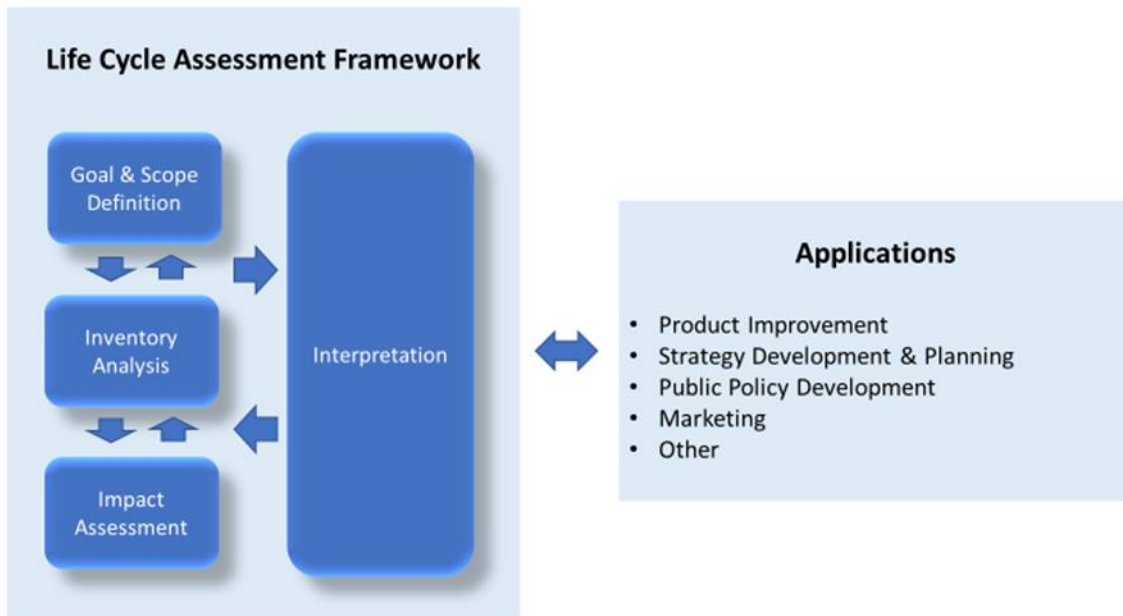




# Life Cycle Analysis Study - Environmental Impact of Mattress Recycling Processes

## Request for Proposals



**Issue Date:** October 5, 2020

**Due Date:** November 6, 2020

**Mattress Recycling Council**

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[www.MattressRecyclingCouncil.org](http://www.MattressRecyclingCouncil.org)

## **BACKGROUND**

The Mattress Recycling Council (MRC) is a 501(c)(3) formed by the mattress industry to create and operate recycling programs (known as Bye Bye Mattress) in states which have enacted mattress recycling laws: California, Connecticut and Rhode Island. MRC educates the mattress industry and consumers about these mattress recycling laws and works closely with local governments, waste management professionals, recyclers and others to create accessible and efficient mattress collection and recycling networks.

## **PROJECT SCOPE**

MRC is seeking to better understand the environmental footprint of its current recycling practices, by assessing the baseline potential environmental impacts of our California program. The project will focus on activities from post-consumer collection, transportation, deconstruction and recycling through to major end uses for recovered materials.

Presently, MRC manages a network of over 200 collection centers and 10 mattress recycling facilities in California. These facilities combined recycle approximately 1.4 million mattresses per year. MRC also is exploring alternative recycling technologies and other innovations to improve recycling rates, process efficiency and product quality. This study is expected to establish the baseline performance of current operations and estimate the environmental impact of alternative technologies.

The project is intended to follow ISO 14040 guidelines and generate a report detailing the life cycle inventories and impacts of recycled materials in their end use applications. As of this writing, product category rules have not been established for mattresses, nor is it intended to go through a process to formally establish them.

## **PROJECT REQUIREMENTS**

- Proposals must follow the principles and framework established the current ISO 14040 standard for life cycle assessments.
- The project team must be experienced with organizing, leading and executing LCA's for multi-component materials. Experience with mattresses is preferred.
- The project team should include or have access to a resource familiar with mattress manufacturing processes and with common mattress constructions.
- The project team must obtain or arrange access to industry accepted LCA practitioners and computational software.
- The project plan should clearly identify resources required from MRC and its network of recyclers. The plan should also specify data requirements upstream from recycling operations and define a process for collecting the information required.

## **ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS**

- Public and private businesses.
- Both U.S. based and international businesses are eligible to apply.
- Universities and research institutions.
- Nonprofit entities.

- All applicants must be in good standing with all federal, state and local agencies.

## **PROPOSAL GUIDELINES AND FEEDBACK**

Proposers should provide:

1. Applicant name.
2. Applicant contact information — at least 2 contacts.
3. A project description that clearly outlines the technical approach, resources to be applied and the expected deliverables.
4. The project team with a brief summary of each member's responsibilities and qualifications
5. A project work plan and milestone plan.
6. A project budget including the total funding required.
7. A budget justification which includes a breakdown of labor costs by category with respective hourly labor rates. The justification should also include estimates for travel, materials and other resources expected to be applied to the project.
8. A description of the applicant's industry history and experience with similar projects.
9. Acknowledgement of any potential conflicts of interest with MRC leadership or former employment in the mattress industry.
10. Notification of any pending or outstanding judgments or enforcement actions against applicant, the applicant's organization or its products and services.

Proposals may be submitted in PDF format by email to Mike Gallagher at: [mgallagher@mattressrecyclingcouncil.org](mailto:mgallagher@mattressrecyclingcouncil.org). Proposals should not exceed 10 pages in length including any attachments or letters of support. Proposals that do not follow application instructions may be considered non-responsive.

The awardee will enter into a formal agreement with MRC which describes the project plan, deliverables, treatment of confidential information, intellectual property rights and other terms. MRC is open to working with any organization that proposes a concept that is consistent with MRC's objectives.

MRC intends for the research program to be as transparent as possible while recognizing the need to protect confidential data. Confidential information must be clearly marked as such. MRC may use non-confidential research project documentation for California state annual reporting requirements and communication purposes.

Prospective applicants are strongly encouraged to engage with MRC to more deeply understand the project scope before submitting a proposal. Questions and comments may be emailed to Mike Gallagher, [mgallagher@mattressrecyclingcouncil.org](mailto:mgallagher@mattressrecyclingcouncil.org). Additional information is posted on [MRC's Research Program](#) website.