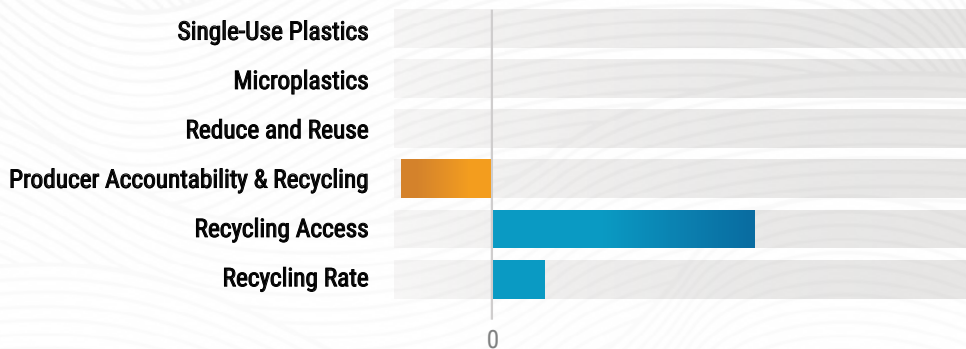


# United States OF PLASTICS

## Wyoming

MISSOURI-MISSISSIPPI DRAINAGE

Although landlocked, Wyoming is still connected to the ocean through a system of rivers, in particular the Yellowstone River, that flow into the Missouri River before ultimately draining into the Gulf. Wyoming is home to some of the most iconic natural landscapes in the U.S., including Yellowstone National Park, the first national park in the world, and Grand Teton National Park, which draw millions of visitors each year. As a state with some of the lowest rainfall in the country annually, Wyoming relies on the health of its river systems and adjacent reservoirs extensively for drinking water and to support local agriculture. Wyoming 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

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 extended producer responsibility or deposit return programs for packaging or beverage containers. The state has also adopted policies that support harmful chemical recycling.<sup>1</sup>

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Wyoming should reverse policies that enable harmful chemical recycling technologies and undermine reduction and effective recycling practices.
- The state 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.

## Top 10 Items Collected by ICC Volunteers

- 1 Cigarette Butts
- 2 Food Wrappers (Candy, chips, etc.)
- 3 Beverage Cans
- 4 Beverage Bottles (Plastic)
- 5 Grocery Bags (Plastic)
- 6 Other Plastic Bags
- 7 Paper Bags
- 8 Beverage Bottles (Glass)
- 9 Construction Materials
- 10 Straws, Stirrers

<sup>1</sup> SF 80, 67th Leg., 2024 Budget Sess. (Wyo. 2024). 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](#).