# 

# RHODE ISLAND ANNUAL REPORT



#### **SUBMITTED BY**

Mattress Recycling Council Rhode Island, LLC 501 Wythe Street Alexandria, VA 22314

#### **SUBMITTED TO**

Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation 34 Shun Pike Johnston, RI 02919

#### **SUBMITTED ON**

October 1, 2024





This year, MRC's Rhode Island Bye Bye Mattress program collected 85,524 mattresses and foundations. Recyclers diverted 1,617 tons of material from the waste stream.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

| Executive Summary                              | 5  |
|--|----|
| Background                                     | 5  |
| Rhode Island Program Objectives                | 6  |
| Year Eight - Program Achievements & Highlights | 6  |
| Report Overview                                | 7  |
| Collection Network                             | 11 |
| Overview                                       | 11 |
| Mattress Recycling Facilities                  | 12 |
| Mattress Recycling Transporters                | 12 |
| Rhode Island Sites & Events Map                | 13 |
| Program Performance                            | 15 |
| Recycling Program Metrics                      | 15 |
| Evaluation of Performance Goals & Methods      | 18 |
| Education & Outreach                           | 29 |
| Overview                                       | 29 |
| Communication Efforts                          | 29 |
| Compliance Outreach                            | 38 |
| Evaluations                                    | 39 |
| Research                                       | 43 |
| Sustainability                                 | 45 |
| Recommendations for Change                     | 48 |
| Appendices                                     | 49 |
| Appendix A: Registered Producers and Brands    | 50 |
| Appendix B: Collection Sites                   | 62 |
| Appendix C: Stakeholder Outreach               | 66 |
| Appendix D: Public Education Materials         | 68 |



The mattress industry created the Mattress Recycling Council (MRC), a nonprofit organization, to provide states an innovative mattress recycling solution.

# **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Pursuant to Section 23-90-5(j) of Rhode Island General Laws (the law), the Mattress Recycling Council Rhode Island, LLC (MRC) submits this annual report to Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation (RIRRC), which provides the requested data on the results that MRC achieved in administering the Rhode Island mattress stewardship program (the program) during the state's 2023–2024 Fiscal Year (July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024) (the reporting period).

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Upon concluding its eighth year of operation, MRC has collected more than 735,000 mattresses and foundations and recycled nearly 13,000 tons of material such as steel, foam, fiber and wood; preventing these materials from entering the Central Landfill or other waste disposal facilities.

During this most recent reporting period, MRC collected 85,524 mattresses and foundations and its recyclers reclaimed 1,617 tons of materials to achieve a recycling rate of 68%.

During this time, MRC met and/or exceeded 10 performance goals outlined by RIRRC.

#### **BACKGROUND**

The law requires that mattress producers form a "council" that develops a statewide program to collect mattresses and foundations (collectively units or mattresses) discarded in Rhode Island. The law also provides that the program will be funded through a visible fee collected from consumers and other purchasers on all mattresses and foundations sold in the state.

The International Sleep Products Association (ISPA) created the Mattress Recycling Council Inc. (the Council), a nonprofit organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, to develop and administer mattress recycling programs in Rhode Island, as well as Connecticut, California, and, beginning January 1, 2025, Oregon.

On July 1, 2015, the Council submitted a plan to RIRRC outlining how the program would meet the law's requirements and proposed initial performance goals. RIRRC approved this plan on January 13, 2016, and the program officially began operating on

May 1, 2016. After two years of operations and fulfilling initial performance goals, the Council in coordination with RIRRC established updated performance goals in 2018.

The Council subsequently created separate limited liability corporations (LLCs) to administer the Rhode Island program, as well as similar programs in other states. In each of these states, the LLCs have developed statewide networks of mattress collection and recycling locations, increased the number of units recycled and educated consumers, retailers and other stakeholders about that state's mattress recycling program. Since 2015, these statewide programs have collectively recycled over 13 million mattresses.

To promote the program to a consumer audience, the Council created the "Bye Bye Mattress" brand and website to host a mattress recycling locator and valuable information about the program's recycling process and environmental benefits.

#### RHODE ISLAND PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

MRC has designed the program to accomplish the following:

- Collect a mattress stewardship fee that funds the cost of operating and administering the program.
- Provide no-cost and accessible statewide opportunities for state residents to recycle their used mattresses.
- Provide transfer stations with suitable storage containers and transportation of discarded mattresses.
- Provide for MRC-financed end-of-life recycling of mattresses.
- Minimize public sector involvement in the management of mattresses.
- Establish a financial incentive for consumers that deliver their mattresses to recyclers.

#### YEAR EIGHT - PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS & HIGHLIGHTS

Achievements and highlights of the program's eighth year include:

- Collected 85,524 units, an increase of more than 5,600 over the previous reporting period. Nearly half of that growth came from three sectors – lodging, the military and other entities.
- Recycled 1,617 tons of materials obtained from discarded mattresses, an increase of more than 50 tons over the last reporting period.
- Increased the number of special collection events to 17, with nine held in Providence, specifically to help combat illegal dumping.
- Expanded the program by registering 19 new covered entities.

- Recycled 2,450 units from lodging establishments. This represents an increase of over 450% from last reporting period, making it the highest amount ever collected from that sector during any reporting period.
- Assisted the Newport Naval Base with recycling 1,369 mattresses from their facility; more than doubling the total number of military units recycled since the inception of the program.
- Collected over 3,600 mattresses and foundations from small commercial junk haulers, property managers, and other small volume generators, diverting these units to recycling and away from the Central Landfill; an increase of 72% from last reporting period.

#### REPORT OVERVIEW

Pursuant to § 23-90-5(j) of the law, this annual report contains the following information:

- The weight of mattresses collected pursuant to the program from municipal and/ or transfer stations, retailers and all other covered entities.
- The weight of mattresses diverted for recycling.
- Identification of the mattress recycling facilities to which mattresses were delivered for recycling.
- The weight of discarded mattresses recycled, as indicated by the weight of each of the commodities sold to secondary markets.
- The weight of mattresses, or parts thereof, sent for disposal at Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation and any other facilities.
- Samples of public education materials and methods used to support the program.
- A description of efforts undertaken, and evaluation of the methods used to disseminate such materials.
- Updated performance goals and an evaluation of the effectiveness of the methods and processes used to achieve performance goals of the program.
- Recommendations for any changes to the program.

The following terms defined in § 23-90-3 are relevant to the report:

**"Covered Entity"** means any political subdivision of the state, any mattress retailer, any permitted transfer station, any waste to energy facility, any healthcare facility, any educational facility, any correctional facility, any military base, or any commercial or nonprofit lodging establishment that possesses a discarded mattress that was discarded in this state. Covered Entity does not include any renovator, refurbisher or any person who transports a discarded mattress.

**"Foundation"** means any ticking-covered structure that is used to support a mattress and that is composed of one or more of the following: A constructed frame, foam or a box spring. "Foundation" does not include any bed frame or base made of wood, metal or other material that rests upon the floor and that serves as a brace for a mattress.

"Mattress" means any resilient material, or combination of materials, that is enclosed by ticking, used alone or in combination with other products, and that is intended for, or promoted for, sleeping upon. "Mattress" includes any foundation, renovated foundation or renovated mattress.

"Mattress" does not include any of the following:

- An unattached mattress pad or unattached mattress topper (including any item with resilient filling), with or without ticking, that is intended to be used with, or on top of a mattress;
- A sleeping bag or pillow;
- A crib, bassinet mattress or car bed;
- Juvenile products, including: a carriage, basket, dressing table, stroller, playpen, infant carrier, lounge pad, crib bumper or the pads for those juvenile products;
- A product that contains liquid- or gaseous-filled ticking, including any waterbed or air mattress that does not contain upholstery material between the ticking and the mattress core;
- Any upholstered furniture that does not contain a detachable mattress; or A foldout sofa bed or futon.

"Mattress Stewardship Program" or "Program" means the statewide program described in § 23-90-5 and implemented pursuant to the mattress stewardship plan as approved by the corporation director.

**"Producer"** means any person who manufactures or renovates a mattress that is sold, offered for sale or distributed in the state under the manufacturer's own name or brand. "Producer" includes:

- The owner of a trademark or brand under which a mattress is sold, offered for sale, or distributed in this state, whether or not such trademark or brand is registered in this state; and
- Any person who imports a mattress into the United States that is sold or offered for sale in this state and that is manufactured or renovated by a person who does not have a presence in the United States.

"Recycling" means any process in which discarded mattresses, components and byproducts may lose their original identity or form as they are transformed into new, usable or marketable materials.

"Recycling" does not include as a primary process the use of incineration for energy recovery or energy generation by means of combustion.

"Renovate" or "renovation" means altering a mattress for the purpose of resale and includes any one, or a combination of, the following: Replacing the ticking or filling, adding additional filling, rebuilding a mattress, or replacing components with new or recycled materials.

"Renovate" or "renovation" does not include the:

- Stripping of a mattress of its ticking or filling without adding new material;
- Sanitization or sterilization of a mattress without otherwise altering the mattress; or
- Altering of a mattress by a renovator when a person retains the altered mattress for personal use, in accordance with regulations of the Department of Business Regulation.

**"Renovator"** means a person who renovates discarded mattresses for the purpose of reselling such mattresses in a retail store.

"Retailer" means any person who sells mattresses in this state or offers mattresses in this state to a consumer through any means, including, but not limited to, remote offerings such as sales outlets, catalogs, or the internet.



MRC collects mattresses from nearly every municipality in Rhode Island as well as **243** public and private entities that dispose of large volumes of discarded mattresses.

## **COLLECTION NETWORK**

## COLLECTION NETWORK

#### **OVERVIEW**

The success of Rhode Island's program relies largely on MRC obtaining discarded units from the existing statewide infrastructure of "covered entities" that collect discarded mattresses as part of their ongoing operations. The law defines covered entities to include any political subdivision of the state, mattress retailer, permitted transfer station, waste-to-energy facility, healthcare facility, educational facility, correctional facility, military base or commercial or nonprofit lodging establishment, which possesses a discarded mattress that was discarded in the state, as well as other entities that may be eligible to participate in the program. Of these entities, town municipal transfer stations receive the largest volume of discarded mattresses.

During the reporting period, MRC's collection network included no-cost options to discard a mattress in 37 of Rhode Island's 39 municipalities. These options consisted of curbside collection of discarded mattresses, a site where residents could drop off their units (either at a solid waste facility, recycler, etc.) or a collection event. Some collection sites limit access to their town's residents. Throughout the reporting period, all state residents could drop off units at one of the statewide drop-off sites, including Tough Stuff Recycling in Pawtucket and the Central Landfill in Johnston. See **Appendix B** for a complete list of participating collection sites and events.

In addition to these consumer collection options, more than 243 other entities (including mattress retailers, lodging establishments, educational facilities and others that dispose of large and small volumes of discarded mattresses) recycled their units through the program. These entities either drop off their units directly at an MRC recycler, or if they have at least 50 units available for recycling, MRC will pay to transport them to a recycler.

Covered entities contact MRC if they want to host a collection site or one-day collection event, or to drop off units at a recycling facility. MRC reviews these requests on a rolling basis.

#### MATTRESS RECYCLING FACILITIES

During the reporting period, MRC contracted with the following recyclers to dismantle and recycle units collected by the program:

#### **Tough Stuff Recycling, LLC**

145 Authority Drive Fitchburg, MA 01420

#### Casella Waste Systems, Inc. (DBA Willimantic Waste Paper Co. Inc.)

185 Recycling Way Willimantic, CT 06226

#### MATTRESS RECYCLING TRANSPORTERS

During the reporting period, MRC contracted with the following transporters to haul units to the mattress recycling facilities above:

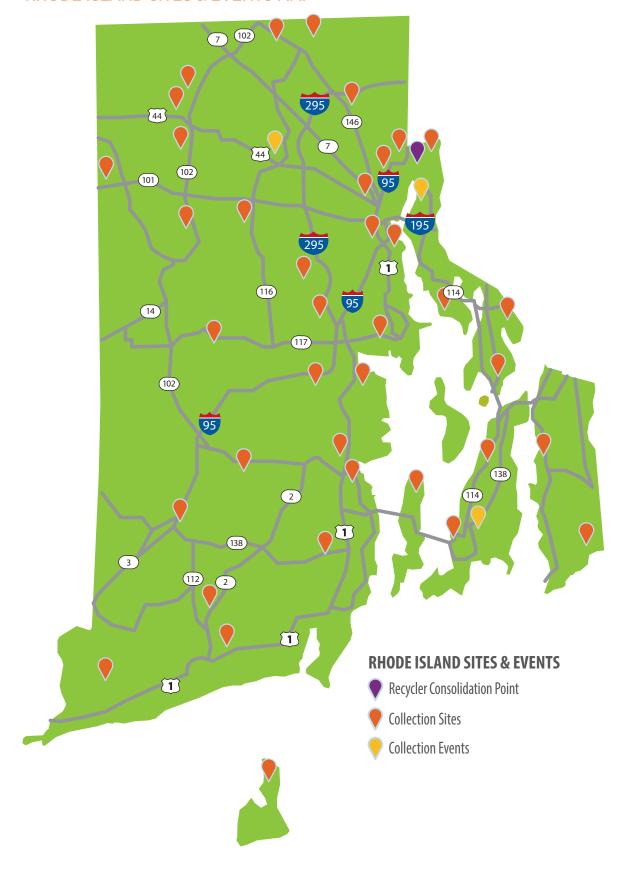
#### **Mobile Storage Inc.**

81 Pilsudski Street Providence, RI 02909

#### Casella Waste Systems, Inc. (DBA Willimantic Waste Paper Co. Inc.)

185 Recycling Way Willimantic, CT 06226

#### **RHODE ISLAND SITES & EVENTS MAP**





MRC increased the number of units collected and the weight of material recycled from the previous reporting period. We also met or exceeded 10 performance goals.

# PROGRAM PERFORMANCE

## PROGRAM PERFORMANCE

#### **RECYCLING PROGRAM METRICS**

In accordance with § 23-90-5(j), MRC must annually report quantitative data about the weight of discarded mattresses collected and processed by the program in the state.

#### WEIGHT OF MATERIAL COLLECTED AND DIVERTED

§ 23-90-5(j)(1) of the law requires MRC to report the weight of mattresses collected pursuant to the program from municipal and/or transfer stations, retailers and all other covered entities.

MRC's recyclers report to MRC the number of mattress and box spring units they receive from different sources. One of those recyclers used a certified scale to report to MRC the actual weight of its units received. For the recycler that lacks a scale, MRC converted the units they reported as received into tons based on a standard weight of 55 pounds per unit. MRC used the sum of the actual and calculated weights in the tonnage data reported in Table 1 below.

§ 23-90-5(j)(2) of the law requires MRC to report the weight of mattresses diverted for recycling.

The following table summarizes the total weight of mattresses by source that were collected through the program and the total weight of units diverted for recycling during the reporting period.

### TABLE 1: WEIGHT OF MATTRESSES COLLECTED BY SOURCE & DIVERTED TO RECYCLING

#### 2023-2024 Reporting Period

| COLLECTION SOURCE                  | WEIGHT (TONS) |
|------------------------------------|---------------|
| Municipal and/or transfer stations | 1,980.2       |
| Retailers                          | 94.7          |
| All other covered entities         | 257.2         |
| TOTAL DIVERTED FOR RECYCLING       | 2,332.0       |

#### AMOUNT OF MATERIAL PROCESSED

MRC recyclers report to MRC the weights of the recyclable materials, biomass and residue that their operations generate. While MRC has a high degree of confidence in the in-bound figures reported, operational complexities at MRC's recyclers necessitate estimating weights for outbound mattress commodities in certain situations. For instance, both recyclers of Rhode Island units process discarded units from both program and non-program sources.

Following mattress and box spring deconstruction, commodities from all sources are aggregated together for sale to end markets, as it is not practical to separate program and non-program materials after processing. MRC used the percentage of inbound and processed units by source state to estimate the outbound weights specific to Rhode Island. Additionally, for one recycler, the weight of recycled cardboard and plastic included in this report are estimated because the recycler lacked the documentation needed to differentiate between the cardboard and plastic generated from program material and the same materials obtained from other sources.

For this reporting period, the recycling rate dropped to 68% for two reasons – a downturn in the secondary market for polyurethane foam and quilt and toppers, and a natural disaster. Because of low prices for foam and quilt toppers, both recyclers stockpiled a large number of bales of both materials in anticipation of better market prices. While stored, one recycler's facility suffered on-site flooding that ruined the stored bales. The bales were subsequently discarded. At the other recycler, the lack of storage space in the warehouse proved to be financially difficult to wait for the market price to improve, and that organization also disposed of the material.

§ 23-90-5(j)(4) of the law requires MRC to report the weight of discarded mattresses recycled, as indicated by weight of each of the commodities sold to secondary markets.

#### TABLE 2: TYPES AND WEIGHTS OF MATERIALS RECYCLED

#### 2023-2024 Reporting Period

| MATERIALS RECYCLED*      | WEIGHT (TONS) |
|--------------------------|---------------|
| Steel                    | 882.3         |
| Wood                     | 332.8         |
| Foam                     | 304.9         |
| Quilts and Toppers       | 72.7          |
| Plastics                 | 10.7          |
| Cardboard                | 7.4           |
| Cotton                   | 6.5           |
| TOTAL MATERIALS RECYCLED | 1,617.2       |

<sup>\*</sup>These categories represent outbound shipments of materials recycled but do not include unprocessed units or recyclable material in inventory.

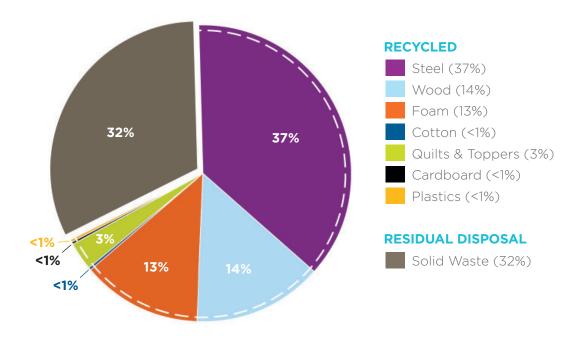
§ 23-90-5(j)(5) of the law requires MRC to report the weight of mattresses, or parts thereof, sent for disposal at Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation and any other facility.

TABLE 3: WEIGHT OF MATERIAL SENT TO DISPOSAL BY SOURCE

#### 2023-2024 Reporting Period

| SOURCE                  | WEIGHT (TONS) |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| RIRRC                   | 0             |
| Any other facility      | 748.6         |
| TOTAL RESIDUAL MATERIAL | 748.6         |

#### **Recycling and Residual Disposal**



During the reporting period, MRC recyclers achieved a 68% recycling rate.

**TABLE 4: AMOUNT OF MATERIAL BY DISPOSITION** 

#### 2023-2024 Reporting Period

| DISPOSITION       | WEIGHT (TONS) | PERCENTAGE |
|-------------------|---------------|------------|
| Material Recycled | 1,617.2       | 68%        |
| Material Disposed | 748.6         | 32%        |
| TOTAL             | 2,365.8       | 100%       |

#### **EVALUATION OF PERFORMANCE GOALS & METHODS**

In coordination with Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation, MRC established these performance goals in 2018 after achieving the original performance goals included in MRC's approved plan. Below is MRC's evaluation of the current performance goals and a description of the methods MRC used to achieve them.

#### SOLID WASTE SERVICE PROVIDERS

#### GOAL:

To have at least 80% of Rhode Island's solid waste service providers participating in the program. For the purposes of this goal, these entities include municipal transfer stations, recycling centers, private transfer stations or curbside bulky waste collection services.

ACHIEVED - Current participation rate is 91%.

Of the 45 solid waste service providers operating in Rhode Island, 41 participate. Municipal and private transfer stations participate by establishing a permanent dropoff site, diverting mattresses collected from curbside bulky waste collection services to MRC recyclers, or hosting a mattress collection event. Recycling centers also participate as drop-off sites. In addition, MRC continues to encourage small commercial haulers to participate in the program. During the reporting period, MRC added four additional small haulers, and there are now 55 participating.

MRC participated in 17 one-day community collection events in the reporting period. Nine were specifically aimed at reducing illegal dumping and expanding program access in the city of Providence and were held in addition to their permanent mattress collection site.

See **Appendix B** for a complete list of participating solid waste service providers.

#### **METHODS:**

Rhode Island residents may access the program through MRC's network of participating collection sites, curbside collection services, recycling facilities or collection events.

MRC continued encouraging the remaining non-participating solid waste service providers to recycle their discarded mattresses by periodically contacting them or visiting them.

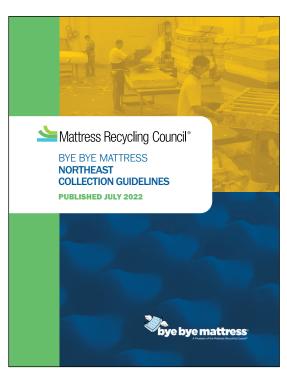
MRC continued its efforts to identify and encourage small commercial haulers that ordinarily drop off discarded mattresses at the RIRRC Central Landfill to deliver their units directly to MRC recyclers. This relieves the Central Landfill of any responsibility for handling those units.

For municipalities and transfer stations that lacked resources to participate as permanent drop-off locations, MRC provided event labor, a mattress storage container, transportation and recycling services at no cost to the host location, as requested. MRC also assisted with event publicity and signage (as described in **Education and Outreach**).

Providing support and assistance to participating solid waste service providers requires regular communication. MRC's Northeast Program Coordinator conducts site visits with participating municipalities to discuss the program and compliance with participation requirements. During site visits, staff answer questions, confirm whether the site is following the guidelines, offer suggestions to maintain the quality of collected mattresses and provide necessary signage and support.

In addition to in-person meetings, MRC also distributes the program guidelines to all participants to reinforce product acceptance and contamination criteria. These contacts also receive MRC's monthly newsletter email and seasonal reminders throughout the year that encourage proper screening, handling, storing and loading of mattresses to improve quality and collection efficiency.

MRC maintains a video series to assist in onboarding new collection sites and training their staff. This series includes four videos that address bedbug identification and management, efficient mattress stacking and loading, effective collection site operations, and identifying included and excluded program products. These videos are available in English and Spanish and are available on **MattressRecyclingCouncil.org**.









#### **RHODE ISLAND RETAILERS**

#### **GOAL:**

To recycle approximately 7,500 mattresses from Rhode Island retailers annually.

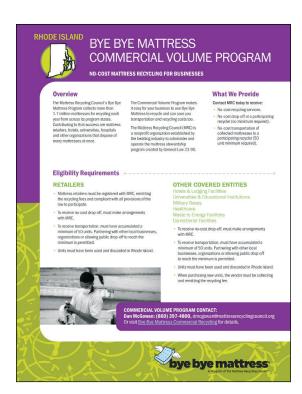
PARTIALLY ACHIEVED - The program recycled 3,427 mattresses obtained from 12 participating retailers during the reporting period, an increase of five participants from the previous reporting period.

#### **METHODS:**

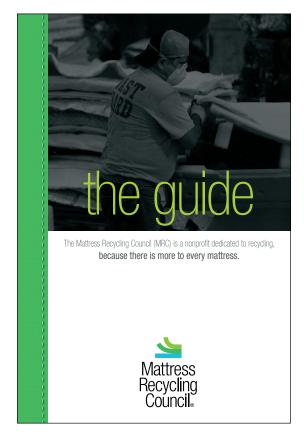
MRC provides no-cost recycling to retailers that comply with program requirements and makes scheduling arrangements with MRC's Northeast Program Coordinator. The retailer may self-haul or use a third party to deliver discarded mattresses directly to an MRC recycler. MRC also provides no-cost transportation to retailers that collect a minimum of 50 units.

As described later in **Education & Outreach**, MRC provides ongoing education to retailers about the law and mattress recycling through various communications and marketing methods, including targeted emails, advertising and media relations, digital marketing, social media, site visits, and participation in industry events.

MRC understands that some Rhode Island retailers sell discarded units that they collect from consumers to renovators or recycle those units at recycling facilities outside of MRC's network. MRC anticipates units collected from retailers to remain low as Rhode Island retailers continue to dispose of them through outlets outside of the program.









#### LODGING ESTABLISHMENTS

#### **GOAL:**

To recycle approximately 1,200 mattresses from lodging establishments annually. MRC will quantify how many lodging facilities participate in the program.

ACHIEVED - The program recycled 2,450 mattresses from 10 participating lodging establishments during the reporting period. This represents an increase of over 450% from last year, and is the highest amount ever collected from this sector during any reporting period.

There are now 53 lodging establishments registered with MRC, an increase of four from the previous period.

#### **METHODS:**

MRC provides no-cost recycling to lodging establishments that make delivery and scheduling arrangements with MRC's Northeast Program Coordinator. Lodging establishments include commercial establishments such as hotels and motels and nonprofit entities like housing shelters. The lodging establishment may self-haul or use a third party to deliver discarded mattresses directly to an MRC recycler. MRC provides no-cost transportation to lodging establishments that collect a minimum of 50 units.

MRC has limited ability to control the number of units collected from lodging establishments because that number is contingent on the amount of lodging establishments that replace their mattresses during a given year and the number of units they discard for recycling. As a result, the total number of units the program obtains from lodging establishments will fluctuate from year to year.

#### PRISONS AND OTHER INCARCERATION FACILITIES

#### GOAL:

MRC will contact all Rhode Island incarceration facilities to evaluate the composition and condition of their discarded mattresses.

ACHIEVED - In previous reporting periods, MRC contacted all Rhode Island incarceration facilities to evaluate the composition of the units that they discard and concluded that they are not suitable for recycling.

#### **METHODS:**

MRC continues to communicate with Rhode Island's Department of Corrections about recycling its discarded mattresses. The department expressed interest in the program, but the discarded units were not suitable for recycling. The current mattresses used by the department are not recyclable because they are made primarily of polyester

batting and no demand exists at this time for post-consumer polyester fiber. MRC continues to explore recycling options for mattress materials with companies that buy recycled fiber or textiles.

Based on MRC's experience in working with incarceration facilities in other states, MRC does not expect these facilities to generate mattresses that are suitable for recycling in the foreseeable future.

#### **HEALTHCARE FACILITIES**

#### **GOAL:**

MRC will continue outreach to healthcare facilities and industry associations and evaluate mattresses discarded by facilities interested in participating in the program. MRC will encourage the participation of at least 10 healthcare facilities by the end of the 2019 reporting period (June 30, 2019).

ACHIEVED - Five healthcare facilities used the program during this reporting period, recycling over 166 units. There are currently 24 facilities participating in the program. MRC evaluated mattresses discarded by healthcare facilities and concluded that some were acceptable for recycling.

#### **METHODS:**

MRC provides no-cost recycling of mattresses discarded by healthcare facilities that make delivery and scheduling arrangements with MRC's Northeast Program Coordinator. The healthcare facility may self-haul or use a third party to deliver discarded mattresses directly to an MRC recycler. MRC provides no-cost transportation to healthcare facilities that collect a minimum of 50 units.

To encourage healthcare facilities to participate in the program, MRC provided EPA Region 1 (whose jurisdiction includes Rhode Island) information that was used in an online newsletter distributed to the agency's Healthcare and Social Assistance Sector contacts. MRC continues to respond to inquiries from healthcare facilities regarding mattress recycling.

MRC anticipates continued hesitancy in recycling discarded mattresses due to liability concerns regarding pathogen contamination and medical waste disposal regulations. Nevertheless, MRC will continue to distribute program information to healthcare facilities and assist with recycling their discarded mattresses as requested.

#### **EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES**

#### **GOAL:**

MRC will continue to inform educational facilities about the program and assist them with recycling their discarded mattresses as needed.

ACHIEVED - MRC recycled 799 units from six participating educational facilities during the reporting period. Two more educational facilities joined the program, bringing the total number of participating facilities to 14. In addition, one of the nine Providence collection events targeted Brown University students moving out of off-campus apartments.

#### **METHODS:**

MRC provides no-cost recycling to educational facilities that make delivery and scheduling arrangements with MRC's Northeast Program Coordinator. The educational facility may self-haul or use a third party to deliver discarded mattresses directly to an MRC recycler. MRC provides no-cost transportation to educational facilities that collect a minimum of 50 units.

MRC continues to present program information to interested educational facilities and build stronger relationships with these stakeholders.

#### **MILITARY BASES**

#### **GOAL:**

MRC will maintain its relationship with Naval Station Newport and assist it with recycling its discarded mattresses as needed.

ACHIEVED - MRC collected 1,369 units this period from Newport's Naval Station on-base housing complexes - more than doubling the lifetime total number of units recycled from this sector. Since the program began, MRC has recycled 2,504 military units for recycling.

#### **METHODS:**

A military facility may self-haul or use a third-party to deliver discarded mattresses directly to an MRC recycler. MRC provides no-cost transportation to military facilities that collect a minimum of 50 units.

MRC will maintain a relationship with the naval station and assist it with recycling its discarded mattresses as needed.

#### **OTHER ENTITIES**

#### **GOAL:**

MRC will continue to encourage other entities to participate in the program and report on registered entity types in the annual report.

ACHIEVED - MRC is providing no-cost recycling to 136 other entities. These other entities recycled 3,633 units through the program during the reporting period. MRC also recruited eight new registrants consisting of small commercial haulers, property managers, construction firms, a moving company and a non-profit.

#### **METHODS:**

MRC provides no-cost recycling to other entities that make delivery and scheduling arrangements with MRC's Northeast Program Coordinator. The entity may self-haul or use a third party to deliver discarded mattresses directly to an MRC recycler. MRC provides no-cost transportation to entities that collect a minimum of 50 units.

The following table details the total of the types of other entities participating in the program:

#### TABLE 5: QUANTITY OF OTHER ENTITIES PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAM

#### 2023-2024 Reporting Period

| BUSINESS TYPE            | QUANTITY OF BUSINESS TYPE |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Property Managers        | 59                        |
| Small Commercial Haulers | 55                        |
| Moving and Storage       | 9                         |
| Nonprofit Organizations  | 5                         |
| Construction             | 5                         |
| Housing Authority        | 3                         |
| TOTAL                    | 136                       |

MRC will continue to focus on upstream diversion of recyclable mattresses from these other entities by encouraging them to send their units directly to an MRC recycler.

#### **EDUCATION AND OUTREACH**

#### GOAL:

MRC will continue to educate the mattress industry and consumers about the benefits of recycling, the fee and the law, and encourage use of the program.

ACHIEVED - See **Education & Outreach** for details regarding MRC's industry and consumer outreach.

#### **GOAL:**

MRC will continue to provide samples of public education materials in annual reports.

ACHIEVED - See **Appendix D** for examples of these materials.

#### **GOAL:**

MRC will measure consumer awareness annually and provide explanations for any variability.

ACHIEVED - See **Education & Outreach** for details regarding MRC's consumer awareness and behavior survey.

#### **METHODS:**

As described in the **Education & Outreach** chapter, MRC uses a wide array of communications and marketing methods to reach consumers, the mattress industry, other covered entities and stakeholders. To evaluate the effectiveness of its education and outreach, MRC conducts an annual consumer awareness survey and has selected various metrics to monitor how each element of its communication strategy performs (website analytics, social media data, email open rates, etc.). MRC also surveys retailers each year to gauge use of resources, understanding of requirements and satisfaction with program services. The performance goals established for each of the covered entity types also indicate whether MRC's methods were effective at persuading entities to join or use the program.



MRC's education and outreach efforts are designed to inform consumers, mattress retailers and other stakeholders about the Bye Bye Mattress program, that the fee is mandated by state law, why the fee is needed, what the fee funds, how to recycle through the program, and that some parties have obligations.

**EDUCATION & OUTREACH** 

## **EDUCATION & OUTREACH**

#### **OVERVIEW**

MRC's education and outreach informs consumers, retailers, the mattress industry and other stakeholders about mattress recycling in Rhode Island and the state's law using a multichannel, multilingual approach and a mix of controlled, paid and offered efforts.

We use our primary brand (Mattress Recycling Council) for industry and stakeholder communication, and a secondary consumer-facing brand in each state known as Bye Bye Mattress. Each year, we survey consumers and the mattress industry to measure awareness of key information and effectiveness of our efforts.

This approach aligns with the following education and outreach performance goals:

- Continue to educate the mattress industry and consumers about the benefits of recycling, the fee and the law and encourage use of the program.
- · Continue to provide samples of public education materials as required in the law.
- Measure consumer awareness every year and provide explanations for any variability.

#### **COMMUNICATION EFFORTS**

Outreach falls into one of three categories of communication efforts:

- **Controlled** MRC uses its own assets to provide and publish information (i.e. websites, social media, newsletters).
- **Paid** MRC pays for the ability to distribute information and receive visibility (i.e. advertising or event sponsorships).
- **Offered** MRC makes information or resources available to others to voluntarily distribute (i.e., a media release or toolkit).

#### CONTROLLED

#### Websites

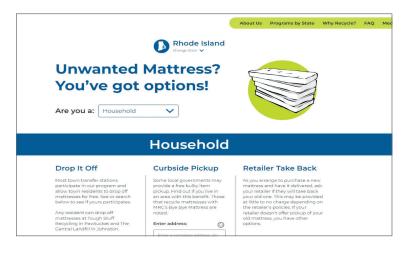
MRC's outreach encourages visiting one of three websites: ByeByeMattress.com, which focuses on consumers; MattressRecyclingCouncil.org, which informs the mattress industry, regulators, and stakeholders; and MRCreporting.org, which mattress retailers, manufacturers, distributors and renovators use to register with MRC and to report and remit recycling fees to MRC.

MRC uses Google Analytics to measure website performance. In 2023, Google instituted major changes to its website analytics tool as well as the definition of several common metrics. In addition, to comply with consumer data privacy regulations in other MRC program states, we implemented a popup on ByeByeMattress.com in the final months of 2023 that allows website visitors to opt out of sharing their web browsing information with Google. Given the impact of these variables, we are only presenting website data for this reporting period and cannot make comparisons to previous years.

**ByeByeMattress.com:** We encouraged Rhode Island consumers (residents and businesses wanting to discard a mattress) to visit ByeByeMattress.com to learn how and where to recycle unwanted mattresses. The site features a searchable locator. Listings include unit limits and whether businesses can drop off at no cost. Residents can also use the curbside directory to find out if they live in an area with at least one free pickup offered by their local government or waste hauler.

In October 2023, MRC unveiled a fresh look and user experience for the website. Changes included enhancing the website's performance and presentation on mobile devices, giving households and businesses streamlined content views, and optimizing geolocation to immediately present the most relevant information and pinpoint the nearest locations. With the redesign, MRC also introduced a new section of consumer content on mattress care and updated information on the benefits of mattress recycling and actions consumers can take to combat illegal dumping.

In the 12 months ending on June 30, 2024, more than 247,000 users visited ByeByeMattress.com. More than 3,850 users visited the Rhode Island program page.

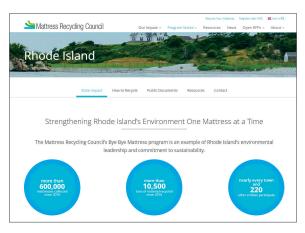




**MattressRecyclingCouncil.org:** The purpose of this website is to inform industry audiences, regulators, and stakeholders about state laws, program implementation and performance. The website features a robust resource library for the solid waste, recycling and mattress industries; research reports and developments; and a media center with newsletters and announcements.

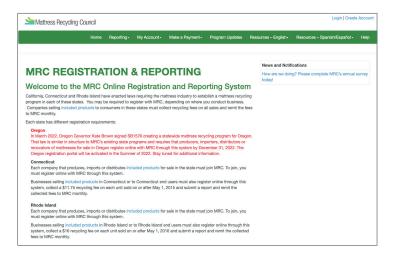
For this reporting period, MattressRecyclingCouncil.org received 47,245 visitors. Nearly 3,300 visited the website's Rhode Island program page.





**MRCreporting.org:** Mattress retailers, manufacturers, distributors and renovators use MRCreporting.org to register with MRC and to report and remit recycling fees to

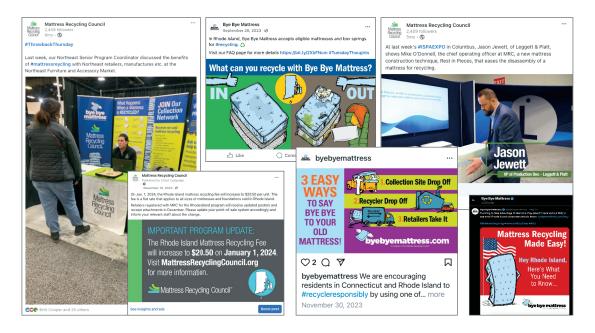
MRC. The portal houses resources about the Rhode Island law and program, as well as documents and videos demonstrating the registration, reporting and fee remittance processes. Registered parties receive automatic payment reminders and missed deadline email notices. MRC also pushes important announcements about available customer education materials and



mattress recycling options. As of June 30, 2024, more than 350 parties registered for the Rhode Island program were using the site.

#### **Social Media**

MRC maintains social media channels for both brands. We use the Bye Bye Mattress branded channels - Facebook, X (formerly Twitter) and Instagram - to educate consumers, and the Mattress Recycling Council branded channels - Facebook, X, LinkedIn, and YouTube - to communicate with industry audiences. Our social media followers include retailers and manufacturers, civic and environmental groups, local and state governments, waste haulers, and recyclers.



**Bye Bye Mattress Branded Channels:** In the year ending June 30, 2024, the content on Bye Bye Mattress branded channels earned 1.2 million impressions. The collective audience grew to 3,030, a 12% increase from the last report. MRC attributes most of the growth to the late 2022 launch of Instagram and the use of social media advertising and boosted posts.

Mattress Recycling Council Branded Channels: In the year ending June 30, 2024, the content on Mattress Recycling Council branded channels earned 162,880 impressions. The collective audience grew to 4,268 followers, a 12% increase from the last report. LinkedIn contributed to most of the growth in followers.

MRC used these channels to announce program developments, promote MRC's presence at industry events, share research announcements, distribute resources, generate interest in using the Commercial Volume Program (CVP) and increase e-newsletter subscribers.

#### **Newsletters**

MRC produces a collection of digital newsletters. Our flagship publication, Highlights, reaches the largest, broadest audience. Meanwhile, quarterly newsletters target specific audiences. In 2024, we introduced a new mobile-friendly format for the newsletters.

**Highlights (Monthly):** Highlights is MRC's primary communication tool for announcements, state program updates, posting research accomplishments and distributing lessons learned from our illegal dumping pilot projects.

MRC distributes Highlights to all registered retailers, renovators, manufacturers, collection site hosts, recyclers, and other stakeholders who subscribe. By June 30, 2024, the mailing list exceeded 7,400 with an average open rate of 38%. MRC also publishes each issue on MattressRecyclingCouncil.org.

**Retailer Spotlight (Quarterly):** Retailer Spotlight is distributed to registered retailers and provides tips for using MRCreporting.org, updates on state laws and regulations, new MRC resources for retailers, and insights on mattress recycling. By June 30, 2024, the mailing list exceeded 1,355, with an average open rate of 47%.

**Seasonal Reminder (Quarterly):** Each of MRC's program coordinators distributes a Seasonal Reminder to the collection site operators within their multi-county regions. The primary purpose of the newsletter is to remind operators of relevant MRC best practices (i.e., how to properly stack mattresses) and resources for training their staff or publicizing their site.

The Summer 2024 Northeast issue (the last one distributed during the reporting period timeframe) reached 180 subscribers and achieved a 55% open rate.



#### PAID

#### **Industry Advertising**

In 2023, to advertise CVP, MRC used digital and print ads, as well as targeted emails to subscribers of trade publications in the bedding, home furnishings and lodging industries. Overall, MRC's industry advertising received 2.3 million impressions. **Appendix D** contains examples of these ads.

#### **Mattress Industry Events**

During the reporting period, MRC participated in mattress industry events to increase program awareness of legal obligations, promote recycling opportunities, present research findings as well as further sustainability and circularity conversations. These events included:

- Las Vegas Market: Held twice yearly, this event is the largest furniture and bedding show in the United States. It attracts retailers, distributors and manufacturers from across the U.S., and over 80 countries. MRC exhibited in the Home Furnishing Association's Retailer Resource Center and visited bedding showrooms to learn about new products and materials and met with new companies entering the U.S. bedding market.
- Northeast Furniture & Accessory Market: MRC exhibited alongside some of the industry's leading manufacturers, suppliers, and distributors of mattresses, furniture and home goods. MRC interacted with attendees at our booth and engaged in discussions with other exhibitors.
- ISPA Sustainability Conference: ISPA in 2023 held its second conference to educate, connect and inspire the bedding industry to develop practical solutions for sustainability challenges. MRC exhibited and participated in a panel discussion to create a broader understanding of end-of-life challenges recyclers face with mattresses and generate interest in research projects.
- ISPA EXPO: This is the world's largest tradeshow exclusively for the sleep products industry. More than 3,200 attended from 50 countries. Sustainability and product circularity were central themes with many manufacturers and component suppliers exhibiting at the 2024 event. New equipment and products on display considered end-of-life deconstruction and aimed to advance recycling. We found several manufacturers already applying lessons from the 2023 Sustainability Conference. MRC also contributed to the event's content. We sponsored a presentation sharing best practices learned from manufacturers involved in MRC's Sleep Products Sustainability Program, hosted a presentation about our recycling accomplishments and research developments and were among the tradeshow's exhibitors. Booth visitors asked about MRC's progress, how to recycle, how to purchase materials from recyclers and how to bring a similar program to their state. In conjunction with ISPA EXPO, MRC also hosted a Global Mattress Recycling Coalition Meeting to discuss items of common interest to recycling companies and organizations including product passports, polyurethane foam recycling markets, recycler challenges and research projects.

#### **OFFERED**

#### **Consumer Education Materials for Retailers**

MRC provides retailers with no-cost point-of-sale materials in printed and digital formats to help them explain mattress recycling and the fee to their customers. These materials include:

**Bilingual Informational Card:** This card can accompany the consumer's invoice or receipt. In its standard format, English is on one side and Spanish on the other. Chinese, Korean and Vietnamese versions are available on request.

**In-Store Posters:** MRC offers posters in two sizes to provide retailers flexibility in how and where they display them in-store. Versions in Spanish, Chinese, Korean and Vietnamese are available on request.



**Digital Badge:** Retailers can use this image on their websites, social media content or in other digital communications to raise the consumer's awareness of the fee and program. The image links directly to ByeByeMattress.com.



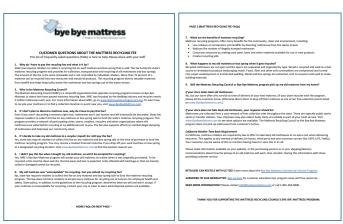




**Consumer FAQs:** Consumer FAQs are provided in English and Spanish to assist retailers with sales associate training. Chinese, Korean and Vietnamese versions also are available on request.

MRC uses a monthly and quarterly e-newsletter, email notifications, industry publications and events to regularly inform retailers that these materials are available from MRC and that reorders are also free.

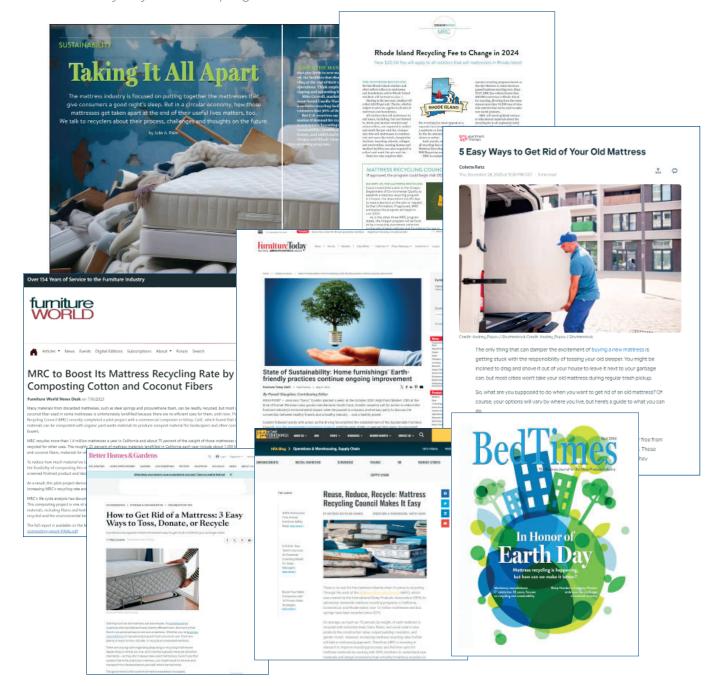
MRC also works closely with mattress retailers and producers to assist them with explaining the law, fee and program to the companies or customers they serve. MRC offers to create notices, review company memos for accuracy or provide documents that can be shared throughout the sales channel.



#### **Media Relations**

During the reporting period, industry and consumer-facing media coverage mentioning MRC or the Bye Bye Mattress program received approximately 500 million impressions. We estimate it equals to more than \$327,000 in advertising value.

MRC proactively generated coverage for the positive impact of recycling 12 million mattresses program-wide and the results of completed research projects. We also participated in several bedding industry stories focused on sustainability solutions and responded to reporter inquires seeking mattress recycling data or program details. Some coverage is the result of others (mattress brands, conferences, etc.) mentioning MRC or the Bye Bye Mattress program.



# **Publicity Toolkits**

MRC provides recyclers, collection sites, and event hosts with a toolkit containing a news release template, flyer, signage, and suggested content they can use to publicize their participation in the program through online and social media outlets, city/ organization websites, and newsletters. The toolkit allows customization of messaging such as hours of operation and residency restrictions.

MRC also makes these materials available to nonprofits, civic groups, city council members or others that will distribute MRC's information to residents.

# **Click Below To View**



# **COLLECTION SITE & EVENT PROMOTION TOOLKITS**

https://mattressrecyclingcouncil.org/resources/publicity\_toolkits/





# **Public Service Announcement**

In the spring of 2024, one Providence TV station began running MRC's Public Service Announcement "Break Up the Right Way With Your Old Mattress" and generated 2,020 impressions by June 30, 2024.

MRC offers this PSA in all program states. Since its launch in 2021, the program-wide, cumulative impressions of the campaign's TV and radio spots in English and Spanish totaled more than 11.6 million.

The 15-second and 30-second radio and television spots in English, Spanish and Mandarin are available in the Media Center of **ByeByeMattress.com** and included in **Appendix D**.

# **COMPLIANCE OUTREACH**

MRC continues to monitor various sources for new entrants into the mattress segment, as well as non-compliant parties. When MRC identifies a party that may need to register and participate in the program, MRC mails a certified mail notice informing it of its potential obligations and follows up with a phone call or email. If there is no response within 30 days, MRC mails a second certified letter and the party is given 30 more days to respond. If the party remains unresponsive, MRC requests legal counsel or RIRRC to contact the party.

MRC's database of potential retailers, manufacturers, distributors, and renovators is a compilation of information from Rhode Island Bedding and Upholstered Furniture Licenses, ReferenceUSA, Dun & Bradstreet, industry publication subscriber lists, industry event attendee lists, Yellow Pages, chambers of commerce, the Better Business Bureau and online searches. MRC also receives leads for potential registrants from MRC staff as they travel the state.

MRC also monitors whether retailers and other mattress sellers submit monthly reports and remit collected recycling charges on time. MRC uses a protocol to alert parties more than 90 days delinquent of late fees and associated interest.

As the law requires, **Appendix A** contains a complete list of registered producers as of June 30, 2024.

TABLE 6: LATE REPORTING AND REMITTING PROTOCOL

| DELINQUENCY STAGE | LATE REPORTER   | LATE REMITTER   |
|-------------------|---|---|
| Level 1           | Late notice email generated by MRCreporting.org   | Late notice email generated by MRCreporting.org   |
| Level 2           | Phone call made to verify continued program participation and provide a verbal reporting reminder | Phone call made regarding outstanding payment and warning of potential interest charges |
| Level 3           | Written notice mailed   | Written notice mailed and<br>Interest invoice issued                                    |
| Level 4           | Second phone call made to provide verbal warning of potential penalties                           | Second written notice sent by certified mail and the interest invoice issued            |
| Level 5           | Written notice sent by certified mail and penalty invoice issued                                  | Second phone call made warning of accruing interest                                     |
| Level 6           | Second written notice sent<br>by certified mail and a<br>penalty invoice issued                   | Third call made warning of referral to a collections agency and interest invoice issued |
| Level 7           | Penalty invoice issued  | Delinquent account sent to collections agency; Interest invoice issued                  |
| Continued action  | Penalty invoices issued<br>monthly until the account no<br>longer delinquent                      | Interest invoices issued<br>monthly until the account is<br>no longer delinquent        |

# **EVALUATIONS**

MRC tracks consumer awareness annually and conducts an annual industry survey to measure and improve compliance outreach and education.

# **CONSUMER AWARENESS**

In April/May 2024, MRC contracted with KB Insights, a 30-year marketing consultant and experienced analyst, to create and implement a survey of consumers across the entire state of Rhode Island (N=100). All responses were collected online.

The survey measured consumer awareness of mattress recycling, the fact that recycling is free, how to dispose of a mattress so it can be recycled and Bye Bye Mattress program name recognition (we refer to these as our Key Performance Indices or KPIs).

TABLE 7: MRC's CONSUMER AWARENESS KEY PERFORMANCE INDICIES 2022-2024

| KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR*                                      | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 |
|---|------|------|------|
| Knowledge that a mattress can be recycled                       | 48%  | 55%  | 53%  |
| Knowledge that recycling is free                                | 26%  | 25%  | 23%  |
| Knowledge of how to dispose of a mattress so it can be recycled | 30%  | 29%  | 30%  |
| Recall of Bye Bye Mattress program name                         | 12%  | 14%  | 11%  |

<sup>\*</sup>margin of error: +/-8.0% at a 90% level of confidence

The survey also provided MRC the opportunity to monitor mattress purchasing and disposal behavior. In 2024, 14% indicated they acquired a mattress in the last year. In this survey, MRC also asked where the mattress was purchased – 78% made the purchase in a Rhode Island store while 20% shopped at an out-of-state brick-and-mortar location, most of those in Massachusetts.

Similarly, 18% said they disposed of a mattress in the last year. More than a third (36%) of those who had disposed of an old mattress said their retailer took it back. The next most common mattress disposal methods Rhode Islanders' used were curbside pick-up (18%) or gave it away (11%).

Over half of respondents (54%) said they were "extremely likely" to recycle a mattress in the future. When asked to select the top three reasons for choosing to recycle, "Protecting the environment" topped the list (49%), "Doing the right thing" ranked second (44%) and "Convenience – it's easy to do" ranked third (32%). Perceived barriers to recycling are lack of knowledge, not having a vehicle sufficient to haul a mattress and the lack of a free haul-away service. MRC will continue to address the motivating factors and perceived barriers in communications going forward.

MRC's survey strategy in 2025 will include another annual behavioral/awareness study to gauge success against the 2024 survey.

# ANNUAL INDUSTRY SURVEY

During the summer of 2023 MRC contacted all registered retailers, manufacturers and renovators to assess awareness of obligations, satisfaction with resources and whether the company would like to receive outreach materials or further information on certain topics. Questions varied based on the company's role in the industry. Overall, MRC received 149 responses, representing a 9.4% response rate. While none of the responses

received were from companies based in Rhode Island, some were from nationwide retailers and manufacturers.

The most significant finding was that retailers surveyed are familiar with their obligations, but many are not familiar with the state agency or organization that oversees the respective state programs. This knowledge is important because those entities have the authority to inspect retailers' records for compliance and can impose fines. Therefore, MRC will look for opportunities within its communications and publications to bring visibility to these entities.



MRC's research is focused on increasing the efficiency of mattress collection, transportation, deconstruction and recycling systems, and identifying new and better markets for recycled mattress materials.

RESEARCH

# RESEARCH

# **RESEARCH**

MRC's research team is focused on increasing the efficiency of mattress collection, transportation, deconstruction and recycling systems, and identifying new and better markets for recycled mattress materials.

For example, while demand for foam in carpet padding declines (our primary market), U.S. mattress recyclers are steadily increasing their output of recycled foam. To sustain foam recycling rates, our recyclers need additional economically viable markets.

Some recent projects and activities that may benefit our New England programs are noted below. Additional information about these and previously completed research projects are posted on **MRC's website**.

# **NEW MARKET IDENTIFICATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

# Vitrimerization: A Novel New Process To Recycle Polyurethane Mattress Foam

MRC contracted with Edge Geoscience Inc. (EGI) to explore whether mattress foam can be thermo-chemically converted into covalent dynamic networks (vitrimers). Vitrimers are meltable pellets that can be reshaped and recycled into useful products. EGI successfully scaled this technology using post-consumer mattress foam. The project's



A shoe sole prototype. Photo courtesey of EGI

main objective was to assess the feasibility of creating new components for various consumer and industrial products, like shoe soles, conveyor belts, tool grips and other applications.

EGI built a pilot scale process with enough capacity to seed product development activities and is collaborating with a mattress recycler to explore business model options and assess economic viability.

# **Biodegradable Composites Made with Recycled Mattress Cotton**

An MRC-funded feasibility study exploring fiber-reinforced composites made with recycled mattress cotton and a biodegradable polymer was conducted at West Virginia University. According to the American Composites Manufacturers Association, the industry trade association dedicated to advancing sustainable solutions, there are a growing number of industrial applications where composite degradability is an important characteristic.

# **Using Recycled Mattress Textiles to Make Composite Products**

MRC funded a research project at Pittsburg State University, which successfully produced a soybean oil-based polyurethane composite that incorporates non-woven recycled mattress textiles – shoddy, cotton, and coconut coir – that could be used to manufacture durable composite products suitable for construction, automotive, and other applications. The results were a low carbon footprint composite with excellent physical properties and versatile end uses.

### RECYCLING EFFICIENCY

# **Compressing Mattresses Substantially Cuts Transportation Costs**

Due to their low bulk density, transporting mattresses from collection sites to recyclers is a significant program cost for MRC. In a joint project with G&G Transport, a specialized trailer was built that compresses mattresses by at least 50% of their original volume. In the test trials, the project team demonstrated that mattresses can be safely and economically compressed without impacting recyclability. Test shipments using the first-generation trailer resulted

in a 26% reduction in total transportation costs. A larger second-generation trailer is being built, which has the potential to reduce transportation costs further.

# Independent Review of LCA Report Confirms Substantial Environmental Benefits

MRC contracted with Scope 3 Consulting to conduct a life cycle analysis (LCA) of our California operations in 2021. The purpose of the LCA was to describe and measure the environmental impacts and benefits to establish baseline environmental performance parameters for the program. The LCA analysis found significantly favorable environmental benefits in several key areas, including the displacement of greenhouse gases. An



independent review by an external panel of industry experts confirmed the findings in the original report. The LCA is now a living document that establishes a benchmark by which future MRC technologies and practices will be evaluated and MRC will use the data to increase the public's awareness of the benefits of recycling.

### **TECHNICAL DOCUMENTS**

# **UCLA Foam Characteristics Research**

Researchers at UCLA's Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering Department tested post-consumer mattress foam to understand the characteristics and variability of sample density, chemical composition, thermal, and mechanical properties. The MRC-funded project provides important information essential to tailoring recycling strategies for different foam types. Presently, a large percentage of mattress textiles are landfilled due to a lack of economically viable markets. Creating a new market channel that uses recycled textiles to make domestically produced carbon electrodes would have significant environmental benefits.

# **SUSTAINABILITY**

# CIRCULARITY FOR THE MATTRESS INDUSTRY

As MRC manages its own efforts to improve mattress recycling and find new and better markets for reclaimed mattress materials, we regularly communicate with other mattress recycling organizations around the world and stay abreast of broader efforts being pursued to work toward a more circular economy for mattresses.

Designing mattresses that are easier to recycle is a common thread in discussions among manufacturers interested in sharing best practices. However, end-of-life management priorities and strategies diverge significantly from region to region. Rather than invest in conventional recycling infrastructure, which is mostly downcycling, some countries are interested in moving directly to technologies that would recycle polymeric materials (such as foam and some fibers) through chemical recycling and pyrolysis.

We anticipate further debate regarding the best ways to incentivize the global development of chemical recycling technologies and investment in commercial-scale facilities.

In Europe, several pilot and commercial chemical recycling facilities convert post-consumer polyurethane foam back into its chemical building blocks that can then be used to make new foam or other materials. With increased experience and a better understanding of the technical risks and business cases, public-private sector entities and industry-led consortia are exploring means to expand the most promising

technologies globally. Decisions regarding the size and placement of these future facilities will have significant environmental and economic impacts. MRC has been actively engaged with these organizations to provide volume estimates and feedstock quality data to help inform these decisions.

In the United States, MRC continues focusing on developing better and new markets for recycled materials. Although mechanical recycling does not create full circularity, it is an important part of the overall strategy because it typically has a favorable environmental impact.

Second, MRC thinks that building operational efficiencies to collect, transport and process discarded units is equally important. MRC is taking a leading role in these two areas and sharing findings with other regions.

Finally, among stakeholders, consensus is building that circularity is an idea that will take considerable time and investment to attain. Moving forward, several industry trade organizations in Europe, the United States, Asia and Australia have committed to playing a lead role to encourage investment and to facilitate communication and collaboration in pursuit of this goal. Global collaborative networks have already formed to explore and address capability gaps systematically with the following initial priorities:

- Develop better designs
- Develop the means to increase recycled content in raw materials
- Build a sustainable logistics and recycling infrastructure
- Establish a science-based forum to advance meaningful innovation
- Establish a more informative material labeling system
- Develop an effective, easy-to-understand communication plan for consumers



# RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHANGE

# RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHANGE

Based on MRC's eight years of experience operating this program, MRC proposes no changes to the program or performance goals.



**APPENDICES** 

# APPENDIX A: REGISTERED PRODUCERS AND BRANDS

# REGISTERED PRODUCERS AS OF JUNE 30, 2024

Account DBA

815 Healthy & Beautiful C. Ltd. King's Castle HK Import and Export Co.

Limited

Airweave, LLC Airweave, LLC

Alessanderx SpA Alessanderx SpA

Allied Aerofoam, LLC Allied Aerofoam, LLC

American Bedding Mfg. Inc. American Bedding Mfg. Inc.

American Pacific Plastic Fabricators Inc. Sterling Sleep Systems

Apartment Furnishings Company Inc. Apartment Furnishings Company Inc.

Artaban Therapedic SA De CV Artaban Bedding

Ascion, LLC Reverie

Ashley Furniture Industries, LLC Ashley Furniture Industries, LLC

Avatar Enterprises Inc. Comfortex

Bedgear, LLC Bedgear

Best Choice Products Inc.

Best Choice Products Inc.

Bestar Inc. Bestar Inc.

Bio Sleep Concept Inc.

Bio Sleep Concept

Blue Bell Mattress Co., LLC

King Koil Northeast

Bob Barker Company Inc. Bob Barker Company Inc.

Bourdon's Institutional Sales Inc.

Bourdon's Institutional Sales Inc.

Boyd Flotation Inc. Boyd Specialty Sleep

Brentwood Home, LLC Simply Modern Mattress

Brick Church Manufacturing, LLC Brick Church Mfg.

BRN Sleep Solutions USA. LLC BRN Sleep Solutions

Brooklyn Bedding, LLC Dreamfoam Bedding, Brooklyn Bedding,

Helix Sleep, Bear Mattress, Nolah Sleep,

Leesa Sleep

Bryte Inc. Bryte Labs

Carico International Inc. Carico

Account DBA

Carpenter Co. Carpenter Co.

CCB Hope Ventures, LLC Hope Mattress

Children's Products, LLC
Simmons Juvenile Furniture

Classic Brands, LLC Classic Brands

Colchone Wendy SA De CV Colchones Wendy

Comfort Bedding of the USA, LLC Comfort Bedding of the USA, LLC

Comfort Revolution, LLC Comfort Revolution, LLC

Corsicana Acquisition, LLC Corsicana Mattress Company

Custom Mattress Makers Inc. Custom Mattress Makers Inc.

CVB Inc. Lucid Mattress, Wellsville, Linenspa

Deluxe Home of USA Inc.

Deluxe Home of USA Inc.

Denver Mattress Company, LLC

Denver Mattress Company

Dishuo Furnitre PTE. Ltd

Dishuo Furnitre PTE. Ltd

Dorel Home Products

Ameriwood Industries Inc.

E&E Bedding Co. Inc. Spring Air

E.S. Kluft & Company, LLC Aireloom Mattress

Eco Bedroom Solutions, LLC Ergovea Natural Mattress

Elements International Kyvno, LLC

Elite Comfort Solutions, LLC Elite Comfort Solutions
Engineered Sleep, LLC Engineered Sleep, LLC

Ergomotion Inc. Ergomotion Inc. Eastern Accents

Factory Direct Inc. Lady Americana SW

Feng Ben International (HK) Limited Feng Ben International (HK) Limited

Fibre Processing Corporation Fibre Processing Corporation

Flex-A-Bed Inc. Flex-A-Bed
Flotation Innovations Inc. Innovations

Friendship Upholstery Company Inc. Friendship Upholstery Company Inc.

Future Foam Inc. Future Foam Inc.

FXI Inc. FXI

GF Health Products Inc. GF Health Products Inc.

Account DBA

Golden Well International (HK) Ltd Golden Well International (HK) Ltd

Grand Life Inc. Grand Life Inc.

Gruppo Industriale Buoninfante SPA Gruppo Industriale Buoninfante SPA

Hammer Bedding Corp. Shifman Mattress

Health Care Co. LTD Health Care Co. LTD

Healthcare Arizona, LLC Healthcare Arizona, LLC

Healthcare SC, LLC Healthcare SC, LLC

Hickory Springs Manufacturing Company

HSM

Hickory Springs of California, LLC

HSM

Hill-Rom Inc.; Hill-Rom Holdings Inc.;

Hill-Rom DTC Inc.

Hong Kong Gesin Technology Company Ltd Hong Kong Gesin Technology Company Ltd

Honor Global Industry PTE. Ltd Glory

Honor Home (Laos) Sole Co. LTD Honor Home (Laos) Sole Co. LTD

IKEA Supply AG

IKEA

Illinois Sleep Products Inc.

ISP

InnoMax Corporation InnoMax Corporation

Innovative Bedding Solutions Inc. IBS

Invacare Corporation Invacare Corporation

Jeffco Fibres Inc.

Jeffco Fibres Inc.

Jiaxing Taien Springs Co. LTD Jiaxing Taien Springs Co. LTD

Joerns Healthcare, LLC Joerns Healthcare

Jussi Beds Colet & Scandinavian Bed Company &

Carpe Diem

Keeson Technology Corporation LTD Keeson Technology Corporation LTD

Keetsa Inc. Keetsa

King's Castle HK Import and Export Co. Limited Deluxe Home of USA Inc.

Kingsdown Inc. Kingsdown Inc.

Klaussner Home Furnishings Inc. Enso Sleep Systems

Kuka (HK) Trade Co. LTD Gaim Regiomontana, S.A. De C.V.

Lakewood Candies, LLC Milliard Bedding
Latex Foam International, LLC Talalay Global

Account DBA

Legends Home Legends Home

Leggett & Platt Automotive Group Leggett & Platt Automotive Group de

de Mexico, S. de R.L. de C.V. de Mexico, S. de R.L. de C.V.

Leggett & Platt Components Co. Inc. Leggett & Platt Bedding

Leggett & Platt Incorporated Leggett & Platt Incorporated

Linon Home Decor Products Inc. Linon Home Decor Products Inc.

Lippert Components Inc. Lippert Components Inc.

Live and Sleep, LLC Live and Sleep

Made Rite Bedding Company Made Rite Bedding

Magniflex USA LTD Magniflex USA LTD

Mantua Manufacturing Company Rize

Mattress Team Works Inc. MTW

Medical Depot Inc.

Drive Medical Design and Manufacturing

Medline Industries Inc.

Medical Device Manufacturer and Distributor

Mellow Inc. Mellow Inc.

Michael Thomas Furniture Inc.

The MT Company

Moonlight Slumber, LLC University Sleep Products

MTJ American, LLC MTJ American

Naturally Beds Inc. Arizona Premium Mattress

Nature Sleep System, LLC Jazvin

Norix Group Inc. Norix Group Inc.

Oddello Industries, LLC Oddello Industries, LLC

Organic Mattresses Inc. Organic Mattresses Inc.

Pacific Urethanes, LLC Pacific Urethanes

Paramount Industrial Cos. Inc. Paramount Sleep

Peacelily Sleep Peacelily Sleep

Poliuretanos SA De CV Poliuretanos SA De CV

PPJ, LLC Customatic Adjustable Bedz

Pragma Corporation Pragma Corporation

PranaSleep, LLC PranaSleep

Prestige Fabricators Inc.

Prestige Fabricators Inc.

Account DBA

Progressive Products Inc.

Progressive Products Inc.

Pr. Graha Seribusatujaya

Pr. Graha Seribusatujaya

Puffy, LLC Puffy Mattress

Purple Innovation, LLC Purple

Quality Sleep Shop My Green Mattress

Resident Home, LLC Resident

Rest Easy, LLC Pacific Mattress Co.

Rest-Medic Sleep Products Rest-Medic Sleep Products/Luen Tai Global LTD

Restmore, LLC Restmore

Restwell Mattress Co. Restwell Mattress Factory

Safavieh International, LLC Safavieh
Safe For Home Products, LLC Naturepedic

SBL, LLC SBI, LLC

Seahawk Designs Inc. Seahawk Designs Inc.

Sealy Mattress Manufacturing Company, LLC Sealy Mattress Manufacturing Company

Select Comfort Retail Corporation Sleep Number

Serta Simmons Bedding, LLC
Shen Zhen L&T Industrial Co. LTD
Luen Tai Global LTD
ShenZhen Yun Lee Sponge Products Co. LTD
Luen Tai Global LTD
Sherwood Midwest, LLC
Sherwood Midwest

Sherwood Northeast, LLC
Shevick Sales Corp.
Sleep on Latex
Sinomax USA Inc.
Sleep Studio, LLC
Sherwood Bedding
Sleep on Latex
Sinomax USA Inc.
Authentic Comfort

Sleeping Pure, LLC Sleeping Pure

Solstice Sleep Products Inc.

Solstice Sleep Products Inc.

Somnium Inc. Somnium Inc.

Sound Sleep Products Inc.

South Bay International Inc.

South Bay International Inc.

Span America Medical Systems Inc. Span America Medical Systems

Star Seeds Co, LTD Star Seeds Co, LTD

Account DBA

State of Connecticut Correctional Enterprises of Connecticut

Suite Sleep Inc. Suite Sleep

Technogel US Inc. Technogel US

Tempur Production USA, LLC Mountain Top Foam

Tempur Sealy International Inc.

Tempur Sealy
Thanepohn Corp.

Mattress Mill

The Bedding Group Inc.

The Bedding Group Inc.

The Furniture Bank

Houston Furniture Bank

The Original Mattress Factory Inc.

The Original Mattress Factory
Therapedic of New England, LLC
Therapedic of New England
Therapedic Sleep Products Inc.

Bedding Industries of America

Transcosmos America Inc.

University Loft Company

University Loft Company

University Loft Company

Ureblock S.A. DE C.V. Ureblock

Venture Products, LLC Venture Products, LLC

Vien Lam Co. Ltd Vien Lam Co. Ltd

Vinyl Products Mfg. Inc. Vinyl Products Mfg. Inc.

Vispring Limited Vispring Limited

Vi-Spring Limited Vispring

VPC Group Inc.

VPC Group

Werner Media Partners, LLC

Ghostbed

White Dove Mattress, LTD

White Dove Mattress, LTD

Woodhaven Furniture Industries Woodhaven Furniture Industries

Zhejiang Alright Home Textiles Co. LTD

Zhejiang Alright Home Textiles Co. LTD

Zinus Inc. Zinus Inc.

Zoma Sleep, LLC Zoma Sleep

# REGISTERED BRANDS AND URNS AS OF JUNE 30, 2024

104273282 American Sleep Collection Ultra Wavelesss

109884 American Sleep Collection Visions
110472 American Sleep Collections Priceton
12 Park American Sleep Collections Reflections

141718 Amore Beds 164351 Ananda

40 Winks Anti-Gravity PR Collection

42600 9" Contract 12-Slat Fdn 7524 Authentic Comfort

42642 Park View Plush Barclay Butera Lifestyle Bedding (by

42643 Westwood Plush Eastern Accents)
42645 Paragon Plush Bear Mattress

42646 Baseplate 7" Paragon 12-Slat Fdn BedInABox

42647 7" Paragon 12-Slat FdnBest Choice Products42653 Westwood Ii PlushBio Sleep Concept

42745 G6 Premium Biofresh
42747 G6 Ultra Plush Blissful Nights

46622 Concerto li 800 Plush Bloomington

 753793035352
 Bob Barke

 753793857107
 Boyd Mattresses

 753793857114
 Brentwood Home

 753793912035
 Brighton Bed

 753793958354
 Brooklyn Bedding

95200 Accor Box Cover Fr 28-4215 Brookside

Ace Hotel Mattress Broyhill Mattresses

AiR by nishikawa CA 29719
Aireloom CA 32487
Airweave CA 34948
Allswell CA 40277 (CN)

American Bedding Mfg. Inc.

American National Manufacturing Inc.

American Sleep Collection 621

American Sleep Collection 801

American Sleep Collection 821

American Sleep Collection Full Motion

American Sleep Collection Memgel

CA 43267

CA 43303

CA 43618

CA 44639 (IT)

CA 44921

CA 44921

CA 45287

CA 45867

American Sleep Collection Memgel

American Sleep Collection Memories

American Sleep Collection Millennium

American Sleep Collection Motion

Reduced

CA 45867

CA 46297 (MS)

CA 46344 (VN)

CA 46357 (VN)

CA 46429 (ID)

American Sleep Collection Prelude CA 46842 (MX)
American Sleep Collection Semi-Waveless CA 47007 (TX)

American Sleep Collection Trinity CA 29168

CA 34604 (MX) Denver Mattress

CA 39259 (CN) Denver Mattress Hospitality

CA 41764(CN) Dr. Oz the Good Life

CA 41826 Dream Bed

CA 43026 Dream Collection
CA 44083 (CN) Dreamcloud

CA 44497 Drexel Heritage Mattresses

CA 46098 Eclipse

CA 46906 (TW) Elements Sleep
Capital Bedding Inc. Emma Mattress
Children's Product Engineered Sleep

Childrens Products, LLC Enso

Christeli EnviroSpring™ Comfort Craft 4500 Ergovea Comfort Craft 5500 Essential

Comfort Craft 7500 Evaya

Comfort Craft 9500 Factory Direct Inc.

Comfort Craft Cascade FE Inverted Seam Innerspring Collection

Comfort Craft Gemini Flame Chek

Comfort Craft Horizon Flame Chek Foam
Comfort Craft Imperial Flame Chek Ultra
Comfort Craft Innopedic Latex Flex-A-Bed High-Low
Comfort Craft Innopedic Memcell Flex-A-Bed Premier
Comfort Craft Paradise Flex-A-Bed Value Flex

Comfort Craft Perfections Foam Craft Division of Future Foam Inc.

Comfort Craft SpectrumFoxzy Products Corp.Comfort Craft VistaFuture Foam Inc.Comfort ShieldGel Foam BedComfortFoamzGenesis 400ComfortSpring PLUSGenesis 500ComfortSpring™Genesis 600Corsicana MattressGenesis 700

Corsicana Operating Co., LLC Genesis 800
Cradlesoft Genesis 900
CT 0005195 Genesis dual 800

CT 7806893 (PL) Geo-gel

CT 7809761 (TX) Geo-Mattress: Geo-comfort

Custody Ghost Bed
Custom Mattress Makers Ghostbed

Customatic GrandRest

Dayrise Harvest Green Mattress

Delandis CT 7809966 (KR) Helix Sleep

Homelegance Hope Mattress

Hotel
IdleSleep
IKEA
Invacare
Jamison
Jazvin
Joerns

Jordan's

Jussi & Carpe Diem Karma by PranaSleep

Keetsa
"King Koil
Natura"
Kingsdown

Kirkland Signature

Kluft Kyvno

Lady Americana SW Leesa Mattress Lifekind

Linenspa

Linenspa Essentials Linenspa Signature

Linon Home Decor Little Lamb Organics

Live and Sleep
Lotus by PranaSleep

Lucid

Lucid Comfort Collection Lucid Dream Collection

Lullaby Earth - 71868 Lumex

Luxury Support 2300 Luxury Support 3300 Luxury Support 5300 Luxury Support 6300 Luxury Support 7300 Luxury Support 8300 Luxury Support Air Cell Luxury Support Cashmere Luxury Support Evolutions

Luxury Support Fusion
Luxury Support Harmony
Luxury Support Majestic
Luxury Support Medallion
Luxury Support Mystique
Luxury Support Neuveau
Luxury Support Omni

Luxury Support Transitions MA 2363

MA 3319

Maderite Bedding Co.

Magniflex Mainstays Malouf

Malouf Home

Mattress Cal King Assu - BRTM-RBBC-01 Mattress King Assy - BRTM-RBBK-01 Mattress Queen Assy - BRTM-RBBQ-01

Maximum Security
MFG. CA 43267
MFG.OH.0001165.NC
Michael Thomas Furniture

MicroAir

Miles Talbott Furniture

Milliard

MTJ American, LLC My Green Mattress natural reserve allura natural reserve elite

natural reserve white night

Naturepedic - 71868 Nautica Mattresses

NC 3095 NC 3332 (AL) NC 3333 (AZ) NC 3334 (AZ) NC 3335 (CA) NC 3335 (TX) NC 3336 (CO) NC 3337 (CO) NC 3338 (GA)

| NC 3340 (GA)     | PA 24700 (CD)    |
|------------------|------------------|
| NC 3343 (IA)     | PA 27155 (MS)    |
| NC 3344 (KS)     | PA 27156 (CA)    |
| NC 3345 (MA)     | PA 28284 (CN)    |
| NC 3346 (MA)     | PA 28396 (CN)    |
| NC 3347 (MS)     | PA 28521 (CN)    |
| NC 3348          | PA 28649 (CN)    |
| NC 3350 (NY)     | PA 28745 (CN)    |
| NC 3351 (NY)     | PA 28938 (CN)    |
| NC 3352 (PA)     | PA 29426 (CN)    |
| NC 3353 (PA)     | PA 29636 (CN)    |
| NC 3354 (TX)     | PA 29838 (CN)    |
| NC 3356 (UT)     | PA 29878 (CN)    |
| NC 3357 (VA)     | PA 29988 (CN)    |
| NC 3358 (WA)     | PA 29989 (CN)    |
| NC 3359 (WA)     | PA 3214 (DE)     |
| NC 3360 (WI)     | PA 40038 (CN)    |
| NC 3361 (WI)     | PA 40039 (CN)    |
| NC 4009 (WI)     | PA 40090 (CN)    |
| NC 4010 (TX)     | PA 40208 (IL)    |
| NC 4011 (TX)     | PA 40220 (CN)    |
| NC 4012 (AZ)     | PA 40221 (CN)    |
| NC 1724 (FL)     | PA 40222 (IT)    |
| NC 1726 (VA)     | PA 40232 (CN)    |
| NC 700           | PA 40267 (CN)    |
| Nectar Sleep     | PA 40309 (MS)    |
| Neeva            | PA 40658 (MS)    |
| New Haven        | PA 41690         |
| Nolah            | PA 41696 (VA)    |
| None             | PA 41697 (NM)    |
| Novaform         | PA 42087 (VN)    |
| OH 17603         | PA 42336 (CN)    |
| OH 20457 (SC)    | PA 42802         |
| OH 00001165 (NC) | PA 43196 (IN)    |
| OH 1165 (NC)     | PA 43270 (MX)    |
| OH 1165 NC 0     | PA 25087 (GB)    |
| OH 71445 (UK)    | PA 26221         |
| OK 799           | PA 26948 (MX)    |
| OK 174           | PA 28993 (WI)    |
| OK 714 (MN)      | PA 28993 (WI)    |
| Olee Sleep       | PA 42543         |
| Om by PranaSleep | PA 42543 (TW)    |
| On by Francocop  | 1 M TZJ+J (1 VV) |

PA 4296 (MX)

Pacific Mattress Peacelily Sleep

PFS Fiber Core Collection

Posh and Lavish PragmaBed PranaSleep Primasleep

Pure Green Natural Latex Mattress

PureSleep Purple

Quality Sleep Shop

Remedy

Puffy

Rescue Resident

Resort Collection

Resort Mattress Collection

Resort Sleep **REST HAVEN** 

RI 17028 (TX)

RI 16002 (IN)

Rize

RN 143552

Sanctuary Free Flow

Sealy

Select Luxury SelectaBed

Sensalux Mattress

Sensations Collection Affinity

Sensations Collection Embrace

Sensations Collection Hybrid Supreme

Sensations Collection Rhapsody

Sensations Collection Spirit Sensations Collection Splendor

Serenia Sleep

Serta Silver Rest

Silver Spring Collection

Simmons

Simmons Juvenile Furniture

Simmons Kids

Sleep Innovations

Sleep Love Sleep Science

Sleep Studio

Sleep Zone

Sleepy's Snuggle

Softform

Solace

Solid Night Somnium

Somnum

Sonabird

Stearns & Foster

Stellar Foam Core Collection

Sterling Sleep Systems

Sto-A-Way Mattress Foundation

Suite Dreams

Suite Essentials

Supreme

Symbol Mattress

The Original Mattress Factory

Thomasville Mattresses

Tuft & Needle

TX 16112

TX 3823 (MS) TX 4058 (TX)

UNIVERSITY BED

University Sleep Products' Enhanced Style

B Mattress

University Sleep Products' Enhanced Style

C Mattress

University Sleep Products' Style D

Mattress

UT 2263 (IN)

UT 2264 (PA) UT 2265 (NC)

UT 2266 (CA)

UT 2267 (MS)

UT 2270 (OR) UT 3196 (GA)

UT 3250 (MS)

UT 3481 (GA) UT 3703 (FL) UT 3704 (CA) UT 4003 (FL) UT 4017 (OH) UT 4315 (KY) UT 4372 (AR) UT 4436 (NC) UT 4469 (MS) UT 4576 (GA) UT 4780 (CA) UT 5090 (GA) UT 5874 (MM) UT 6010 (CD) UT 6081 (MX) UT 6179 (CA) UT 6180 (IL) UT 6181 (MS) UT 6182 (MS) UT 6221 UT 6339 UT 6467 (MD)

UT 3479 (GA)

"V1012 OXYGEN XG200" VA 12541 (MS) VA 17138 (KY) VA 23383 (CN) VA 27531 (CN) VA 28491 (MX) VA 28493 (MO) VA 33458 (MX) VA 50267 (IL) VA 10488 (NJ) VA 14993 (NC) VA 29961 (IL) VA 558 (CA) VA 558 (IN) VA 558 (KY) VA 558 (PA) ValueLine Veridian ViscoFresh Vispring Wayfair Sleep Weekender Wellsville XBM XMB Zinus Inc. Zoma Sleep

UT 5979 (AZ)

UT 3228 (GA)

UT 3264 (MX)

UT 3265 (MX)

UT 3728 (CN)

UT 3783 (MS)

UT 3861 (SC) UT 4187 (TN) UT 4209 (CN) UT 5034 (CN) UT 5081 (MX) UT 5094

UT 3861S

# APPENDIX B: COLLECTION SITES

# PARTICIPATING MUNICIPALITIES

| SITE   | ADDRESS   | CITY/TOWN        | ACCESS   |
|--|---|------------------|--|
| Barrington Transfer<br>Station                 | 84 Upland Way   | Barrington       | Drop-off for residents up to 3 units           |
| Bristol Transfer Station                       | 6 Minturn Farm Rd.  | Bristol          | Drop-off for residents up to 3 units           |
| Town of Burrillville                           | 350 Whipple Ave.  | Burrillville     | Drop-off for residents up to 3 units           |
| Charlestown Residential<br>Collection Center   | 50 Sand Hill Rd.  | Charlestown      | Drop-off for residents up to 3 units           |
| Coventry Transfer Station                      | 1668 Flat River Rd.   | Coventry         | Drop-off for residents up to 3 units           |
| Cranston Highway<br>Division                   | 929 Phenix Ave.   | Cranston         | Drop-off for residents up to 3 units           |
| East Greenwich Transfer<br>Station             | Crompton Avenue between<br>the Town Boat Ramp and<br>the Sewage Treatment Plant | East Greenwich   | Drop-off for residents up to 3 units           |
| Exeter Transfer Station                        | 890 Ten Rod Rd.   | Exeter           | Drop-off for residents up to 3 units           |
| Foster Department of Public Works              | 86 Foster Center Rd.  | Foster           | Drop-off for residents up to 3 units           |
| Glocester Transfer<br>Station                  | 121 Chestnut Hill Rd.   | Glocester        | Drop-off for residents up to 3 units           |
| Jamestown Transfer<br>Station                  | 1218 North Main Rd.   | Jamestown        | Drop-off for residents up to 3 units           |
| Little Compton Transfer<br>Station             | 122 Amy Hart Path   | Little Compton   | Drop-off for residents up to 3 units           |
| Town of New Shoreham                           | 14 West Beach Rd.   | New Shoreham     | Drop-off for residents up to 3 units           |
| North Kingstown<br>Transfer Station            | 345 Devils Foot Rd.   | North Kingstown  | Drop-off for residents up to 3 units           |
| Town of North Smithfield<br>Highway Garage     | 281 Quaker Hwy.   | North Smithfield | Drop-off for residents up to 3 units           |
| Blackstone Valley<br>Regional Transfer Station | 240 Grotto Ave.   | Pawtucket        | Drop-off for Pawtucket residents up to 3 units |
| Portsmouth Transfer<br>Station                 | West Main Road and Hedley<br>Street   | Portsmouth       | Drop-off for residents up to 3 units           |

# PARTICIPATING MUNICIPALITIES continued

| SITE                                       | ADDRESS             | CITY/TOWN       | ACCESS   |
|--|---------------------|-----------------|--|
| Providence Department of Public Works      | 700 Allens Ave.     | Providence      | Drop-off for residents up to 3 units                                   |
| Richmond Transfer<br>Station               | 51 Buttonwoods Rd.  | Richmond        | Drop off for Richmond and Hopkinton residents up to 3 units            |
| Scituate Department of<br>Public Works     | 1 Lincoln Circle    | Scituate        | Drop-off for residents up to 3 units                                   |
| Rose Hill Regional<br>Transfer Station     | 163 Rose Hill Rd.   | South Kingstown | Drop-off for South Kingstown and Narrangansett residents up to 3 units |
| Tiverton Landfill                          | 3524 Main Rd.       | Tiverton        | Drop-off for residents up to 3 units                                   |
| Warren Municipal<br>Transfer Station       | 21 Birch Swamp Rd.  | Warren          | Drop-off for residents up to 3 units                                   |
| Warwick Recycling<br>Facility              | 111 Range Rd.       | Warwick         | Drop-off for residents up to 3 units                                   |
| West Greenwich Transfer<br>Station         | 68 Bates Trail      | West Greenwich  | Drop-off for residents up to 3 units                                   |
| West Warwick Department of Public Works    | 10 Junior St.       | West Warwick    | Drop-off for residents up<br>to 3 units                                |
| Town of Westerly                           | 39 Larry Hirsch Ln. | Westerly        | Drop-off for residents up to 3 units                                   |
| Woonsocket Solid Waste<br>Recycle Facility | 943 River St.       | Woonsocket      | Drop-off for residents up to 3 units                                   |

# **CURBSIDE COLLECTION SITES**

| SITE                                     | ADDRESS                | CITY                | CONTACT                            |
|--|------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|
| Central Falls Department of Public Works | Pick up by appointment | Central Falls       | Municipal Recycling<br>Coordinator |
| City of East Providence                  | Pick up by appointment | East Providence     | Municipal Recycling<br>Coordinator |
| Town of Lincoln Highway<br>Department    | Pick up by appointment | Lincoln             | Municipal Recycling<br>Coordinator |
| Town of North<br>Providence              | Pick up by appointment | North<br>Providence | Municipal Recycling<br>Coordinator |
| City of Pawtucket                        | Pick up by appointment | Pawtucket           | Municipal Recycling<br>Coordinator |

# PRIVATE TRANSFER STATION

| SITE                           | ADDRESS                         | СІТҮ           | ACCESS/UNIT LIMIT                            |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|--|
| Waste Management               | 65 Halsey St.                   | Newport        | Drop-off for Newport residents up to 3 units |
| Waste Management -<br>Cranston | Curbside pick up by appointment | Cranston       | Waste Management customers                   |
| J.R. Vinagro                   | 116 Shun Pike                   | Johnston       | J.R. Vinagro customers                       |
| New England Waste<br>Disposal  | 313 International Dr.           | North Kingston | New England Waste<br>Disposal customers      |

# LANDFILL

| SITE                 | ADDRESS     | CITY     | ACCESS/UNIT LIMIT   |
|----------------------|-------------|----------|---------------------|
| RI Resource Recovery | 3 Shun Pike | Johnston | Drop-off for all RI |
|                      |             |          | residents           |

# PRIVATE COLLECTION SITE

| SITE                  | ADDRESS         | CITY      | ACCESS/UNIT LIMIT  |
|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------|--|
| Tough Stuff Recycling | 345 Walcott St. | Pawtucket | Drop-off for all RI<br>residents; allows pre-<br>scheduled business drop-<br>off from MRC registered<br>participants |

# **RECYCLING FACILITIES**

| SITE                  | ADDRESS           | СІТҮ          | ACCESS/UNIT LIMIT  |
|-----------------------|-------------------|---------------|--------------------|
| Tough Stuff Recycling | 145 Authority Dr. | Fitchburg, MA | No public drop off |
| Willimantic Waste     | 185 Recycling Way | Windham, CT   | No public drop off |

# **COLLECTION EVENTS**

| EVENT   | ADDRESS                        | CITY       | DATE           |
|---|--------------------------------|------------|----------------|
| Middletown at Soccer Fields                   | 540 Wyatt Rd.                  | Middletown | July 29, 2023  |
| Middletown at Third Beach                     | 474 Sachuest Point Rd.         | Middletown | Sept. 29, 2023 |
| Middletown at Second Beach                    | 474 Sachuest Point Rd.         | Middletown | Nov. 4, 2023   |
| Middletown at Third Beach                     | 474 Sachuest Point Rd.         | Middletown | March 30, 2024 |
| Middletown at Third Beach                     | 474 Sachuest Point Rd.         | Middletown | May 4, 2024    |
| City of Providence Mattress Drive             | Roanoke St.                    | Providence | July 1, 2023   |
| City of Providence Mattress Drive             | 152 Springfield St.            | Providence | July 15, 2023  |
| City of Providence Mattress Drive             | 812 Branch Ave.                | Providence | July 29, 2023  |
| City of Providence Mattress Drive             | 121 Delaine St.                | Providence | Oct. 14, 2023  |
| City of Providence Mattress Drive             | 145 Beaufort St.               | Providence | April 13, 2024 |
| City of Providence Mattress Drive             | 191 Webster Ave.               | Providence | May 4, 2024    |
| City of Providence Mattress Drive             | 470 Charles St.                | Providence | May 25,2024    |
| City of Providence Mattress Drive             | Brown University<br>(Park St.) | Providence | June 6, 2024   |
| City of Providence Mattress Drive             | 75 Atlantic Ave.               | Providence | June 8, 2024   |
| Town of Smithfield Department of Public Works | 3 Spragueville Rd.             | Smithfield | July 15, 2023  |
| Town of Smithfield Department of Public Works | 3 Spragueville Rd.             | Smithfield | Nov. 4, 2023   |
| Town of Smithfield Department of Public Works | 3 Spragueville Rd.             | Smithfield | April 13, 2024 |

# APPENDIX C: STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH

# JULY 1, 2023 - JUNE 30, 2024

| DATE                    | EVENT  | LOCATION        | STAKEHOLDER GROUP               |
|-------------------------|--|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| July 12, 2023           | Paint and Mattress<br>EPR Forum                                  | Pittsfield, MA  | Waste and Recycling<br>Industry |
| July 13, 2023           | US Mayors - Extended<br>Producer Responsibility                  | Virtual         | Municipalities                  |
| July 27,<br>2023        | SWEEP - Regenisis-<br>Rematerializing<br>Resources from Waste    | Virtual         | Waste and Recycling<br>Industry |
| July 30-Aug.<br>3, 2023 | Summer Las Vegas<br>Market                                       | Las Vegas, NV   | Mattress Industry               |
| Sept. 13-14             | ISPA Sustainability<br>Conference                                | Charlotte, NC   | Mattress Industry               |
| Sept. 29,<br>2023       | Fire Assessments   | CT Recyclers    | Waste and Recycling<br>Industry |
| Sept. 25-27,<br>2023    | Center for the Polyurethanes Industry Conference                 | San Antonio, TX | Mattress Industry               |
| Oct. 3, 2023            | ISPA Sustainability<br>Committee Meeting                         | Willimantic, CT | Mattress Industry               |
| Oct. 24,<br>2023        | Environmental Business Council Solid Waste Management Conference | Virtual         | Waste and Recycling<br>Industry |
| Oct. 31-Nov.<br>2, 2023 | Polyurethane Foam<br>Association                                 | Toronto, ONT    | Mattress Industry               |
| Nov. 1-2,<br>2023       | Northeast Recycling<br>Council Fall Conference                   | Providence, RI  | Waste and Recycling<br>Industry |
| Dec 6, 2023             | Massachusetts Product<br>Stewardship Forum                       | Boston, MA      | State Legislature               |
| Dec 11, 2023            | Massachusetts<br>Legislative Affairs<br>Forum                    | Worcester, MA   | Municipalities                  |
| Jan. 7-9,<br>2024       | Northeast Furniture &<br>Accessory Market                        | Edison, NJ      | Mattress Industry               |
| Jan. 18, 2024           | Gold Bond Tour   | Hartford, CT    | Mattress Industry               |

**JULY 1, 2023 - JUNE 30, 2024** continued

| DATE                 | EVENT   | LOCATION           | STAKEHOLDER GROUP               |
|----------------------|---|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| Jan. 28-31,<br>2024  | Las Vegas Winter<br>Market                            | Las Vegas, NV      | Mattress Industry               |
| Feb. 12-14,<br>2024  | Keep America Beautiful<br>National Conference         | San Diego, CA      | Waste and Recycling<br>Industry |
| March 8,<br>2024     | A&S Innersprings USA                                  | Windsor, CT        | Mattress Industry               |
| March 12-14,<br>2024 | ISPA EXPO   | Columbus, OH       | Mattress Industry               |
| March 19,<br>2024    | Massachusetts Recycle<br>Conference and Trade<br>Show | Marlboro, MA       | Waste and Recycling<br>Industry |
| April 29,<br>2024    | Original Mattress Tour of WWP                         | Willimantic, CT    | Mattress Industry               |
| May 21-23,<br>2024   | Polyurethane Foam<br>Association Annual<br>Meeting    | St. Petersburg, FL | Mattress Industry               |
| June 21,<br>2024     | New Hampshire Solid<br>Waste Working Group<br>Meeting | Virtual            | Waste and Recycling<br>Industry |

# APPENDIX D: PUBLIC EDUCATION MATERIALS

# **CONSUMER EDUCATION MATERIALS FOR RETAILERS**

2023 INFORMATION CARD





DIGITAL BADGE



# 2024 INFORMATION CARD



# bye bye mattress<sup>,</sup> Este programa es el resultado de una ley

aprobada en su estado. Se financia a través de la tarifa de reciclaje que figura en su recibo.

Bye Bye Mattress es un programa de Mattress Recycling Council. Las tarifas se utilizan para proporcionar a las ubicaciones participantes contenedores, transporte y reciclaje de colchones desechados, así como contactos con el consumidor, comunicaciones de la industria y administración de programas.

# Sus opciones de reciclaje de colchones

### Llévelo a una ubicación participante

Utilice nuestro sitio web para encontrar la más cercana.



# Pídale a su lo reciba Los minoristas que

ofrecen entrega de colchones y bases de resortes pueden ofrecer recoger uno vieio. Analícelo durante su compra.

### Póngase en minorista que contacto con el recolector de residuos sólidos

El recolector de residuos sólidos puede recoger colchones y bases de resortes viejos en la acera. ¡Pregúntele sobre el reciclaie!

VISITE ByeByeMattress.com PARA OBTENER MÁS DETALLES. Póngase en contacto: info@byebyemattress.com o 1-855-494-8400.







# Rest Easy! Your Old Mattress CAN Be Recycled.

Drop it off at a participating location, use your solid waste provider, or ask your retailer about taking it back.

Rhode Island's Mattress Recycling Fee Is \$20.50 Per Unit

Bye Bye Mattress is a program of the Mattress Recycling Council. Fees are used to provide participating locations with containers, transportation and recycling discarded mattresses as well as consumer outreach, industry communication and program administration.



# YOUR MATTRESS RECYCLING OPTIONS

# Drop Off At A Participating Location

There are collection sites throughout the state. Residency requirements, access stickers and unit limits may apply.



# **Ask Your Retailer To Take It Back**

If you are having a mattress or box spring delivered, ask your retailer if they will take back an unwanted one. Discuss take back and recycling during your purchase.



# Contact Your Solid Waste Collector



Your solid waste collector may pick up old mattresses and box springs at the curb. Ask them about recycling!



VISIT ByeByeMattress.com FOR DETAILS. Contact info@byebyemattress.com or 1-855-494-8400.





# **CUSTOMER QUESTIONS ABOUT THE MATTRESS RECYCLING FEE**

This list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) is here to help. Please share with your staff.

### 1. Why do I have to pay the recycling fee and what is it for?

State law requires retailers to collect a recycling fee on each mattress and box spring that is sold. The fee funds the state's mattress recycling program and provides for collection, transportation and recycling of old mattresses and box springs. The amount of the fee is the same statewide and is not controlled by individual retailers. More than 75 percent of a mattress can be recycled into new consumer and industrial products. The recycling program diverts valuable materials from landfill and helps keep bulky waste like mattresses and box springs out of the waste stream.

### 2. Who is the Mattress Recycling Council?

The Mattress Recycling Council (MRC) is a nonprofit organization that operates recycling programs known as Bye Bye Mattress in states that have passed mattress recycling laws. MRC was founded by the bedding industry and recycles nearly 2 million mattresses each year. For more information about MRC, go to <a href="www.MattressRecyclingCouncil.org">www.MattressRecyclingCouncil.org</a>. To learn how to recycle your mattress or to find a collection location or event near you, visit <a href="www.ByeByeMattress.com">www.ByeByeMattress.com</a>.

### 3. If I don't plan to discard a mattress now, why do I have to pay this fee?

Even if you aren't discarding a mattress right now, mattresses don't last forever and will eventually be discarded. State law requires retailers to collect this fee on any mattress or box spring sale to fund the state's mattress recycling program. This program provides a network of participating cities, towns, retailers, recyclers and other organizations where old mattresses are collected for recycling at no additional cost to you. The fee also supports efforts to combat illegal dumping of mattresses and help keep our community clean.

# 4. If I decide to take my old mattress to a recycler myself, do I still pay the fee?

Yes, state law requires retailers to collect this fee on any mattress and box spring sale at the time of purchase to fund the mattress recycling program. You may receive a modest financial incentive if you drop off your used mattress or box spring at a designated recycling location. Visit www.ByeByeMattress.com to find the location nearest you.

# 5. I didn't pay this fee when I bought my old mattress, so will it be accepted for recycling?

Yes, MRC's Bye Bye Mattress program will accept your old mattress no matter when it was originally purchased. To be recycled, units must be clean and dry. Normal wear and tear is expected. Units infested with bed bugs or that are heavily soiled or damaged cannot be recycled.

# 6. My old mattress was "unacceptable" for recycling. Can you refund my recycling fee?

No, state law requires retailers to collect this fee on any mattress and box spring sale to fund the mattress recycling program. The law does not force retailers to accept every mattress for recycling out of concern for employee health and safety. Store policy, in addition to the guidelines of the recycling program, determine what we will and won't accept. If your mattress is unacceptable for recycling, contact your city or town to learn what disposal options are available.

MORE FAQs ON NEXT PAGE –

### PAGE 2 (MATTRESS RECYCLING FEE FAQs)

# 7. What are the benefits of mattress recycling?

Mattress recycling programs offer many benefits for the community, state and environment, including:

- Less reliance on incinerators and landfills by diverting mattresses from the waste stream
- Reduces the number of illegally dumped mattresses
- · Conserves resources by making used steel, foam and other materials available for use in new products
- Creates recycling jobs

# 8. What happens to my old mattress or box spring when it gets recycled?

Recycled mattresses are cut open and the layers are separated and organized by type. Wood is recycled and 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 and box springs are extracted, sent to recyclers and used to make building materials.

9. Will the Mattress Recycling Council or Bye Bye Mattress program pick up my old mattress from my home?

### If your store takes back old mattresses:

No, but our store offers this service at time of delivery of your new mattress. (If your store recycles with the program, please let the customer know. Otherwise direct them to drop off their mattress at one of our free collection points listed on www.ByeByeMattress.com.)

# If your store does not take back old mattresses, your response should be:

Mattresses are collected from a vast network of free collection sites throughout the state. These are typically public works yards or transfer stations. Your city/town may also collect bulky items at curbside as part of your trash service. Visit <a href="https://www.ByeByeMattress.com">www.ByeByeMattress.com</a> to see what options are available. The Mattress Recycling Council or the Bye Bye Mattress program does not pick up mattresses from customer's homes.

# California Retailer Take Back Requirement

In California, mattress retailers are required by law to offer to take back old mattresses at no extra cost when delivering new ones. This applies to any method of delivery (in-house, third-party and even common carriers like USPS, UPS, FedEx). Your customer may be aware of this or mention having heard or seen this in an ad.

Please make information available on your website, in the purchasing process or in your shipping/delivery communications about how the pickup of an old mattress will work. Also consider sharing this information with those providing customer service.

**RETAILERS CAN RECYCLE WITH US TOO:** Learn more about the <u>Bye Bye Mattress Commercial Volume Program.</u>

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR NEWSLETTER: Sign up here for customer education tips, program news and free resources.

**NEED MORE INFORMATION?** Please contact <u>info@byebyemattress.com</u> or call 1-855-494-8400.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE MATTRESS RECYCLING COUNCIL'S BYE BYE MATTRESS PROGRAM.

# PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

# BREAK UP THE RIGHT WAY WITH YOUR OLD MATTRESS



# **ENGLISH**

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8wILN8qXz7Q

# **SPANISH**

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xYqdlU\_eGHY\_

# MANDARIN

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A4cG7O9-ORo

# PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

# BREAK UP THE RIGHT WAY WITH YOUR OLD MATTRESS continued

Bye Bye Mattress

TV:30

# PSA TV #1 "the break-up" Final



Open on a door to a non-descript home. Door opens and the Mattress Man (MM) steps out of the room in full view.

A memory "bubble" pops up next to the MM of a person sleeping comfortably in bed.

(If there is time in the animation: In the memory "bubble" the person now has a pillow over their head because their neighbor's music is too loud—wall is vibrating).

Door closes behind MM.

Scene behind MM changes to a mattress wandering a trash-filled alley. He passes by a sad looking mattress with a "free" sign on it.

It changes back to his original talking position scene and things that he could be recycled to pops up (I-beams, carpet foam, mulch....)

MM holds up a sign with ByeByeMattress.com on it.

Super: Bye Bye Mattress logo (room for tag space)

SFX: upbeat music.

Hey, I'm your mattress.

We've been together for a while now, and its been *g-r-e-a-t*.

But let's be honest. I think we are *both* ready for a fresh start.

Just don't toss me out without thinking of *where* I'll end up or *how* I'll even get there. I'm ready to be more than a mattress after all these years.

I want to be <u>recycled</u> into <u>new</u> things... there's still a lot of good parts here to use.

Check out ByeByeMattress dot com.

Learn more about recycling and the *easy* ways to get rid of an old mattress, like me, for *free!* 

# **PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT**

# BREAK UP THE RIGHT WAY WITH YOUR OLD MATTRESS continued

File name: VYMI0100000H (1)\_VO Client: Williams Whittle (Bye Bye Mattress)

Job ID: US1139221

Transcribed by TransPerfect

| Timecode             | Source  | Translation  |  |  |
|----------------------|---|--|--|--|
| 00:00:08             | Hey, I'm your mattress.   | 嗨,我是您的床垫   |  |  |
| 00:00:23             | We've been together for a while now, but let's be honest. I think we are both ready for a fresh start.  | 我们已经朝夕相处了一段日子,但是坦白说我认为我们都准备好   |  |  |
|                      | Just don't toss me out without thinking of where I'll end up or how I'll even get there. I'm ready to be more than a mattress after all these years.  | 迎接新生活了<br>请不要把我随意丢弃,不考虑我<br>的去处,甚至也不在乎我怎样前<br>往 因为多年以后,我可能不只是<br>一张床垫                                    |  |  |
| 00:00:24<br>00:00:36 | I want to be recycled into new things. There's still a lot of good parts here to use. Check out ByeByeMattress.com.  Learn more about recycling and the easy ways to get rid of an old mattress, like me, for free! | 我想要在回收利用后焕发新生 我<br>还有很多完好的零件可供使用 访<br>问 ByeByeMattress.com<br>了解更多关于回收利用的信息,<br>以及免费处理像我这样的旧床垫<br>的简单方法! |  |  |

File name: VYMI0100000H (1)\_VO Client: Williams Whittle (Bye Mattress) Job ID: US1139221

Transcribed by TransPerfect

| Timecode             | Source  | Translation  |
|----------------------|---|--|
| 00:00:08             | Hey, I'm your mattress.   | Hola, soy tu colchón.  |
| 00:00:23             | We've been together for a while now, but let's be honest. I think we are both ready for a fresh start. Just don't toss me out without thinking of where I'll end up or how I'll even get there. I'm ready to be more than a mattress after all these years. | Hace mucho que estamos juntos, pero a decir verdad, creo que ambos estamos listos para un nuevo comienzo.  No me saques sin pensar en dónde terminaré ni cómo llegaré allí. Estoy listo para ser más que un colchón después de todos estos años. |
| 00:00:24<br>00:00:36 | I want to be recycled into new things. There's still a lot of good parts here to use. Check out ByeByeMattress.com.  Learn more about recycling and the easy ways to get rid of an old mattress, like me, for free!   | Quiero que me reciclen y convertirme en algo nuevo. Partes de mí se pueden volver a usar. Visita ByeByeMattress.com para más información sobre reciclaje y formas fáciles ¡y gratis! de deshacerte de un colchón viejo como yo.                  |

# **INDUSTRY ADVERTISEMENT**

**DIGITAL** 



**PRINT** 

# WE ARE TAKING A LOAD OFF RETAILERS, FOR FREE.



If you operate in California, Connecticut or Rhode Island, we can recycle the old mattresses you've taken back from your customers. Ask us how.

# California:

Contact Joy Broussard (707) 394-8620 cvp@mrc-us.org

# **Connecticut/Rhode Island:**

Contact Dan McGowan (860) 397-4800 dmcgowan@mrc-us.org

