



the guide

The Mattress Recycling Council (MRC) is a nonprofit dedicated to recycling,
because there is more to every mattress.



Mattress
Recycling
Council®

about the Mattress Recycling Council

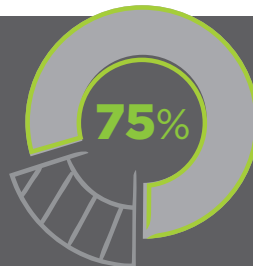
The Mattress Recycling Council (MRC) is a nonprofit organization formed by the mattress industry to operate recycling programs in those states that have enacted mattress recycling laws. The program is currently running in California, Connecticut and Rhode Island and MRC is establishing a program in Oregon, which will be operational in 2024. Each state's program is funded by a recycling fee collected when consumers buy a mattress or box spring. Nearly 2 million mattresses are recycled annually.

In the U.S., MRC estimates **15-20 million mattresses are discarded every year**, or an average of 50,000 per day. In 2013, Connecticut became the first state in the country to enact a law requiring the industry to develop and administer a statewide program to collect and recycle discarded mattresses and box springs. California and Rhode Island passed similar legislation later that year and Oregon followed in 2022. The International Sleep Products Association (ISPA), the trade association for the mattress industry, created the Mattress Recycling Council to develop and administer these state programs. MRC created the Bye Bye Mattress brand to communicate with consumers about mattress recycling.

MRC officially began operating in May 2015 in Connecticut then launched California in December 2015 and Rhode Island in May 2016. State governments oversee MRC's programs. MRC is accountable to each state and reports to the following entities: Connecticut's Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), California's Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle), Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation (RIRRC) and Oregon's Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

Fast Facts:

More than **50,000** mattresses are discarded in the U.S. **each day** and more than **75%** of a mattress can be recycled.




A Life Cycle Analysis of MRC's California operations found that the materials recovered and reused as a result of MRC's recycling activities result in carbon savings that far exceed the amount of carbon used to collect, transport and dismantle mattresses and that it provides other positive environmental benefits.



WATER USE
818
million gallons
SAVED

Annual water use for
37,500 residents

ENERGY
174

megawatt hours
SAVED

Annual electricity use
for 40,000 residents

CLIMATE IMPACT
75 million
pounds
of **greenhouse**
gas emissions
displaced

98 million miles of
car emissions



OREGON

Program Launch
Coming Soon

Why Recycle?

Conservation of resources
by using old steel, foam, wood & other
material to create **new products**.



program highlights

MRC has collected more than **13 million** mattresses program-wide. Throughout these states recyclers have diverted more than 500 million pounds of material from landfills through reuse, recycling and biomass.



CALIFORNIA

Size:
163,696 sq. miles
3rd largest state

Population:
39.1 million

Recycling Fee:
\$10.50

Launched:
Dec. 2015

Sites: 220
Recyclers: 7

Lifetime Totals:
11 million units
collected

431 million pounds
of material



CONNECTICUT

Size:
5,543 sq. miles
3rd smallest state

Population:
3.6 million

Recycling Fee:
\$11.75

Launched:
May 2015

Sites: 135
Recyclers: 2

Lifetime Totals:
1.5 million units
collected

54 million pounds
of material



RHODE ISLAND

Size:
1,545 sq. miles
smallest state in U.S.

Population:
1 million

Recycling Fee:
\$20.50

Launched:
May 2016

Sites: 39
Recyclers: 1

Lifetime Totals:
700,000 units
collected

25 million pounds
of material

how the program operates

MRC collaborates with solid waste companies, local governments, nonprofit organizations, retailers and small and minority-owned businesses to establish collection sites. MRC contracts with third parties to transport mattresses from these locations to recycling facilities and with recyclers to dismantle the units. MRC also conducts extensive education and outreach to industry, consumer and stakeholder audiences; fosters research projects aimed at improving the mattress recycling process or finding new and better uses for materials; and works to address illegal mattress dumping.

In each state where mattress recycling laws have been enacted, MRC:

- Collects a fee that is charged to consumers in each state at the time of purchase that funds the cost of operating and administering that state's program. This fee applies to both individual consumers and institutional large volume purchasers (such as hotels, dormitories, etc.).
- Provides for no-cost and accessible state-wide opportunities for residents to discard their used mattresses.
- Provides for no-cost collection of discarded mattresses from solid waste facilities.
- Provides solid waste facilities with suitable storage containers and transportation of discarded mattresses.
- Provides for MRC-financed transportation and recycling of mattresses and box springs.
- Publicizes the program to consumers and affected businesses.

Mattresses are collected through a variety of channels, offering consumers and businesses options for recycling, including:

- **Solid waste collection system.** MRC works with the solid waste collection infrastructure that exists in each state to separate and recycle mattresses collected through that system. This consists of establishing collection sites at solid waste facilities (landfills, transfer stations, public works yards) or working with the party responsible for curbside collection (a municipality or waste contractor).
- **Collection events.** Supplementing its permanent collection network, MRC hosts collection events where residents can drop off mattresses at no cost. For these events, MRC provides labor, transportation, recycling and publicity.
- **Commercial Volume Program (CVP).** Businesses and other entities with large quantities of used mattresses can either drop off or have these units picked up by an MRC-contracted transporter.
- **Retailer take back.** Retailers and their service providers are among the types of businesses that can use MRC's CVP to recycle mattresses they have taken back from customers upon the delivery of a purchased mattress.

Why Recycle?

To reduce the number of illegally dumped mattresses. See how we are helping communities address this important issue at mattressrecyclingcouncil.org/illegal-dumping/



Why Recycle?

Less reliance on **incinerators & landfills** by diverting mattresses from the waste stream.



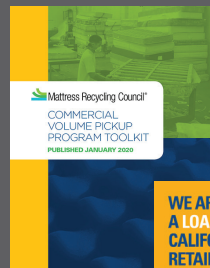
education and outreach

To promote mattress recycling and discourage illegal dumping in the states where it operates, MRC provides a comprehensive education and outreach program targeting industry and consumers.



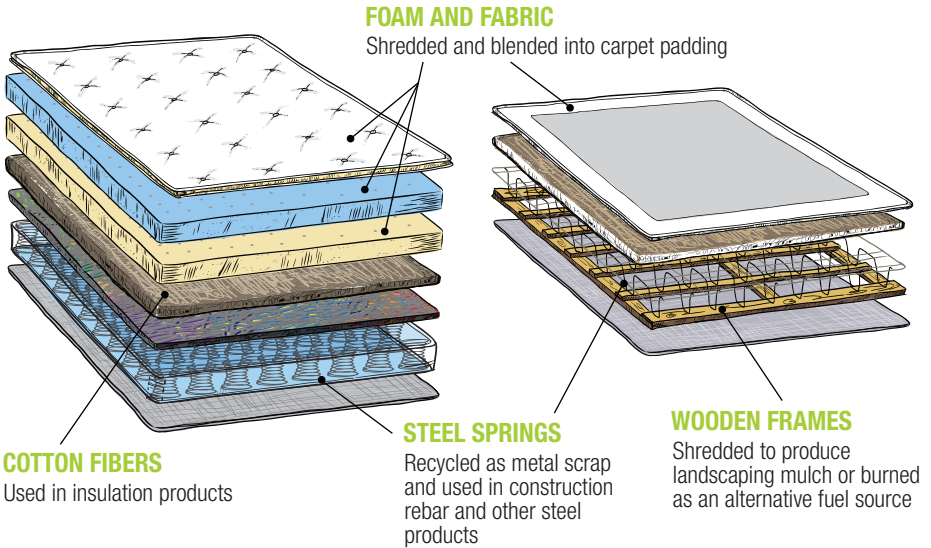
On the consumer side, MRC created the Bye Bye Mattress brand with a unique logo and website (**ByeByeMattress.com**) to help consumers learn about mattress recycling and how to access the program. The website offers a locator to find the nearest participating location or upcoming event, as well as a directory of communities that are provided at least one free bulky item pickup from their waste hauler. MRC also established a toll-free number for consumers seeking more information. Consumer education efforts include point-of-sale materials, public service announcements, paid advertising campaigns including radio, television and billboards, social media/digital campaigns and community outreach. Multilingual campaigns target specific communities. MRC tracks and conducts research to understand and improve community outreach and education.

On the industry side, MRC provides mattress manufacturers and retailers information and resources to educate them about their legal obligations related to program registration, fee collection and other requirements under each state law. MRC also communicates with those providing mattress collection, transportation and recycling services about how to participate in MRC's state programs and comply with state program guidelines and MRC's expectations. Industry outreach includes monthly and quarterly newsletters, press releases, news articles, marketing materials, direct mail, paid advertisements, participation in industry conferences and events, and both digital and social media campaigns. Details about the program in each state can be found at **MattressRecyclingCouncil.org**.



mattress processing and recycling

More than 75 percent of mattress components can be recycled, diverting valuable resources from local landfills. Once discarded mattresses arrive at a recycling facility, recyclers begin dismantling them. Recyclers cut open the mattress and the layers are separated and prepared for use in secondary markets. The most prominent commodities extracted include: foam, quilt panels, metal springs, wood and cotton.



fostering innovation and a sustainable future

MRC dedicates a portion of the recycling fee to research projects that identify new end markets; improve the efficiency of used mattress collection, transportation and recycling; and identify mattress dismantling and recycling best practices.

To compliment recycling efforts and the industry's commitment to environmental stewardship, MRC provides the Sleep Products Sustainability Program (SP2), a proactive environmental training and facility certification to help mattress manufacturers reduce waste and energy consumption while increasing operational efficiencies. SP2 is offered at no-cost to eligible mattress manufacturing facilities in California.

Why Recycle?

Recycling creates **jobs**.





Mattress Recycling Council®

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For more information about MRC, go to
MattressRecyclingCouncil.org.

To learn how to recycle your mattress or find
a collection location or event near you, visit
ByeByeMattress.com.

Like and follow us on social media for all the latest program news:



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post-consumer waste (PCW)