



Connecticut's Mattress Recycling Program

 Mattress Recycling Council®

 **bye bye mattress**®
A Program of the Mattress Recycling Council®

OVERVIEW

- Industry-led nonprofit
- Funded by visible recycling fee
- Operating statewide recycling network
- Providing education and outreach
- Combating illegal dumping
- Conducting research
- CT DEEP oversight

OBJECTIVES



Increase Recycling

Recover and recycle units generated in the state

Curb Illegal Dumping

Working collaboratively to address this persistent problem

Operate Cost-Effectively

Being good stewards of the recycling fee

CONNECTICUT



Collected
213,543 units



97% of residents have
access to the program

QUICK FACTS

Launched:	May 2015
Recycling Fee:	\$11.75
Recycling Facilities:	2
Participating Towns:	140
Permanent Sites:	140+



COMMERCIAL VOLUME PROGRAM

- Available to retailers, hotels, universities, military, hospitals and others
- No-cost transportation provided for 50+ units
- 297 participants



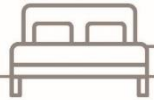
WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A MATTRESS IS RECYCLED?

Mattresses are **CUT OPEN**



& THE LAYERS are separated

Interior materials are **ORGANIZED** by type



Foam, fiber and other soft commodities are **COMPRESSED**

Metal & box springs **ARE EXTRACTED** & sent to scrap recyclers



Then sold to foundries & **STEEL MILLS**



Wood is recycled & used **AS A FUEL SOURCE**

Why Recycle?

Conservation of resources by using **OLD STEEL, FOAM, WOOD** & other materials to create

NEW PRODUCTS



Less reliance on

LANDFILLS

by diverting mattresses from **THE WASTE STREAM**

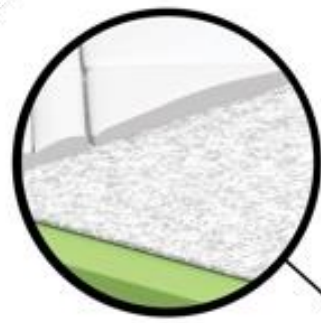


CREATING RECYCLING JOBS

Reducing the number of **ILLEGALLY DUMPED MATTRESSES**



WHAT HAPPENS TO THE MATERIALS?



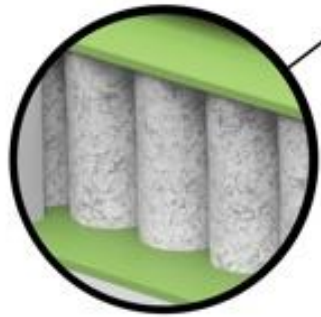
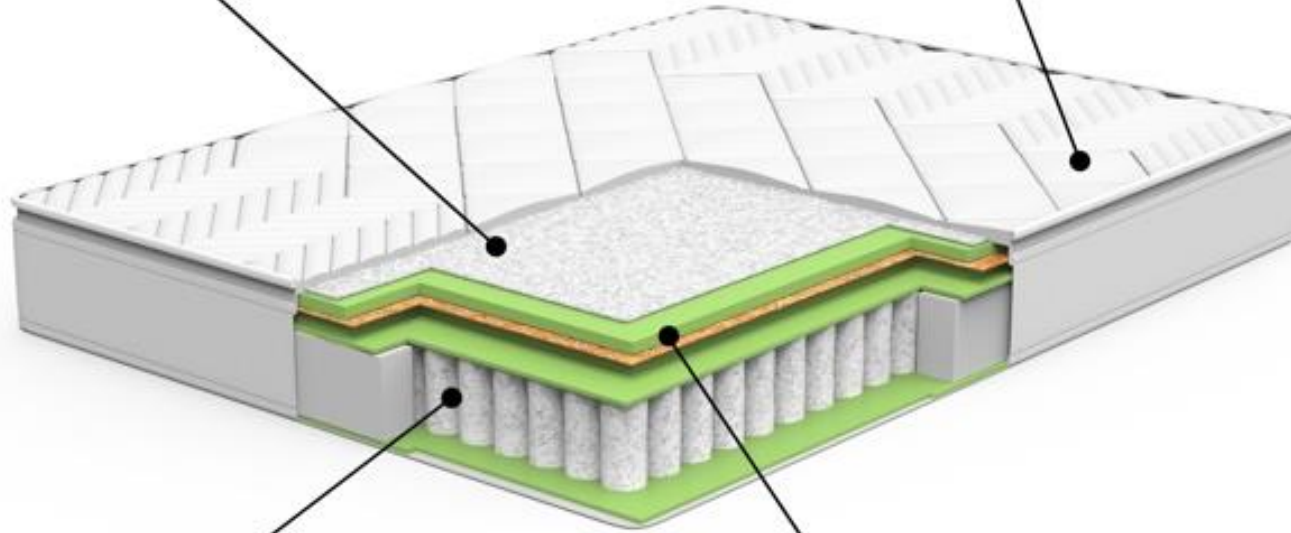
Foam Padding

- Turned into carpet underlayment or animal bed padding



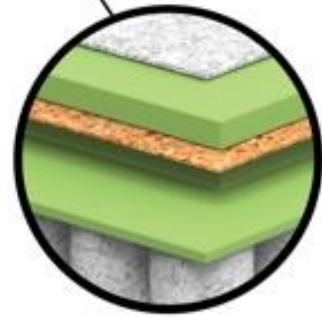
Cotton

- Used in industrial oil filters and other textile applications



Steel Springs

- Recycled as metal scrap
- Used to make new appliances and building materials



Wooden Frames

- Shredded to produce landscaping mulch or burned as an alternative fuel source

OUR IMPACT

**1,000,000
mattresses**

Stacked on top of one another,
that is enough mattresses to
reach the International Space
Station!

**36
MILLION
pounds**

of material diverted
from the waste stream.

**OVER 75%
of a mattress**

can be recycled. The
steel, foam, fiber and
wood can make hundreds
of new products.

CONSUMER OUTREACH

- Point-of-sale materials
- Advertising campaigns
- Public service announcements
- Digital and social media
- Earned media
- Community events



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mattress®**
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COMBATING ILLEGAL DUMPING

- PSA campaign has reached over 3.5 million impressions across MRC's program states
- Working with local governments to educate residents
- White Paper and Lesson Plan available



RESEARCH PRIORITIES

Increasing Efficiency

Investing in studies to identify best practices

Improving Recyclability

Awarding funding for infrastructure improvements

Expanding End Markets

Searching for new uses for component material



LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

- Additional state interest.
- Maine pilot program under development
- MRC interest in regional approach to mattress EPR

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THANK YOU

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