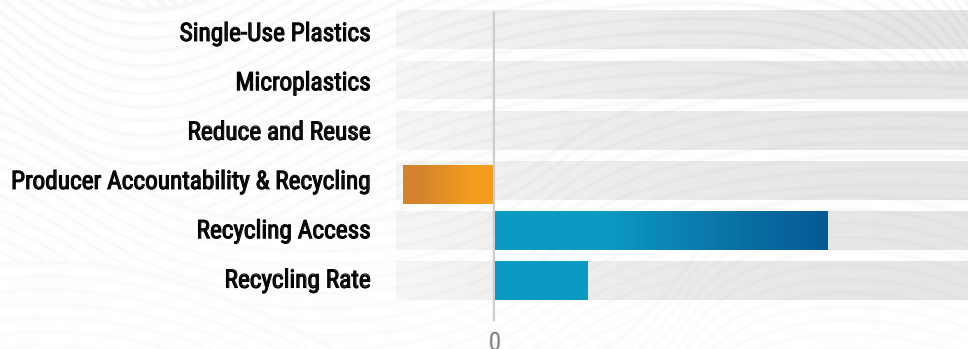
United States OF PLASTICS



Utah

PACIFIC AND COLORADO RIVER BASINS

Utah, a landlocked state in the Great Basin, is known for its stunning landscapes, including vast deserts, mountain ranges and the Great Salt Lake. Utah is home to five national parks that attract millions of visitors each year. The Colorado and Green Rivers flow through the state, connecting it to surrounding communities and downstream freshwater and marine ecosystems. While Utah has taken some action to promote better recycling practices, such as mandated publishing of their recycling data to the public,¹ the state has yet to pass legislation that would specifically address plastic pollution and has enacted a law that could hinder further progress.



FINAL SCORE



Needs Improvement

¹ [HB 107](#), 2024 Gen. Sess. (Utah 2024).



Single-Use Plastics

The state has not passed any laws restricting the single-use plastics reviewed in our study.



Reduce and Reuse

The state has not enacted any laws relating to plastic reduction or reuse.



Microplastics

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



Producer Accountability and Recycling

The state does not have any extended producer responsibility or deposit return programs for packaging or beverage containers. The state has also adopted policies that support harmful chemical recycling.²

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Utah has policies in place that are impeding progress towards addressing plastic pollution. The state should reverse policies that enable harmful chemical recycling technologies and undermine reduction and effective recycling practices.
- The state should consider enacting policies to reduce plastic pollution. Policies that reduce our reliance on single-use plastics can have a near-term impact on preventing plastic pollution and raise awareness of the issue for future action.

Top 10 Items Collected by ICC Volunteers

- 1 Food Wrappers (Candy, chips, etc.)
- 2 Cigarette Butts
- 3 Beverage Cans
- 4 Beverage Bottles (Plastic)
- 5 Grocery Bags (Plastic)
- 6 Beverage Bottles (Glass)
- 7 Bottle Caps (Plastic)
- 8 Other (non-plastic) trash
*2016 onward
- 9 Straws, Stirrers
- 10 Other Plastic Bags

² HB 493, 2023 Gen. Sess. (Utah 2023). 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](#).