

A black and white photograph of a worker wearing a cap and a shirt with 'WAST YARD' on the back, working with large rolls of material. The image is partially covered by a green vertical bar on the left and the title text.

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

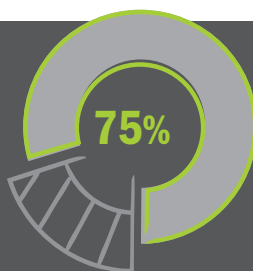
The Mattress Recycling Council (MRC) is a nonprofit organization formed by the mattress industry to operate recycling programs in those states that have enacted mattress recycling laws. The program is currently running in California, Connecticut and Rhode Island and is known as Bye Bye Mattress to consumers. 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 by MRC annually.

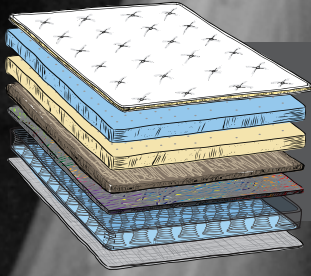
In the U.S., MRC estimates at least **15 million mattresses are discarded every year**, or an average of 50,000 per day. In 2013, Connecticut became the first state in the country to enact a law requiring the industry to develop and administer a statewide program to collect and recycle discarded mattresses and box springs. California and Rhode Island followed with similar legislation later that year. 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.

The program officially began operating in May 2015 in Connecticut. MRC launched the program in California in December 2015 and Rhode Island in May 2016. State governments oversee MRC's programs.

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.

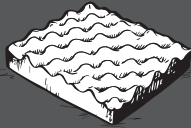




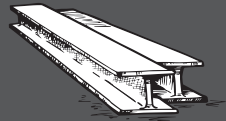
Recycled mattresses are cut open & the layers are separated. Interior materials are organized by type.



Wood is recycled & used as a fuel source or shredded to produce landscaping mulch.



Foam, fiber and other soft commodities are compressed and turned into carpet underlayment or animal bed padding.



Metal springs are extracted, sent to scrap recyclers and used to make building materials.

Why Recycle?

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



program highlights

MRC has collected more than 10 million mattresses program-wide resulting in MRC's recyclers diverting more than 380 million pounds of material from landfills through reuse, recycling and biomass in program states.

In each successive year, MRC has increased the number of collection sites and the number of units recycled in each state.



CALIFORNIA

Size:

163,696 sq. miles
3rd largest state

Population:

39.5 million

Recycling Fee:

\$10.50

Launch: Dec. 2015

Sites: 200

Recyclers: 7

**Collected as of
Dec. 2021**

over **8.5 million**



CONNECTICUT

Size:

5,543 sq. miles
3rd smallest state

Population:

3.5 million

Recycling Fee:

\$11.75

Launch: May 2015

Sites: 130

Recyclers: 2

**Collected as of
Dec. 2021**

over **1 million**



RHODE ISLAND

Size:

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

Population:

1 million

Recycling Fee:

\$16.00

Launch: May 2016

Sites: 37

Recyclers: 2

**Collected as of
Dec. 2021**

over **500,000**

how the program operates

MRC has successfully developed mattress collection networks and contracts with third party recycling facilities to dismantle old mattresses and box springs. Since 2015, MRC has substantially increased the number of units recycled and implemented extensive outreach to educate consumers, retailers and other stakeholders about the mattress recycling program.

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 Pickup.** 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.

Why Recycle?

To reduce the number of **illegally** dumped mattresses.



Why Recycle?

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



education and outreach

To promote mattress recycling 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. 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. An online locator allows consumers to search for nearby mattress recycling locations or upcoming events, providing a fast and efficient way to find recycling options nearby. Multilingual campaigns target specific communities. MRC tracks and conducts research to understand and improve multilingual community outreach and education. Bye Bye Mattress also operates a toll-free number for consumers seeking more information.

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. Industry outreach includes monthly program updates, 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. After discarded mattresses arrive at a recycling facility, the recycler unloads the container. Mattresses contaminated with putrescible solid waste cannot be recycled and are segregated to minimize facility contamination and worker exposure, then disposed of.

Non-contaminated mattresses are then dismantled. The mattress is cut open and the layers are separated for use in secondary markets. The most prominent commodities extracted include:



Foam

used in carpet padding



Quilt Panels

used in carpet padding



Metal Springs

sold to scrap metal markets



Wood

used as mulch or as an alternative fuel resource



Cotton

used in insulation applications

MRC supports this effort by investing in research to identify new end markets to increase recycling rates, improve the efficiency of used mattress collection and help MRC's recyclers increase profitability by identifying mattress dismantling and recycling best practices.

MRC also launched the Sleep Products Sustainability Program (SP2), a proactive environmental training and certification

initiative, to help mattress manufacturers reduce waste and energy consumption while increasing operational efficiencies. The program was developed as part of the industry's commitment to environmental stewardship and complements MRC's recycling efforts. SP2 is offered at no-cost to eligible California-based mattress manufacturers.



Why Recycle?

Recycling creates **jobs**.





Mattress Recycling Council®

(855) 229-1691
501 Wythe Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

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:



Printed on paper made from **100%**
post-consumer waste (PCW)