

## **Oregon and Mattress Recycling**

The Mattress Recycling Council (MRC) is a nonprofit organization that operates recycling programs in states that passed mattress recycling laws in 2013: California, Connecticut and Rhode Island. MRC was founded by the bedding industry and recycles nearly 2 million mattresses each year.

MRC operates the stewardship program described in these state laws and informs the mattress industry of its obligations. MRC assists retailers and producers with their registration and reporting requirements and works closely with local governments, the solid waste industry, the environmental community, regulators and the media. Bye Bye Mattress is MRC's consumer education brand that informs residents and businesses about the importance of proper mattress disposal and where to recycle old mattresses.

*Now that Governor Kate Brown has signed Oregon's mattress recycling legislation (SB 1576) into law, MRC will prepare a plan for submission to the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to set up and operate a mattress stewardship program in accordance with the new law.*

### **Our Milestones:**

- First program was launched in Connecticut in 2015, followed by California and Rhode Island
- Since 2015, MRC has recycled more than 10 million mattresses, resulting in 380 million pounds of material being diverted from landfills and 12.3 million cubic yards of landfill space saved
- MRC has established more than 300 collection sites in these states that accept discarded mattresses at no-cost
- MRC transports over 10,000 truckloads of mattresses to recyclers each year
- MRC's programs supports about 300 local green jobs
- About 75% of each mattress can be recycled into new products
- MRC spends nearly \$1 million annually to fund research to find new markets and new and better uses for recycled mattress materials
- Watch [our latest video](#) on our process and achievements

### **How the collection network operates**

MRC operates each state program through a series of contracts and does not directly collect or transport mattresses or own or operate the recycling facilities.

Currently, MRC contracts with 10 recyclers who operate a total of 14 recycling facilities. MRC also contracts with numerous transporters to provide collection containers and haul the collected mattresses to recycling facilities. This network directly employs over 300 local jobs.

### **MRC helps both households and businesses recycle mattresses**

Whenever possible, MRC leverages the existing solid waste infrastructure to collect discarded mattresses.

MRC recruits local landfills, transfer stations, public works yards and nonprofit organizations to serve as collection sites or host collection events. MRC also works with waste haulers that operate municipalities' bulky item collection program.

Mattress retailers, along with hotels, universities, hospitals and others that are disposing of large amounts of mattresses at once, have options through MRC's Commercial Volume Program.

### **About the recycling fee**

MRC's programs are funded by a state-mandated recycling fee that is added to the cost of all mattresses and box springs (also known as foundations) sold in the state. The fee is collected by both brick-and-mortar stores and online retailers and remitted to MRC. The fee is visible on the receipt and listed as a mattress recycling fee.

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### Probable Oregon timeline

MRC expects to submit a plan that will propose that Oregon’s mattress recycling program will launch in early 2024. For that to be possible, the following will occur between now and then:

- 2022 – MRC will seek stakeholders’ input on factors to take into account in developing a mattress recycling program that is appropriate for Oregon.
- Early 2023 – MRC will solicit bids from transporters and recyclers seeking to service the program.
- Fall 2023 – MRC will submit a formal plan to Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) describing program functions and the proposed recycling fee, which will take into account anticipated operational costs. DEQ has 90 days to review and approve the submitted plan.
- 2024 – Following DEQ’s approval of the plan, MRC will inform mattress retailers of the program start date and approved fee.

### Where to learn more

MRC ([MattressRecyclingCouncil.org](https://mattressrecyclingcouncil.org)) provides resources for the mattress industry, those involved in our collection network, recyclers, regulators and other stakeholders. We also publish our program plans, annual reports, research findings as well as RFPs for those interested in providing transportation and recycling services or participating in research.

MRC created Bye Bye Mattress ([ByeByeMattress.com](https://byebyemattress.com)) to explain to consumers their options for responsible mattress disposal, including how and where to recycle.

### Following us

MRC and Bye Bye Mattress maintain separate social media channels. Please follow us.

Twitter - @MattRecyCouncil and @ByeByeMattress

Facebook - @MattressRecyclingCouncil and @ByeByeMattress

LinkedIn - @MattressRecyclingCouncil

To receive our news and updates directly in your inbox, sign up for our monthly MRC Highlights newsletter.

### Our key leadership

- Ryan Trainer, President of Mattress Recycling Council (MRC) and the International Sleep Products Association (ISPA)
- Mike O’Donnell, Managing Director, MRC
- Justine Fallon, Operations Director, MRC
- Amanda Wall, Director of Marketing, MRC
- Marie Clarke, Vice President of Industry and External Affairs (MRC) and Vice President of Governmental Affairs (ISPA)

### Media contact

Direct all questions and interview requests to Amanda Wall, [awall@mrc-us.org](mailto:awall@mrc-us.org) or 571-482-5431.

Photos, infographics, recycling b-roll and logos available upon request.