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RHODE ISLAND ANNUAL REPORT

SUBMITTED BY

Mattress Recycling Council Rhode Island, LLC
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SUBMITTED TO

Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation
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SUBMITTED ON

October 1, 2021





This year, MRC's Rhode Island Bye Bye Mattress program collected **104,607** mattresses and diverted **1,221** tons of material from disposal.

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The mattress industry created
the Mattress Recycling Council
(MRC), a nonprofit organization,
to develop and administer the
Bye Bye Mattress program.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY & DEFINITIONS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY & DEFINITIONS

Pursuant to Section 23-90-5(j) of Rhode Island General Laws (the law), the Mattress Recycling Council Rhode Island, LLC (MRC), submits to Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation (RIRRC) this annual report, 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 2020-2021 Fiscal Year (July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021) (the reporting period).

OVERVIEW OF MATTRESS RECYCLING COUNCIL RHODE ISLAND, LLC

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 box springs sold in the state.

The International Sleep Products Association created the Mattress Recycling Council (the Council), a nonprofit organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, to develop and administer the program. 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. Once initial performance goals set in the plan were achieved, MRC worked with RIRRC to update the goals.

In addition to Rhode Island, the Council administers statewide mattress recycling programs in two other states, California and Connecticut. In each of these states, the Council has developed a statewide network 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.

Effective July 1, 2017, the Council created for each state program a limited liability company in which the Council is the sole member. The Council then transferred all functions related to the Rhode Island program to the Mattress Recycling Council Rhode Island, LLC (MRC).

In promoting the program among consumers, MRC has branded itself as “Bye Bye Mattress.”

RHODE ISLAND PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

MRC has designed and implemented the program to accomplish the following:

- Collect a mattress stewardship fee that funds the cost of operating and administering the program.
- Provide for free and accessible statewide opportunities for state residents to discard their used mattresses.
- Provide for free collection of discarded mattresses from municipal transfer stations.
- 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.

FIFTH YEAR PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The law required MRC to establish goals to measure the program's performance. During the reporting period, MRC achieved or nearly achieved most of these goals. Highlights of the program's fifth year include:

- Collected 104,607 mattresses and recycled 1,221 tons of material.
- Provided program access in 37 of 39 Rhode Island municipalities.
- Extended service to 203 other covered entities consisting of retailers, lodging establishments, healthcare facilities, educational facilities, small bulky waste haulers and others with large volumes of discarded mattresses.
- Maintained solid waste service provider participation well above the 80% performance goal threshold – MRC retained all the participants from the previous reporting period and sought to reduce the number of units handled by the RIRRC Central Landfill by encouraging small commercial haulers to deliver units they handle to recyclers instead of RIRRC.
- Surpassed the retailer performance goal by recycling 7,694 units obtained from retailers – a 20% increase from the previous reporting period.
- Recycled 1,625 units from educational facilities – a 7.5% increase from the previous reporting period.
- Added eight lodging facilities to the program and recycled 1,209 mattresses from seven hotels.
- Remained fully operational and prevented service failures despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and rise of the Delta variant.

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 fold-out 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 by-products 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 more than **203** public and private entities that dispose of large volumes of discarded mattresses.

COLLECTION NETWORK OVERVIEW

COLLECTION NETWORK OVERVIEW

INTRODUCTION

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 possess 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 handle 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. All state residents may drop off units at Ace Mattress Recycling in West Warwick or 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, 203 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:

Ace Mattress Recycling, LLC

14 Clyde Street
West Warwick, RI 02893

GM Framingham

12 Industrial Road
Milford, MA 01757

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:

Ace Mattress Recycling, LLC

14 Clyde Street
West Warwick, RI 02893

Mobile Storage Inc.

81 Pilsudski Street
Providence, RI 02909

Willimantic Waste Paper Co. Inc.

185 Recycling Way
Willimantic, CT 06226





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

INTRODUCTION

MRC's education and outreach efforts are designed to inform consumers, the mattress industry and other stakeholders about mattress recycling in Rhode Island and to explain more specifically:

- How MRC operates, what it has accomplished and the impact it is making in the state.
- How and where to recycle discarded mattresses and why recycling is beneficial.
- Why the recycling fee is needed and what it funds.
- The legal obligations the mattress industry must fulfill.

To reach these audiences and disseminate this information, MRC uses a wide array of communications and marketing methods, including targeted direct mail and printed collateral, advertising and media relations, digital marketing and social media. MRC also makes site visits and participates in community and industry events. MRC has trademarked the names "Mattress Recycling Council" and "MRC" for use with industry and non-consumer stakeholder audiences, and "Bye Bye Mattress" as its consumer-facing identity.

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.

An evaluation of MRC's achievement of these goals is discussed in further detail in the **Performance Goals & Evaluation** section (see Page 32).

This section provides a full description of the methods MRC uses to communicate to consumers and the industry.

CONSUMER EDUCATION

To maintain awareness of Bye Bye Mattress in Rhode Island, MRC provided consumer education materials to retailers to use with their customers, promoted the program through a public service announcement and media opportunities, assisted collection sites and events with communicating to their residents, and maintained a presence on social media. Each of these tactics encouraged consumers to visit ByeByeMattress.com to learn how to recycle in their area.

In addition to these efforts, in April 2021, MRC launched a lesson plan for youth and young adults on ByeByeMattress.com that explores the benefits of recycling, the impact of waste on the environment and how to mitigate illegal dumping. See below for further details.

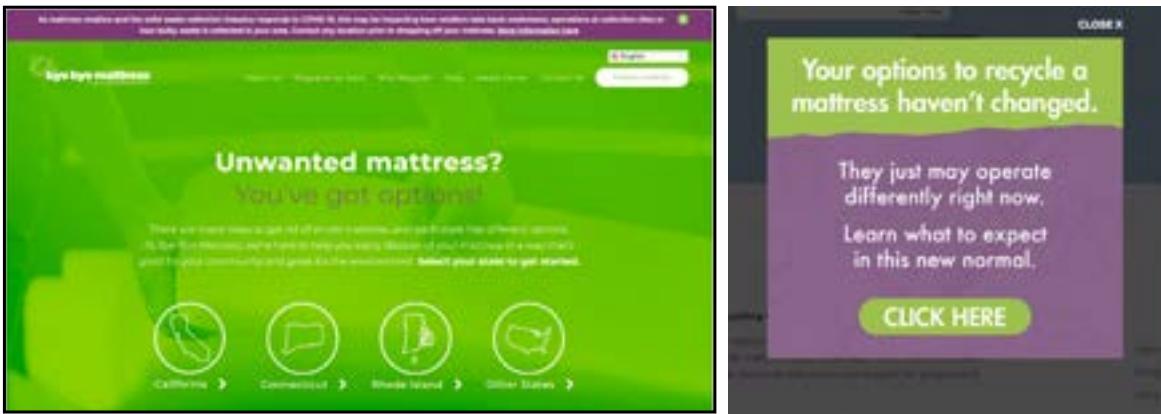
To monitor the effectiveness of its consumer education and outreach, MRC monitors website and social media analytics and ordinarily conducts an annual consumer awareness survey. The 2020 survey, however, was canceled due to COVID-19 disruptions. MRC will conduct the 2021 survey later this year.

BYEBYEMATTRESS.COM

On ByeByeMattress.com, consumers easily can find information about participating drop-off locations and municipalities that offer at least one free curbside collection each year. Consumers are also reminded to ask their retailer about picking up a discarded unit when a new mattress is delivered. Businesses and organizations that meet the definition of covered entity can find information on how MRC works with their industry and how to contact MRC to recycle mattresses.

In addition to helping consumers and covered entities learn what to do with their old mattress, ByeByeMattress.com also contains updates about the program's performance and MRC's efforts to expand recycling in the state. In addition, the site educates visitors about the mattress recycling process and its environmental benefits.

MRC modified the site slightly in 2020 in response to the pandemic. MRC activated a COVID-19 pop up box and banner on the homepage. These alerted consumers to expect a different experience during the pandemic and the types of changes to anticipate. For example, many retailers, drop-off locations and curbside collection programs suspended or reduced their used mattress collection activities to comply with local restrictions and health department guidance. MRC encouraged consumers to discuss the take back process with their retailer in advance of purchasing a new bed, and to contact a collection site before dropping off their old mattress or a hauler before setting the mattress at the curb for pick up.



BYEBYEMATTRESS.COM



BYEBYEMATTRESS.COM

Overall website performance remained strong. Users increased 4.1% and sessions increased 2.5% from the previous reporting period. MRC will continue to monitor website analytics to optimize the user experience and gauge performance of our outreach methods.

Bye Bye Mattress Web Traffic Sessions July 2020 - June 2021



CONSUMER EDUCATION MATERIALS

MRC provides retailers with free point-of-sale materials to help them explain the program and the fee to their customers. These include:

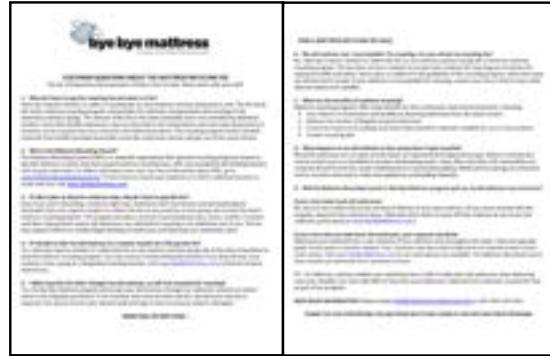
Bilingual Informational Card: This card can accompany the consumer's invoice or receipt. In its standard format, English is on one side and Spanish on the other. Chinese, Korean, Tagalog and Vietnamese versions are available on request.

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, Tagalog and Vietnamese are available on request.



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



MRC uses a monthly 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's Marketing & Communications department 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.

Given the rapid rise of online sales and accelerated adoption of boxed bedding among consumers due to the COVID-19 pandemic, MRC created a digital badge for retailers which launched in February 2021. The badge is an image retailers can incorporate on their websites, in social media content or in other digital communications to raise the consumer's awareness of the fee and program before they purchase a mattress. The badge can also be used to remind the consumer of the program during and after purchasing, such as displayed on purchase review and payment confirmation pages or incorporated in emailed receipts. MRC requests retailers link the image to ByeByeMattress.com so that the retailer's customers are directed to information about the program and fee.



PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT CAMPAIGN

MRC's "Stop Illegal Dumping" PSA campaign consists of TV, radio, print and outdoor ads and is used across all three of MRC's program states. To date, the PSA has received more than 4.9 million cumulative impressions in all three state programs. However, Rhode Island media have been the least receptive to run the ads despite MRC's multiple outreach efforts to PSA directors and other station executives. MRC also encourages cities and towns to use the PSA in their communications with residents. Campaign materials are available in the Bye Bye Mattress media center.

MRC is currently updating the campaign and determining how to increase usage in Rhode Island.



View Stop Illegal Dumping. Click to watch:



TV ENGLISH

<https://dl.orangedox.com/IllegalDumpingEnglish>



TV SPANISH

<https://dl.orangedox.com/IllegalDumpingSpanish>

Hear Stop Illegal Dumping. Click to listen:



RADIO ENGLISH

<https://dl.orangedox.com/wtYyQnhTPsZ8pWYJxT>



RADIO SPANISH

<https://dl.orangedox.com/5rVASIpHtA2IPCyAps>

PRINT AND BILLBOARD EXAMPLES

You can recycle your old mattress for free. Stop illegal dumping.

Don't dump your old mattress. Not only is it illegal, but it will end up in a landfill when it could be so much more. On the other hand, recycling the mattress and box spring lets the steel, foam, fiber and wood become new products. Like steel parts, filters, carpet padding and even mulch for your garden. Find out about your FREE recycling options at ByeByeMattress.com.

byebyemattress®
A Program of the Mattress Recycling Council®

To learn more about the benefits of mattress recycling, visit ByeByeMattress.com

**Don't dump it.
Recycle your mattress for free!**

bye bye mattress®
A Program of the Mattress Recycling Council®

LESSON PLAN

Through its work in California, MRC was introduced to a local teacher and environmental justice advocate who develops curriculum-based environmental justice projects throughout California's Central Valley. In October 2020, MRC collaborated with this individual to develop a comprehensive illegal dumping lesson plan for youth and young adults. This five-task lesson plan explores the benefits of recycling, the impact of waste on the environment and how to mitigate illegal dumping. The last lesson offers facts and statistics about mattress recycling and how mattress components can be broken down into useful materials.

MRC published the lesson plan on ByeByeMattress.com in May 2021 and it has already received interest from a Providence elementary school. MRC is currently encouraging teachers, afterschool programs, youth-based organizations and similar groups to use it.

The screenshot displays a comprehensive five-task lesson plan for environmental justice. It includes:

- Task 1: DON'T DUMP IT, RECYCLE IT** (Learning about the Journey of Waste and the Prevention of Illegal Dumping). This task features a blue background with a white central box containing a blue mattress icon and the text "DON'T DUMP IT, RECYCLE IT". It includes a "DOWNLOAD A Free Lesson Plan!" button and a note: "Keep a record of your observations using one of our templates below, or create your own!" Below this are three sample entries: "List", "Draw", and "Photograph".
- Task 2: DECOMPOSITION TIME CLOCK** (Analyze decomposition times for common materials). This task includes a "Background" section with a note about the variability of decomposition times for organic materials, a "Procedure" section with a "Materials" list, and a "Results" section where users can list materials used to build a mattress.
- Task 3: CREATE CATEGORIES** (Organize items into categories based on similarity). This task shows examples of items grouped into "Living Room" (tv, couch, rug), "Kitchen" (sink, stove, refrigerator), and "Office" (desk, chair, computer).
- Task 4: COMMON ITEMS ILLEGALLY DUMPED** (Identify common items dumped). This task lists items such as Electronic Waste, Furniture, Garbage, Household Hazardous Waste, Mattresses, Motor Oil & Filters, Tires, and Yard Waste.

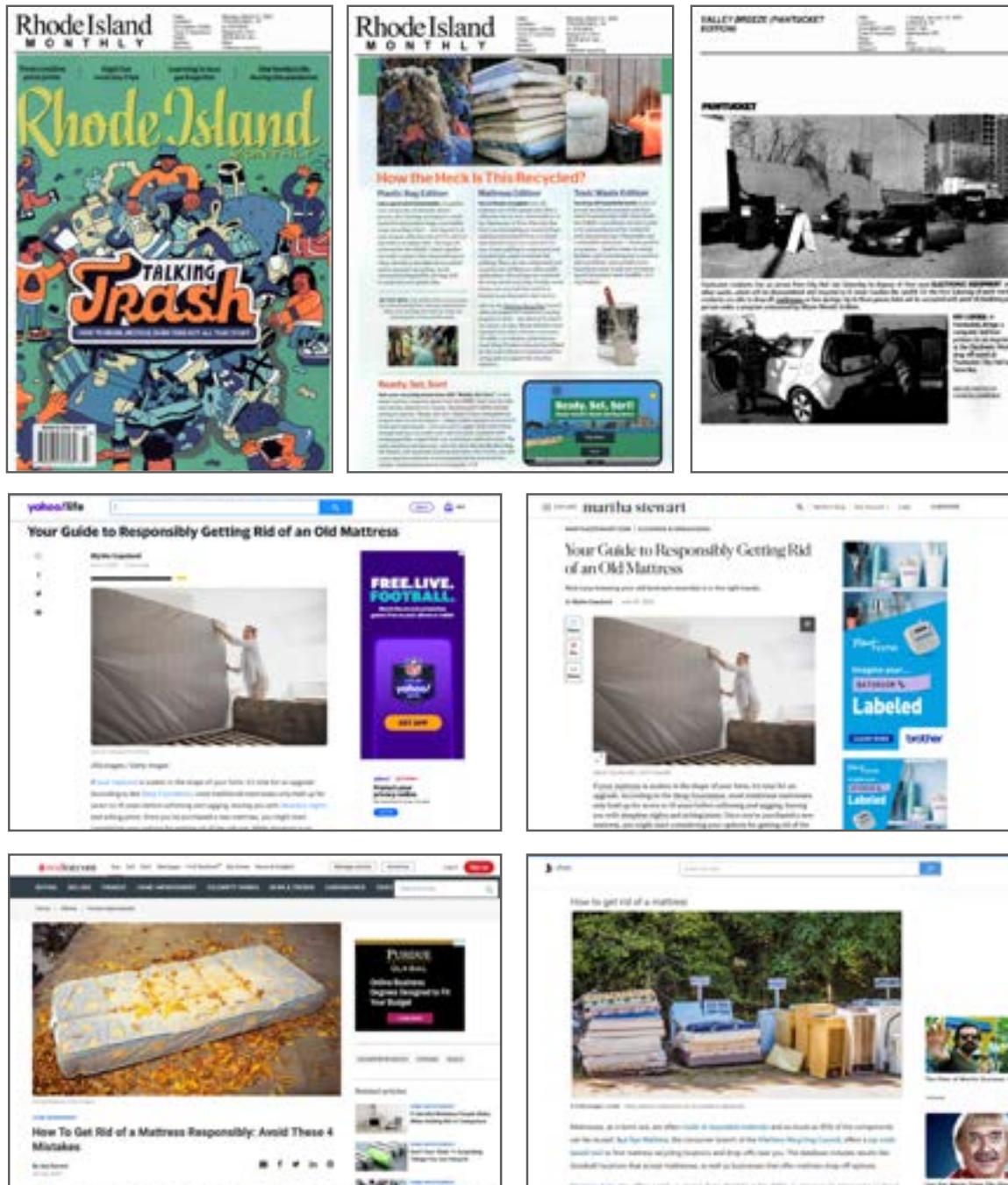


REQUEST THE FREE LESSON PLAN

<https://byebyemattress.com/illegal-dumping-lesson-plan/>

MEDIA RELATIONS

During the reporting period, MRC responded to reporters' requests for information about the program. Notable media placements included local news coverage in the *Rhode Island Monthly* and *Valley Breeze* community papers, as well as national mentions on Yahoo!, MSN Lifestyle, Martha Stewart and the National Association of Realtor's consumer advice blog.



COMMUNITY EVENTS

MRC engages with the public through collection events and public appearances. Collection events help MRC serve areas that might not have a facility capable of, or willing to be, a permanent collection site, or target a specific need (such as a neighborhood cleanup, move out day at a university, etc.). Meanwhile, public appearances help MRC boost awareness of the program and educate residents about the benefits of mattress recycling and how to access sites in their area.

As the COVID-19 pandemic continued, MRC was selective about collection events and withheld public appearances.

During the reporting period, MRC provided mattress collection and recycling at the following community collection events:

- Town of Middletown
- Town of Smithfield
- Providence College off-campus apartments
- City of Providence Mattress Drives

MRC planned a second collection event for an off-campus housing property in Narragansett to take place in May 2021, but the property manager cancelled the event out of an abundance of caution due to rising COVID-19 cases.

As for public appearances, restrictions on large in-person gatherings remained in place for the reporting period. As a substitute for public appearances, MRC focused on leveraging media opportunities and increasing social media engagement during America Recycles Day (Nov. 20, 2020) and Earth Day (April 22, 2021). MRC also encouraged cities and towns to promote recycling during these observances and asked public service directors to run our PSA.

MRC is monitoring Rhode Island's COVID-19 response and reopening closely. When restrictions on large in-person gatherings lift, MRC will resume conversations with event organizers and determine how to proceed.

COLLECTION SITE AND EVENT TOOLKITS

To promote collection sites, MRC provides a template news release and suggested content that municipalities can use to publicize their participation in the program through online outlets and social media platforms. The template allows municipalities to customize community messaging by including hours of operations, directions and residency restrictions. They may also use the suggested content on their city websites, community newsletters and social media. Event hosts are provided similar materials, including a media alert template, flyer template, event day signage kit and suggested social/online content.

Click Below To View



COLLECTION SITE PROMOTION TOOLKIT

<https://dl.orangedox.com/dnwt2vQtYvCvO5Bmq2>



COLLECTION EVENT PROMOTION TOOLKIT

<https://dl.orangedox.com/LMWckbpUUKYEK48zz9>



MRC also makes these materials available to nonprofits, civic groups, city council members or others that will distribute MRC's information to residents. In 2020, MRC worked with Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Rhode Island to promote the availability of nearby mattress drop-off sites to all that visit the organization's donation centers. We also provided content that the organization shared on their social media platforms and published in their newsletter.

Toolkits in Action

The image displays three identical brochures for the "bye bye mattress" program, each with a blue header featuring the brand logo and the text "bye bye mattress" and "A Program of the Mattress Recycling Council". The brochures are arranged side-by-side. Each brochure has a yellow title section at the top, followed by a "RECYCLING OPTIONS" section with two numbered steps. Below this is a large central box containing a house icon and a recycling bin icon, with the text "BRING IT TO THE WOONSOCKET RECYCLE FACILITY" and "State residents can drop off up to three mattresses for free". The bottom section contains a "RETAILER TAKE BACK" box with a house icon and a recycling bin icon, with the text "ASK YOUR RETAILER ABOUT TAKING IT BACK" and "Retailers can take back your old mattress when delivering your new one. Discuss this during your purchase." At the bottom of each brochure, there is a note about exceptions and a "www.ByeByeMattress.com" website address.

The image shows three identical promotional cards for the 'Bye Bye Mattress' recycling program. Each card has a purple header and footer. The top section features the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Rhode Island logo and the title 'Recycle Your Old Mattress.' Below this, a large orange box contains the text 'It's Free and Easy, Thanks to Bye Bye Mattress!' followed by a smaller text block about recycled materials becoming new products. The bottom section is divided into two columns: 'WE DO ACCEPT:' and 'WE DO NOT ACCEPT:'. Both columns provide a list of items, with the 'DO NOT ACCEPT' list being longer and including items like mattresses with nail heads, car seats, and cribs.

Recycle Your Old Mattress.

**It's Free and Easy,
Thanks to Bye Bye Mattress!**

The recycled steel, foam, wood and fibers
are becoming amazing new products.

WE DO ACCEPT:

- Recycled steel, wood, fiber, foam, insulation, and materials from the springs
- Bed frames with nail heads
- Mattress parts or frames
- Sleeping bags
- Pillows
- Car seats
- Infant carriers, bassinets, cribs, and strollers

WE DO NOT ACCEPT:

- Recycled products made of metal, plastic, glass, paper, wood, insulation, or materials from the springs
- Metal, insulation, or materials from the springs
- Items removed with nail heads
- Mattress parts or frames
- Sleeping bags
- Pillows
- Car seats
- Infant carriers, bassinets, cribs, and strollers

Learn how to dispose of your mattress responsibly.

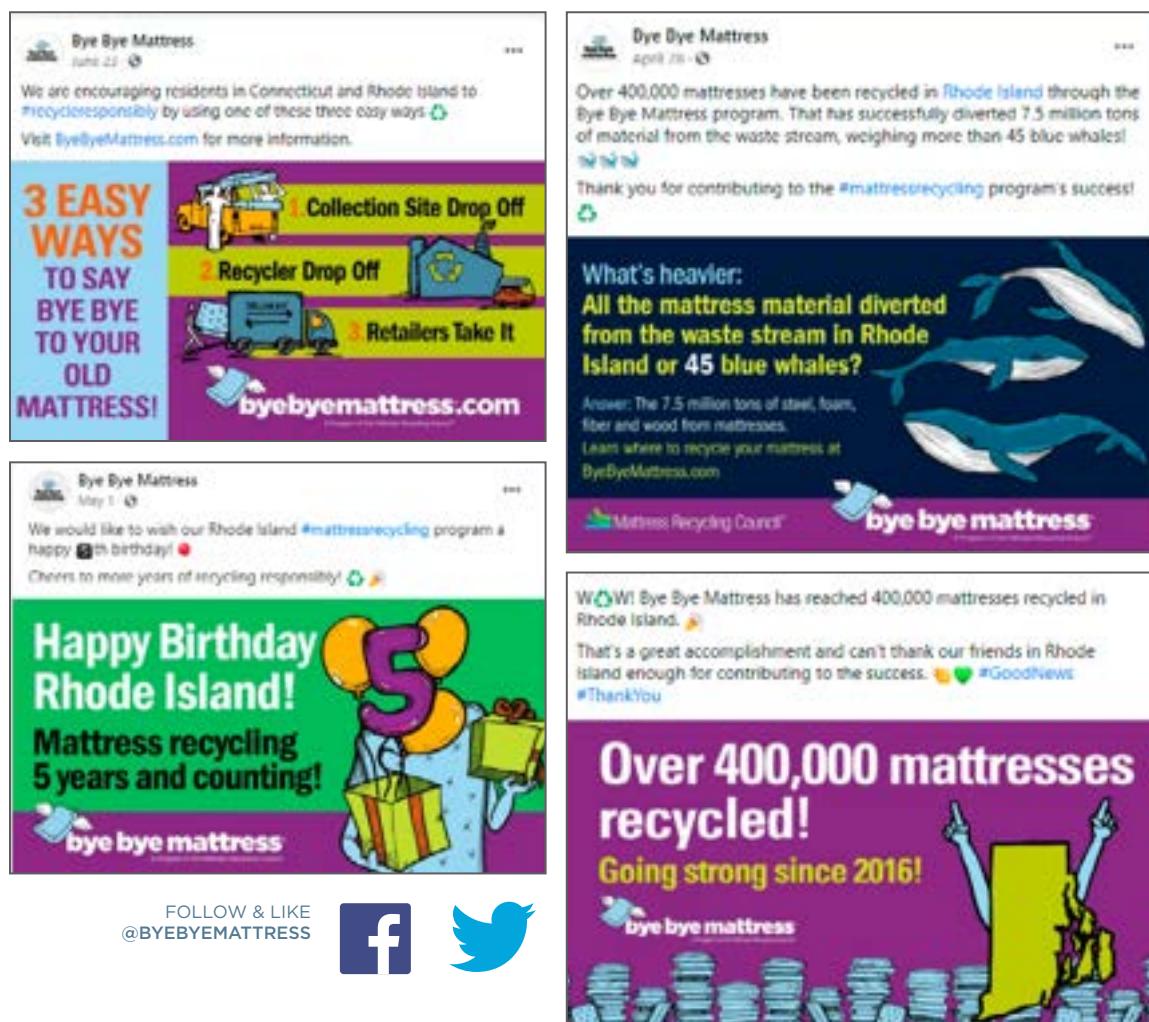
byebyemattress.com

SOCIAL MEDIA

MRC created Twitter and Facebook profiles for Bye Bye Mattress to connect with consumers. Currently, over 1,700 people follow Bye Bye Mattress on these platforms.

MRC has found Bye Bye Mattress' social media most useful in announcing community collection events, promoting new collection sites and pointing visitors to ByeByeMattress.com for additional information. To maintain a regular rhythm of publishing content, Bye Bye Mattress likes and shares stories related to recycling, other recyclable household items, sustainable living topics and environmentally friendly activities.

During the reporting period, Bye Bye Mattress' national social media audience and engagement continued to grow, surpassing 4.2 million impressions on Facebook and Twitter.



INDUSTRY COMMUNICATION

To inform retailers, producers and other industry stakeholders about Rhode Island's mattress recycling law and their legal obligations, as well as to encourage participation in the program, MRC uses direct mail, phone calls, websites (MattressRecyclingCouncil.org and MRCreporting.org), industry events, industry media relations and social media.

See the **Performance Goals & Evaluation** section for further details on MRC's efforts to communicate with the industry and stakeholders about the program and its benefits.

COMPLIANCE OUTREACH

MRC uses established protocols to consistently communicate with registered and potential participants and provide non-compliant parties with information to take corrective action.

MRC continually monitors the sources it used to create the initial outreach list of mattress retailers and producers to identify new and existing mattress retailers that may be required to register with the program. The sources MRC monitors include holders of Rhode Island Bedding & 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. It also receives leads for potential registrants from MRC staff as they travel the state or are contacted by retailers interested in using our recycling services.

When MRC identifies a party that may need to register and participate in the program, MRC contacts the party, informs it of its potential obligations and follows up with a phone call or email. If the party is unresponsive after various attempts, MRC requests legal counsel or RIRRC to contact the party.

MRC also monitors whether retailers and other mattress sellers submit monthly reports and remit the recycling charges they collect by the deadlines. When parties miss a deadline, MRC contacts them by email, phone and certified mail. MRC escalates unresponsive parties to a collections agency and legal counsel.

MRC also has the authority to collect late fees and impose fines for non-compliance and may report non-compliant parties to Rhode Island authorities for further action.

As required by the law, **Appendix A** contains a complete list of registered producers. The list is current as of June 30, 2021.

Retailer Survey: In 2020, MRC launched a process to contact all registered retailers across its program states annually. The objective of this outreach is to confirm accurate

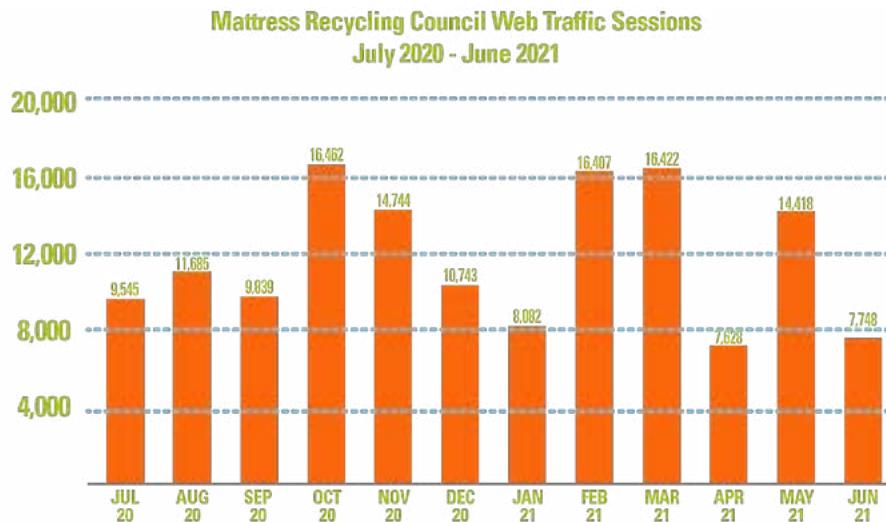
account and contact information, gauge satisfaction of MRC's program and resources and understand retailers' awareness of their obligations and current program details. From July to September 2020 MRC called and emailed retailers registered with the Rhode Island program and received a 19% response rate. Overall, MRC found account and contact information accurate (95%) and a majority of the retailers (63%) were highly satisfied with the program and resources (ranking satisfaction at an 8, 9 or 10 on a scale of 0 to 10).

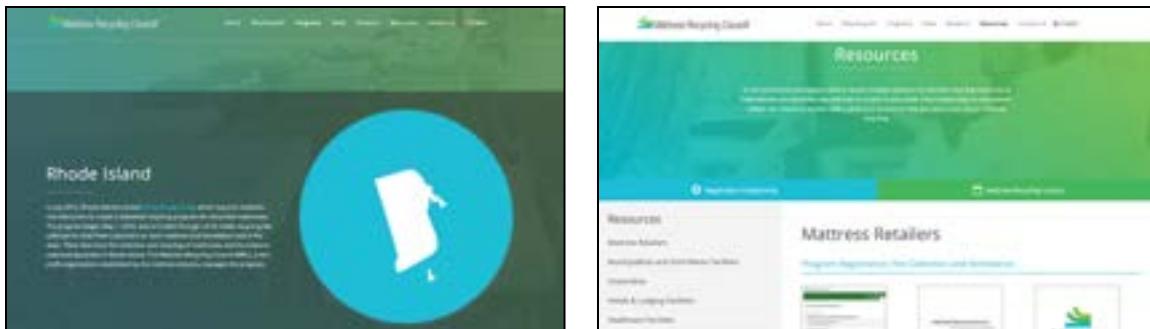
WEBSITES

MattressRecyclingCouncil.org: Designed for use by the mattress industry, regulators and non-consumer stakeholders, this website attracted 124,294 users generating 143,723 sessions between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021. This level of website traffic represents a 165.6% growth in users and 148.5% growth in sessions from the previous reporting period. These increases are attributed to major program announcements for other program states, interest in MRC's research awards and reports, the availability of new resources and the launch of the Sleep Products Sustainability Program.

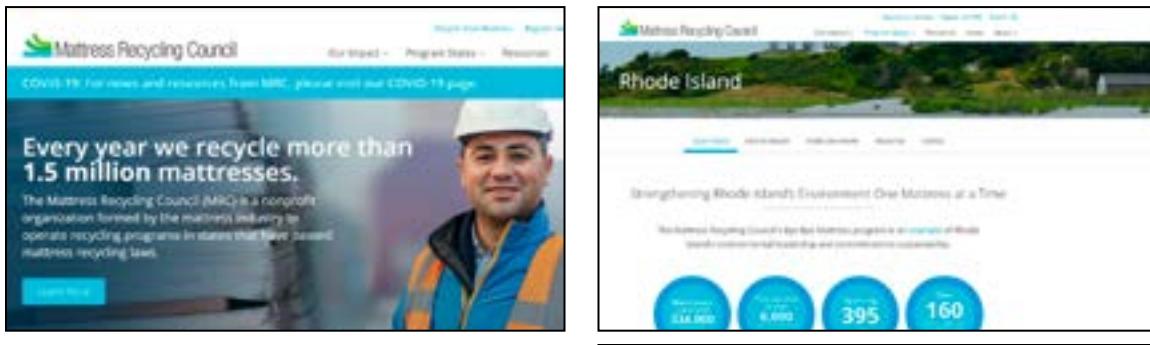
Based on feedback collected from the 2019 communications audit and stakeholder survey, MRC updated the website in 2020 to improve the user experience, make the most sought information and resources easier to find and more prominently highlight the results of the state programs.

To evaluate the success of the redesigned website, MRC is monitoring various analytics, such as the bounce rate, clicks to ByeByeMattress.com and MRCreporting.org, the amount of time a visitor remains on the website and resource library downloads.





PREVIOUS MATTRESSRECYCLINGCOUNCIL.ORG DESIGN



MATTRESSRECYCLINGCOUNCIL.ORG
AS OF SEPTEMBER 2020



MRCreporting.org: Through this website, parties may register with MRC, and retailers and other parties that sell mattresses to end-users in Rhode Island may report and remit to MRC the recycling fees that they have collected. To encourage participants to remit their fees on time, the site emails automatic reminders. The site also emails program updates to all participants, and MRC cross-posts on this website notices and information that also appear on MattressRecyclingCouncil.org.

The screenshot shows the homepage of the MRC Registration & Reporting System. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links for Home, Reporting, My Account, Make a Payment, Program Updates, Resources, and Help. On the far right, there are 'Login' and 'Create Account' buttons. Below the navigation, there's a section titled 'MRC REGISTRATION & REPORTING' in large green letters. Underneath it, a sub-section says 'Welcome to the MRC Online Registration and Reporting System'. A note states that California, Connecticut, and Rhode Island have enacted laws requiring the mattress industry to establish a mattress recycling program in each of these states. It specifies that companies selling mattresses and box springs to consumers in these states must collect recycling fees on all mattress sales and remit the fees to MRC monthly. There are three sections below: 'Each state has different registration requirements', 'Connecticut' (with a note about a \$8 recycling fee), 'Rhode Island' (with a note about a \$16 recycling fee), and 'California' (with a note about registering online). In the top right corner of the main content area, there's a 'News and Notifications' box containing links to 'Commercial Volume Pickup Program Notice, June 2018' and 'Units Returned for Refund (September 2018)'.

VIDEO SERIES

MRC wants participants (and potential participants) to understand the program and the mechanics of registering with MRC, submitting monthly reports and remitting fees. To inform target audiences about the program, MRC actively encourages participants to view the following short videos, which are accessible on MattressRecyclingCouncil.org and on MRC's YouTube channel:

About the Mattress Recycling Council: Provides an overview of state recycling laws, the recycling fees, what the fees pay for and encourages stakeholders to recycle with MRC.

How to Register on MRCReporting.org: Provides a step-by-step guide to help retailers, producers and others understand if they must register with MRC, and if so, how to complete that process.

Reporting & Remitting Your Recycling Fees: Explains how mattress retailers and producers can use the online portal to report and remit to MRC the recycling fees they have collected.

MRC also uses these videos, which it updates annually, in presentations to industry groups and in MRC's tradeshow booths.

Click Below To View



VIDEO SERIES

<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLpjqkGz2KocuPnI5p9ymDODukfay1Ng0yA>



NEWSLETTERS

The newsletter header includes the Mattress Recycling Council logo and the title "February 2021 Highlights". Below the title are links to "Mattress Industry", "Collection Network", "Research", "Upcoming Events", and "Resources". A decorative footer bar at the bottom of the page features the text "Mattress Industry" in white.

Improve Customer Education with Bye Bye Mattress Digital Badge

A circular badge icon with the text "BYE BYE MATTRESS" and "FOR EXAMPLE ONLY" is shown. The badge is described as follows: "As consumers research their next mattress purchase, they are likely visiting your website. Consumers are also becoming more comfortable with buying mattresses online and these shoppers do not like surprises in the purchase process." Below the badge, it says: "Use our Bye Bye Mattress badge to introduce your customers to the program and the purpose of the recycling fee before they start their check out. Simply link the badge to ByeByeMattress.com."

MRC Highlights reaches more than 5,000 recipients and continues to see above average industry open rates (above 20%). The mailing list includes all registered retailers, manufacturers, collection site hosts, renovators and other stakeholders.

Content included every month includes upcoming reporting deadlines, the availability of consumer education materials and where to recycle mattresses. Other content focuses on how to help collection sites improve their stacking, loading and storage of mattresses; notification of updated or new resources; program results; efforts to expand the program and combat illegal dumping; and research findings and opportunities.

The newsletter header includes the Mattress Recycling Council logo and the title "Spring 2021 Retailer Spotlight". Below the title is a message: "Hello Spring! We hope this finds you and your families safe and healthy. What a busy and trying year for the retail industry, we are pleased to see phones and stores opening for customers."

Customer Education

A section titled "Take Advantage of Earth Month and April 29 to Promote Mattress Recycling April is Earth Month and April 29 is Earth Day. These observances provide you an opportunity to educate your customers about mattress recycling or promote your company's sustainability efforts. Don't forget we now offer a digital badge that can easily be added to your website or other digital communications. Email us to receive the badge or check out the [Resources Library](#) for other customer education material."

New Toll-Free Phone Number for Bye Bye Mattress
Due to circumstances out of our control, our Bye Bye Mattress toll-free number was recently changed. The new number is 1-855-222-2222.

If you are currently using this program information copies that MRC issued, please recycle them. We will be mailing new MRC copies to all of 1000 current-to-all

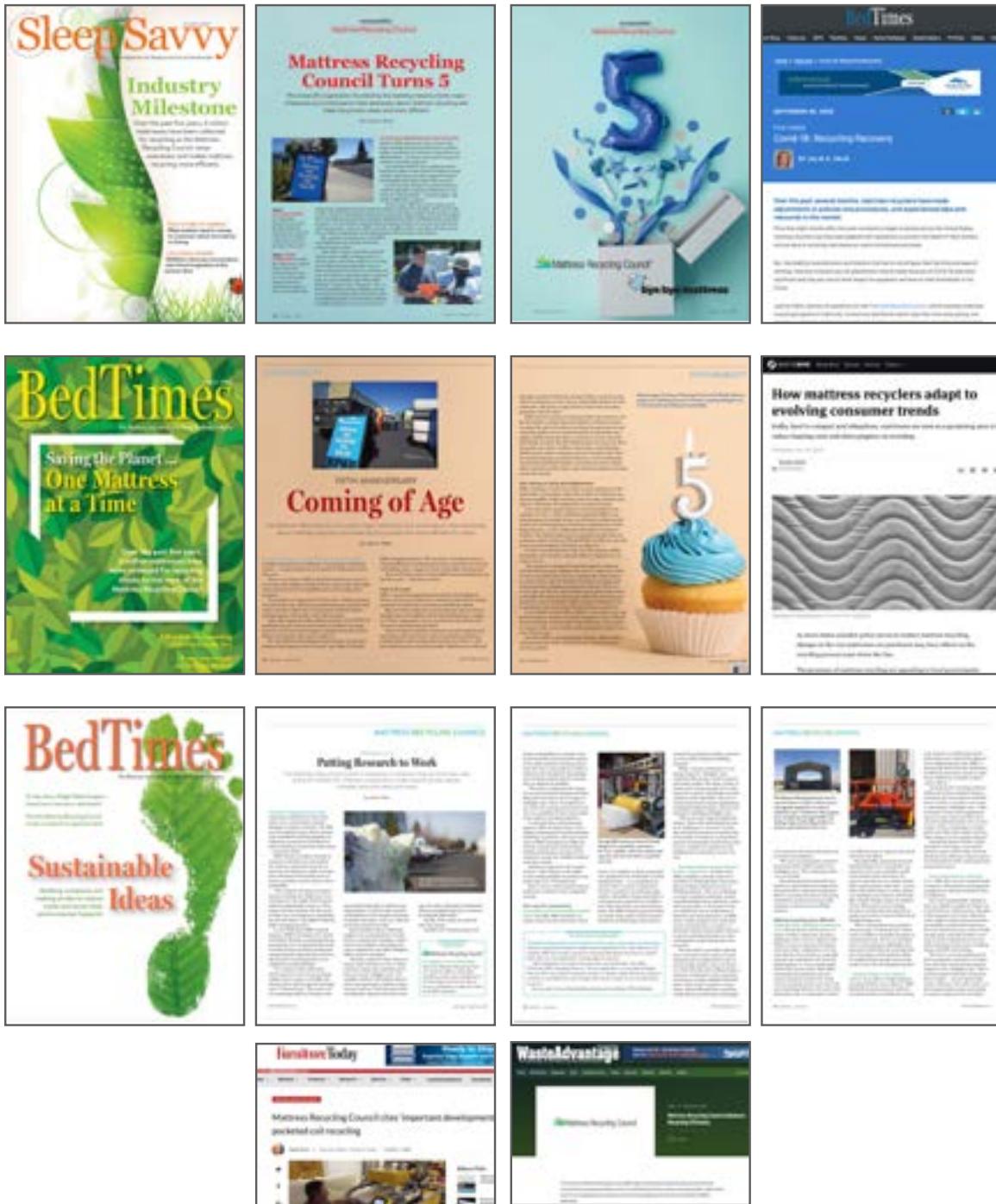
In 2021, MRC launched Retailer Spotlight, a quarterly e-newsletter sent to all registered retailers across MRC's program states. The content addresses the topics and issues that customer service is frequently addressing, such as tips for using MRCReporting.org, how to help customers understand the fee and program, the types of products that require fee collection and are eligible for recycling, how to access recycling and more.

INDUSTRY EVENTS

During the reporting period, the events that MRC typically attends were either canceled or were scaled down virtual experiences due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As event directors shift towards offering hybrid experiences and reimagine their major conferences and tradeshows, MRC is considering how to best remain relevant and visible to event attendees. We do not foresee eliminating our participation at industry events despite the prolonged inability to hold large in-person gatherings.

MEDIA RELATIONS

MRC keeps the furniture and bedding industries, as well as the solid waste and recycling sector, aware of its latest accomplishments and program developments. During this reporting period, MRC garnered attention in trade media for its fifth anniversary, COVID-19 response and research activities.



SOCIAL MEDIA

MRC uses Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn and YouTube. Collectively, MRC has more than 1,700 followers on social media, comprised of a mix of individuals, civic/environmental groups, retailers, local and state government, waste haulers and recyclers.

In addition to sharing Bye Bye Mattress content, MRC uses its social media accounts to announce program developments, promote MRC's presence at industry events, distribute marketing collateral, interact with industry stakeholders and monitor industry news. #FAQFriday also draws attention to frequently asked questions about recycling and registration, as well as fee collection, reporting and remitting.

During the reporting period, MRC's social media received 182,793 impressions.

MRC will continue to use social media and evaluate its effectiveness in keeping stakeholders informed and driving traffic to MRCreporting.org, MattressRecyclingCouncil.org and ByeByeMattress.com.



FOLLOW & LIKE
@MATTRECYCOUNCIL





MRC achieved all of its performance goals this reporting period.

PERFORMANCE GOALS & EVALUATION

PERFORMANCE GOALS & EVALUATION

EVALUATION OF PERFORMANCE GOALS & METHODS

MRC's approved plan includes modified 2018 performance goals for the program. Below is an evaluation of these program goals and 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 - Solid waste service providers continue to actively participate in the program. Of the 44 solid waste service providers operating in Rhode Island, 88% (i.e. 39) participate in the program. The municipal and private transfer stations participate by either establishing a permanent drop-off 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. 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 facility drop-offs or collection events - See **Appendix B** for a complete list.

In addition to registering 88% of the solid waste service providers, 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 would relieve the Central Landfill of any responsibility for handling those units. As a result of these efforts, nine small haulers registered with MRC to participate in the program this reporting period, a significant increase from the four small commercial haulers registered last reporting period.

For municipalities and transfer stations that lacked resources to participate as fixed drop-off locations, MRC hosted 12 one-day community collection events - three of which were aimed at reducing illegal dumping and expanding program access in the city of Providence and held in addition to the regular DPW mattress depot. MRC

provided event labor, a mattress storage container, transportation and recycling services at no cost to the host location. MRC also assisted with event publicity and signage (as described in the **Education and Outreach** section on page 12).

MRC continues to encourage the remaining non-participating solid waste service providers to recycle their discarded mattresses by periodically contacting them or making site visits.

Providing support and assistance to participating solid waste service providers also requires regular communication. MRC's Northeast Program Coordinator ordinarily 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 calendar year 2020, however, MRC could not conduct routine site visits due to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, but resumed them in 2021.

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 also began developing a six-part video series to assist in onboarding new collection sites and training their staff. As of this report, MRC has completed three videos (available on MRC's Resources Library) that address bedbug identification and management, efficient mattress stacking and loading and effective collection site operations. These are available in English and Spanish with an accompanying one-page reference document. MRC expects to complete the three remaining videos (identifying program and non-program products, promoting collection events and promoting collection sites) in the next reporting period.

Mattress Recycling Council®

**BYE BYE MATTRESS
NORTHEAST
COLLECTION GUIDELINES**

PUBLISHED MARCH 2020

bye bye mattress

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About the Guidelines
Staff at all participating collection sites must be knowledgeable regarding these guidelines before accepting mattresses. For simplicity, these guidelines will refer to "mattresses" and "cotton" as "mattresses". These guidelines describe the minimum requirements for collection, transportation, processing, and disposal, change monthly, prevent add or remove items as referenced other these guidelines of any time with or without prior notice.

About the Mattress Recycling Council
The Mattress Recycling Council (MRC) is the Mattress Recycling Council (MRC) Inc. (MRC) and operates the recycling program known as Bye Bye Mattress. MRC contracts with service providers to transport and recycle mattresses and box springs from collection sites throughout each program area.

What MRC Provides
MRC provides the following to participating collection sites:

- All collection centers to store mattresses that is appropriate for the number of customers that the collection site expects to generate and the space available.
- Training for staff from the collection site to a contracted recycler.
- Neutral customer recycling services.

Contact Info:
MRC Program Coordinator
Paul Weller
Paul.Weller@MRC.org
www.mattressrecycling.org/contact

Please contact MRC
Priority will be given to inquiries or information if you need additional information.

PROGRAM MATERIALS

INCLUDED PRODUCTS

Mattresses: Duvets or any sleep surface covered with bedding or fabric that contains synthetic material such as foam insulation, latex, fiber, or cotton filling or synthetic materials, used alone or in combination, regardless of size or shape. They do not include foam-filled bases.

Non-cottage base community recyclable items: A listing of items common structures used by residents of households or places where items may be comprised of a frame, foam, sponge or upholstered structure, as listed below, used alone or in combination, regardless of whether this provider is maintaining an individual.

All items accepted for recycling by MRC must meet these strict and documented MRC standards:

A participating collection site may charge for mattresses that are disposed off at the site and recycled through the program but may charge for the service of collecting a mattress at a different location or through other means that is then taken to a collection site for recycling.

MATERIALS COLLECTION & HANDLING

Each collection site will have unique operational considerations. The following checklist makes sure each collection site has to best manage their operations in the safest manner possible in accordance with applicable law. As a minimum, each participating site must meet these requirements:

SITE	Each collection site must be secure with adequate space and staffing to handle and store acceptable materials.
PERMITS	Each collection site must have knowledge of and comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws. These may include, but are not limited to, zoning requirements, waste permit requirements, and OSHA or other workplace requirements. It is the collection site's responsibility to be in compliance with all applicable laws and rules on requirements for bringing mattresses for recycling at the site.
INSURANCE	Each collection site must maintain general liability insurance of at least \$1000,000 per occurrence.
TRAINING	Staff at each collection site must be trained and knowledgeable regarding these guidelines before accepting materials for recycling.
STORING & LOADING MATTRESSES	In collection sites must store program materials in secured areas, structures, or containers to prevent damage and recyclability. In addition, all collection sites must:
See page 7 for photos and guidance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Move any effort to place mattresses in MRC designated storage containers immediately upon acceptance. Keep mattresses intact and not immediately crush or puncture them in each storage container. Minimize weight to allow unassisted lifting out of MRC designated storage containers. Minimize damage to items placed into MRC designated storage containers to prevent damage to MRC facilities. Directly point to acceptable standards, and base storage containers and program materials in a safe and orderly condition.
DATA ACCESS	Collection sites must allow MRC access to confirm compliance with these guidelines.

Rhode Island Retailers

GOAL:

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



ACHIEVED – During the reporting period, the program achieved this goal by recycling 7,694 mattresses obtained from the retail sector.

METHODS:

MRC provides no-cost recycling to retailers that comply with program requirements and make 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 in **Education & Outreach**, MRC provides ongoing education to retailers about the law and mattress recycling through a wide array of communications and marketing methods including targeted direct mail and printed collateral, advertising and media relations, digital marketing, social media, site visits and participation in industry events.

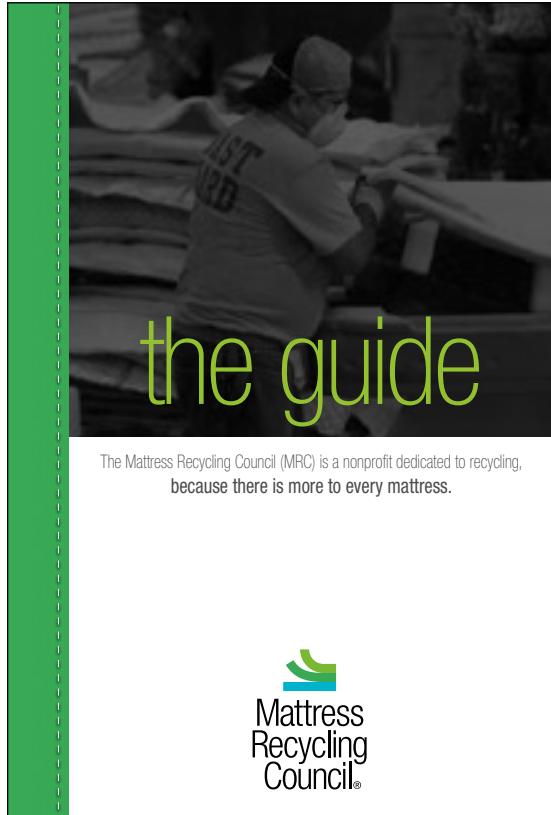
As of this report, 12 retailers, some of which are among the state's largest sellers, recycled discarded mattresses with the program.

TABLE 1: UNITS COLLECTED FROM RETAILERS DURING REPORTING PERIOD

Reporting Period (July 1 – June 30)	UNITS COLLECTED
2018-2019	7,287
2019-2020	6,402
2020-2021	7,694

 <p>RHODE ISLAND</p> <h1>BYE BYE MATTRESS COMMERCIAL VOLUME PROGRAM</h1> <p>NO-COST MATTRESS RECYCLING FOR BUSINESSES</p> <hr/> <h2>Overview</h2> <p>The Mattress Recycling Council's Blue Seal Mattress Program collects more than 1.1 million mattresses per year through your local Mattress Recycling Council member companies. Businesses, restaurants, hotels, restaurants, hospitals, and other organizations that dispose of large numbers of mattresses.</p> <p>The Commercial Volume Program serves commercial facilities as well as non-residential facilities to recycle and reduce waste, transportation and recycling costs.</p> <p>The Mattress Recycling Council (MRC) is a non-profit organization dedicated to creating and supporting programs that benefit the mattress recycling program created by DemandCare®.</p>	<h2>What We Provide</h2> <p>DemandCare® services include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No-cost recycling services. No cost drop-off at a participating mattress collection location. No cost transportation of collected mattresses to a participating recycling facility.
<hr/> <h2>Eligibility Requirements</h2> <h3>RETAILERS</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mattress retailers must be registered with MRC, meeting the following two criteria completely and all procedures of the law in compliance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To receive no ownership of, or leasehold management over, beds. To receive transportation, insurance and estimated expenses of 100% costs, including with other local businesses, in transporting or removing used mattresses from the collection locations. Wholesalers from coast-to-coast are welcome to inquire about. 	
<hr/> <h3>OTHER COVERED ENTITIES</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hospital & Long-term Care Facilities Conventions & Institutional Institutions Business Owners Hotels & Motels Residential Apartments Businesses & Institutions <p>To receive no cost drop-off, Mattress recycling program, MRC MRC.</p> <p>For other accommodations, Mattress recycling program's minimum of 100 units. Participating with other local businesses, organizations or developing drop-off will help to minimize a permit.</p> <p>Local retail furniture used and discarded in Rhode Island area producing less than 100 units per month may collect and transport the recycling free.</p>	
 <p>COMMERCIAL VOLUME PROGRAM CONTACT: Matt McLean (205) 357-4906, www.mattressrecycling.org/Commercial McLean@MRC.org or www.mattressrecycling.org/Commercial/ProgramforDetails</p>	

COMMERCIAL VOLUME PROGRAM		RHODE ISLAND
COMMERCIAL VOLUME PROGRAM CONTACT:		
Van McNamee (800) 297-4868, mattressrecycling.org		
Participation Requirements		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Complete registration form and return to RI-MRC by May 1st each year to receive priority or drop-off sites. - Participants must be a business or organization doing business in Rhode Island. 		
Ineligible Items		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Old Mattress out of state - Mattress with liquid damage - Mattress with mold and bugs or other living organisms - Damaged, damaged, bent, or broken - Mattress parts 		
Unacceptable Items		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Household items not covered in listing of items - No mattresses that contain any materials that are not recyclable - Household items - Furniture - Mattress with sharp edges 		
Frequently Asked Questions		
What if I do not have 50 units to dispose of? Most businesses will have 50 units to recycle immediately. If you're experiencing difficulty getting 50 units together, you may drop off units at a time. Please contact RI-MRC for more information.		
Is it possible to drop off units on my own schedule? Yes, businesses that fit the above criteria when they contact RI-MRC, Contact RI-MRC for more information.		
Will RI-MRC assist in finding locations? No. It is the responsibility of the participating business to locate. Participants are required to provide a minimum of two acceptable locations for drop-off sites and one collection point.		
How long do I have to hold the trailer? You have six months to recycle the trailer. If it has not been used, contact RI-MRC to discuss alternative solutions.		
Where will the mattresses be taken? The mattresses will be taken to RI-MRC's commercial waste facility.		
What is needed for recycling mattresses? RI-MRC recommends you bring a list of items to discuss. On disposal, keep a copy for your records.		
Can I recycle mattress related items? Yes. Any single item or item group are accepted. Examples include: box springs, frames, boxes, etc.		
Can I recycle mattresses that are infested with bed bugs, damaged, wet, flooded, broken, or heavily stained? No. Businesses in these conditions should contact RI-MRC or their waste hauler for participation options.		
 bye bye mattress		



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 – During the reporting period, the program recycled 1,209 units from these entities. Thirty-nine lodging establishments are currently registered with MRC, an increase of eight during the reporting 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 as well as 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.

RIRRC requested that MRC provide the number of lodging facilities participating in the program as part of its evaluation of this goal. As of June 30, 2021, 39 lodging establishments were registered with the program. Seven lodging facilities used the program during the reporting period to recycle 1,209 mattresses.

MRC has limited ability to increase the number of units collected from lodging establishments because that number is contingent on the number of lodging establishments that replace their mattresses during a given year and the number of units that they discard for recycling. As a result, the total number of units the program obtains from lodging establishments will fluctuate from year to year as indicated in the table below. Furthermore, MRC does not anticipate this category to increase substantially in the future because MRC has learned from experience that some hotels sell many units that they discard to renovators and does not anticipate that practice will stop. As the state's tourism and lodging industry began to reopen from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, lodging establishments began to resume operations and discard old mattresses. Nevertheless, the uncertainty of the sector's recovery from the pandemic adds a level of unpredictability to the number of discarded units that they will generate.

TABLE 2: UNITS COLLECTED FROM LODGING ESTABLISHMENTS DURING REPORTING PERIOD

Reporting Period (July 1 – June 30)	UNITS COLLECTED
2018-2019	922
2019-2020	905
2020-2021	1,209

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.

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 participation of at least 10 healthcare facilities by the end of the 2019 reporting period (June 30, 2019).



ACHIEVED – One healthcare facility joined the program this reporting period increasing the total of participating facilities to 22. 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 emailed an information sheet to the Hospital Association of Rhode Island member list. MRC also 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.

Five healthcare facilities used the program this year, yet volume was low. MRC anticipates continued hesitancy to recycle discarded mattresses due to liability concerns regarding pathogen contamination and medical waste disposal regulations, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Nevertheless, MRC will continue to distribute program information to healthcare facilities and assist with recycling their discarded mattresses as requested.

TABLE 3: UNITS COLLECTED FROM HEALTHCARE FACILITIES DURING REPORTING PERIOD

Reporting Period (July 1 – June 30)	UNITS COLLECTED
2018-2019	201
2019-2020	757
2020-2021	99

Educational Facilities

GOAL:

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



ACHIEVED – During the reporting period, MRC recycled 1,625 units from seven of the nine participating educational facilities registered with the program, a 7.5% increase from the 1,512 units collected in fiscal year 2020.

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 – Naval Station Newport did not use the program once during this reporting period.

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.

Naval Station Newport uses the program to recycle mattresses from on-base housing complexes. It has recycled 523 discarded mattresses since the program launched.

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 120 other entities.

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.

During the reporting period, other entities recycled 9,558 units through the program. MRC also recruited 21 new registrants consisting of property management firms, small commercial haulers and moving and storage businesses.

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

TABLE 4: QUANTITY OF OTHER ENTITIES PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAM

BUSINESS TYPE	QUANTITY OF BUSINESS TYPE
Construction	3
Moving and/or Storage	8
Property Management	57
Small Commercial Haulers	46
Housing Authorities	3
Non-Profit Organizations	3

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 & 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 publication 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.

MRC anticipates that it will resume its consumer awareness monitoring in Rhode Island in late 2021. MRC conducted no survey during the reporting period due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

METHODS:

As described in the previous **Education & Outreach** section, 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 monitors website and social media analytics and ordinarily conducts an annual consumer awareness survey. 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.

The increased website traffic on MRC’s industry and consumer sites and the growth in social media impressions, as well as the achievement of the Covered Entity-focused performance goals signal that MRC’s communications and outreach materials are generating awareness and interest in the program from among all of its target audiences. Once consumer awareness surveying resumes, we will have additional data to guide us in targeting and refining our outreach.

RECYCLING PROGRAM METRICS

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

Amount of Material Collected

§ 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. For purposes of this annual report, MRC converted that information into tons based on a standard weight of 55 pounds per unit¹ for recyclers that did not have a certified scale. One recycler had a certified scale and was able to report to MRC the actual weight of those units. MRC used those actual weights in the tonnage data reported 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 collected for recycling during the reporting period.

TABLE 5: WEIGHT OF MATTRESSES COLLECTED BY SOURCE & DIVERTED TO RECYCLING

COLLECTION SOURCE	WEIGHT (Tons)
Municipal and/or transfer stations	2,217.1
Retailers	211.6
All other covered entities	448.0
TOTAL DIVERTED FOR RECYCLING	2,876.7

¹ A weight study conducted in 2017 showed that the average weight of mattresses and box springs being recycled by MRC recyclers in California, Connecticut and Rhode Island was approximately 55 pounds per unit.

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. All three recyclers of Rhode Island units process discarded units from 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. For one recycler that works with MRC's programs in both Connecticut and Rhode Island, MRC used the percentage of inbound and processed units by source state to estimate the outbound weights specific to Rhode Island. For two recyclers, the weight of recycled cardboard and plastic included

in this report are estimated because the recyclers lacked the documentation needed to differentiate between the cardboard and plastic generated from program material and the same materials obtained from other sources.

§ 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 6: TYPES AND WEIGHT OF MATERIALS RECYCLED DURING 2020-2021 REPORTING PERIOD

MATERIALS RECYCLED*	WEIGHT(Tons)
Steel	660.8
Foam	166.5
Quilts & Toppers	105.0
Cotton	0
Other	0
Wood	256.0
Cardboard	15.1
Plastics	17.4
TOTAL MATERIALS RECYCLED	1,220.9

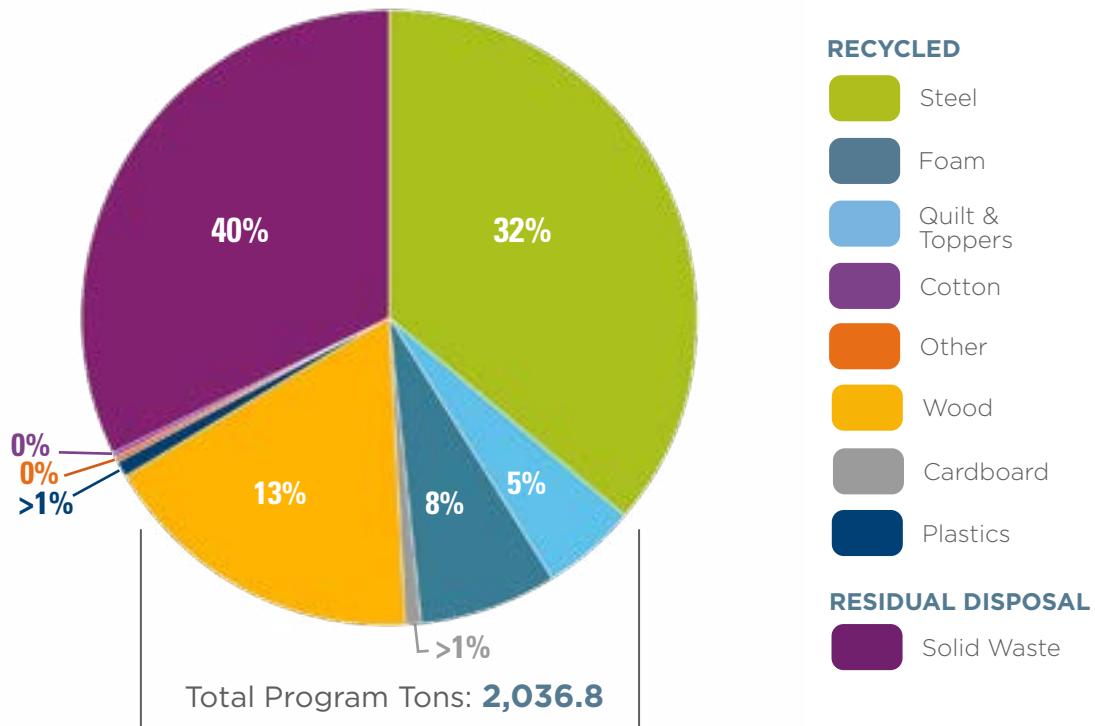
*These categories represent outbound shipments of materials recycled but do not include unprocessed units or recyclable material in inventory.

§ 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 7: WEIGHT OF MATERIAL SENT TO DISPOSAL BY SOURCE DURING 2020-2021 REPORTING PERIOD

SOURCE	WEIGHT (Tons)
RIRRC	84.1
Any other facility	731.8
TOTAL RESIDUAL MATERIAL	815.9

RECYCLING & RESIDUAL DISPOSAL



During the reporting period, MRC recyclers achieved a 60% recycling rate.

TABLE 8: AMOUNT OF MATERIAL BY DISPOSITION DURING 2020-2021 REPORTING PERIOD

DISPOSITION	WEIGHT (Tons)	PERCENTAGE
Material Recycled	1,220.9	60%
Material Disposed	815.9	40%
TOTAL	2,036.8	100%

Market volatility and the lack of markets for post-consumer mattress components contributed to a recycling rate lower than the 85% goal set in the plan. This metric is highly dependent on secondary market buyers that are particular about product quality and volume. In this reporting period, some scrap metal recyclers stopped accepting pocketed coils because the polypropylene fiber encasing the coils is an unacceptable visual contaminant. As a result, some recyclers disposed of their pocketed coils because they could not find steel scrap recyclers willing to accept the coils. Another recycler held a large amount of metal and pocketed coil in inventory awaiting processing equipment. This recycler also disposed of large quantities of foam and fiber materials from non-program units accumulated over a period of 18 months that were contaminated and not recyclable, as well as bales of stored commodities that had no scrap buyers.

RESEARCH AND SUSTAINABILITY

MRC is taking steps to increase the recycling rate and recyclability of a mattress by investing in research activities and projects that may benefit Rhode Island by:

1. Identifying and promoting best practices for mattress dismantling and recycling
2. Identifying new and better uses for the recycled components
3. Fostering innovation, cooperation and communication between suppliers, manufacturers, collectors, dismantlers and end-market commodity buyers to increase mattress recycling rates

MRC's goal is to identify projects that have the potential to achieve both short-term, high-impact results, as well as longer-term projects with multi-year horizons. A summary of current projects and longer-range proposals are discussed in this section.

MRC is encouraged by its initial efforts, but is realistic, recognizing that by their nature, research outcomes are unpredictable, with some projects producing useful results and others failing. Moreover, many factors influence market acceptance of new technologies. Therefore, research is necessary to improve long-term industry performance, but should not be tied to short-term results.

Research projects may be accelerated (or stopped entirely) if it appears the work is likely to produce valuable (or inconclusive) results.

POCKETED COIL SEPARATION PROJECT

Pocketed coils are mattress springs that are individually wrapped in a fabric sleeve or pocket (typically made with polypropylene fiber) and then assembled into rectangular units using ultrasonic welding, stitching or adhesives. MRC estimates that approximately 20% of mattresses discarded today contain pocketed coils and that this percentage will gradually increase, given the growing popularity of this component over the past 20 years.

When recyclers dismantle a mattress, the rectangular pocketed coil unit is easily separated from other layers of material. In theory, both the steel and the polypropylene fiber are recyclable. But at present, it is impractical for individual recyclers to separate the individual coils from the fabric pocket. Furthermore, under current market conditions, most metal scrap dealers will not buy unopened pocketed coil units because they consider the fabric to be a contaminant.

MRC completed a sponsored research project with Wisconsin-based Knoble Design LLC to explore a novel approach for recycling pocketed coils, resulting in the successful construction of a small-scale prototype machine demonstrating the approach. Project findings are detailed in a final non-confidential **report** and **demonstration video**.

The project concluded in 2020. Knoble Design is seeking a partner to bring the machine to commercial scale. Toward that end, MRC helped Knoble Design publicize its project among major equipment producers and others engaged in the mattress industry that attended the Interzum 2021 furniture production and interior design trade fair held virtually in May 2021.

FOUNDATION WOOD RECYCLING

MRC continues to explore whether foundation wood can be used to make (in order of likelihood of success) particle board, medium density fiberboard, wood pellets, fire logs, pallets, animal bedding and oriented strand board. MRC is considering whether to conduct one or more pilot studies in California to test whether particle board can be made from shredded foundation wood. MRC may also investigate the technical feasibility of using foundation wood feedstock to make wood pellets and composite pallets.

ENZYMATIC DEPOLYMERIZATION TECHNOLOGIES

In 2020, MRC collaborated with several research teams to evaluate biologically driven processes to convert synthetic and natural polymers back into building block chemicals. This technology is an interesting emerging field, particularly for the textile recycling industry. Recent studies indicate that enzymatic depolymerization processes could produce chemicals with more than 50% energy savings compared to manufacturing from virgin feedstocks. Another advantage is that the enzymes are tailored to specific materials. This allows for the separation of mixed materials to selectively generate useful chemicals with fewer byproducts. This is of interest to MRC because the fabric surface layer of mattress, called ticking, is often constructed of polyester, but may also contain blends of cotton, rayon, silk, wool, polypropylene or nylon fiber. In their concept, enzymes specifically designed to depolymerize cellulosic polymers, such as cotton, would react with the textile blends and convert the cellulosic fiber to biogas, a mixture of methane and carbon dioxide which is a useful fuel. For example, if the material to be recycled consisted of a blend of polyester and cellulosic fiber, the remaining pure polyester fiber would be a suitable product for the established PET recycling industry once the cellulosic fiber is reacted with the enzymes.

This technology could also be used to depolymerize polyurethane into useful polyols and amines or to convert PET into ethylene terephthalate and ethylene glycol. Following conversion, the remaining cotton would be enzymatically reduced to glucose.

VITRIMERIZATION OF POLYURETHANE FOAM

In early 2021, MRC awarded a research contract to explore whether mattress foam can be converted into valuable reformable polymers. The main objective of the study is to assess the feasibility of creating new components for various consumer and industrial products like shoe soles, conveyor belts, tool grips and other applications.

Recent work conducted by leading university material science laboratories found that urethane foams can be thermo-chemically converted into meltable pellets that can be reshaped and more easily recycled into useful products. Initial studies will be focused on MDI (methylene diphenyl diisocyanate) based memory foams where the chemistry is expected to be most favorable to this technology.

POLYURETHANES IN ZEOLITE CEMENTS

In 2020, MRC entered into a research agreement to explore the feasibility of making cements using mixtures of zeolites and chemically recycled polyurethane foam. Zeolites are naturally occurring microporous, aluminosilicate minerals commonly used as commercial adsorbents and catalysts. The project builds on a previous research project funded by the U.S. Department of Energy's Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA-E) exploring zeolite-based cements. Researchers believe the addition of recycled urethane foam will improve product strength and ductility, possibly making it an appropriate substitute for more energy intensive conventional cements and concrete-based products used today to make a wide variety of building products. Initial results are promising.

MANUFACTURING BATTERY ELECTRODES FROM RECYCLED MATTRESS MATERIALS

MRC awarded a research contract to explore whether recycled mattress materials could be chemically modified to produce battery and supercapacitor components. The research completed a phase 1 study which successfully produced and evaluated electrodes made from a variety of recycled mattress materials including polyurethane foam, polyester, cotton and coconut fiber.

The results were very encouraging. Preliminary data indicated that several materials had significant performance advantages over common electrode materials such as carbon, graphene and carbon nanotubes. As a result, MRC sponsored a follow up research project to construct and test actual batteries using the developed components and evaluate their performance. The follow up study will conclude in 2022.

CIRCULAR ECONOMY FOR THE MATTRESS INDUSTRY

As MRC manages its own efforts to improve mattress recycling and to 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.

In the past year, global interest in creating greater circularity in the mattress industry accelerated. Stakeholders across the value chain cite the need for interdisciplinary collaboration to build infrastructure that can implement full and partial closed loop

product use cycles. Industry leaders around the world are working with public authorities to develop legislation to establish circularity requirements and incentives specifically for mattresses.

Due to regional preferences, business model differences and regulatory priorities, it will take considerable time to build a homogeneous global circular economy for mattresses. Developing better mattresses designs 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. In tandem with these developments, some entities are pushing to develop alternative bio-based feedstocks to reduce dependency on fossil fuels. This latter initiative is somewhat controversial because bio-based sourcing can be disrupted by weather variation and competes with food supply resources. Further debate is anticipated.

Data presented at a virtual circular economy event organized by Interzum in May 2021 shows that in Europe, 40% of mattresses are incinerated. Most of the remaining 60% is sent to landfill. Rather than invest in conventional recycling infrastructure, which is mostly downcycling, some countries are interested in moving directly to technologies that would upcycle polymeric materials (such as the foam and some fibers) through chemical recycling and pyrolysis. These technologies will take time to develop. Early-stage research by the Wuppertal Institute in Germany supports the conclusion that thermo-chemical recycling has a much more favorable long-term overall environmental impact than incineration or landfilling. Polyurethane material suppliers Dow, Covestro and BASF have all established EU-backed pilot programs to convert urethane foam and/or polyester fabrics back to building block chemicals. They believe this is essential to attain closed loop circularity. MRC is actively engaged with these organizations to understand findings as the technologies evolve.

In the United States, MRC continues its focus first on developing better and new markets for our recycled materials. Although this approach does not create completely closed loop circularity, we believe this approach will be an important part of the overall circularity strategy because it typically has the most favorable environmental impact according to LCA studies in other industries, compared to more energy-intensive approaches like thermo-chemical recycling. Second, MRC thinks that building operational efficiency from post-consumer disposal through recycling processes is equally important. In these two areas, MRC is taking a leading role and sharing findings with other regions.

Finally, among stakeholders, consensus is building that circularity is an ideal 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:

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



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHANGE

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHANGE

Based on MRC's experience through the program's five years of operations, MRC proposes no changes to the program or performance goals.



APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: REGISTERED PRODUCERS

PRODUCERS

JUNE 30, 2021

ACCOUNT

Airweave, LLC
Alessanderx SpA
Allied Aerofoam, LLC
American Pacific Plastic Fabricators Inc.
Apartment Furnishings Company Inc.
Ascion, LLC
Ashley Furniture Industries Inc.
Avatar Enterprises Inc.
Barnhardt Manufacturing Company
Best Price Mattress Inc.
Bestar Inc.
Bigolbed Inc.
Bio Sleep Concept Inc.
Blue Bell Mattress Co., LLC
Bob Barker Company Inc.
Bourdon's Institutional Sales Inc.
Boyd Flotation Inc.
Brentwood Home, LLC
Brick Church Manufacturing, LLC
Carico International Inc.
Carpenter Co.
CCB Hope Ventures, LLC
Children's Products, LLC
Classic Brands, LLC
COA Inc.
Comfort Bedding of the USA, LLC
Comfort Revolution, LLC
Corsicana Bedding, LLC
CVB Inc.
Denver Mattress Company, LLC
Dorel Home Products
E&E Bedding Co. Inc.
E.S. Kluft & Company, LLC
Eastern Sleep Products Co. Inc.
Eco Bedroom Solutions, LLC
Elite Foam Inc.
Engineered Sleep, LLC
Ergomotion Inc.
Ezine Inc.
Factory Direct Inc.
Fibre Processing Corporation
Flex-A-Bed Inc.
Flotation Innovations Inc.
Foam Sweet Foam Inc.
Friendship Upholstery Company Inc.
Future Foam, Inc.
Future Foam, Inc.
FXI, Inc.
GF Health Products, Inc.
Hammer Bedding Corp.
Health Care Co. Ltd
Hickory Springs Manufacturing Company
Hickory Springs of California, LLC
Hill-Rom Inc.

DBA

Airweave, LLC
Alessanderx SpA
Allied Aerofoam, LLC
Sterling Sleep Systems
Apartment Furnishings Company Inc.
Reverie
Ashley Furniture Industries Inc.
Comfortex
BedInABox
Best Price Mattress
Bestar Inc.
Bigolbed
Bio Sleep Concept
King Koil Northeast
Bob Barker Company Inc.
Bourdon's Institutional Sales Inc.
Boyd Specialty Sleep
Silver Rest Sleep Products
Brick Church Mfg.
Carico
Carpenter Co.
Hope Mattress
Simmons Juvenile Furniture
Classic Brands
Coaster Company of America
Comfort Bedding of the USA, LLC
Comfort Revolution, LLC
Corsicana Mattress Company
LUCID® MATTRESS, WELLSVILLE®, LINENSPA®
Denver Mattress Company
Ameriwood Industreis Inc.
Spring Air
Aireloom Mattress
Symbol Mattress
Ergovea Natural Mattress
Elite Foam Inc.
Engineered Sleep, LLC
Ergomotion Inc.
Eastern Accents
Lady Americana SW
Fibre Processing Corporation
Flex-A-Bed
Innovations
Foam Sweet Foam
Friendship Upholstery Company, Inc.
Foam Craft
Future Foam, Inc.
FXI, Inc.
GF Health Products, Inc.
Shifman Mattress
Health Care Co. Ltd
HSM
HSM
Hill-Rom Company, Inc.; Hill-Rom Holdings, Inc.; Hill-Rom DTC, Inc.

PRODUCERS CONT.

JUNE 30, 2021

ACCOUNT

ACCOUNT	DBA
Idle Sleep	Idle Group, LLC
IKEA Supply AG	IKEA
Illinois Sleep Products Inc.	ISP
Inncor Inc.	Sleep Innovations Inc.
Innovative Bedding Solutions Inc.	IBS
Invacare Corporation	Invacare Corporation
James McGrath	James McGrath
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
Keetsa Inc.	Keetsa
Kingsdown Inc.	Kingsdown Inc.
Klaussner Home Furnishings Inc.	Enso Sleep Systems
Lakewood Candies, LLC	Milliard Bedding
Latex Foam International, LLC	Talalay Global
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
Medical Depot Inc.	Drive Medical Design and Manufacturing
Medline Industries Inc.	Medical Device Manufacturer and Distributor
MFL Inc.	MFL Inc.
Michael Thomas Furniture Inc.	The MT Company
Moonlight Slumber, LLC	University Sleep Products
Naturally Beds Inc.	Arizona Premium Mattress
Nature Sleep System, LLC	Jazvin
Nipponflex, LLC	Nipponflex, LLC
Nitori USA Inc.	Aki Home
Norix Group Inc.	Norix Group Inc.
Northeast Mattress, LLC	Northeast Mattress, LLC
Oddello Industries, LLC	Oddello Industries, LLC
Organic Mattresses Inc.	Organic Mattresses Inc.
Pacific Urethanes, LLC	Pacific Urethanes
Paramount Industrial Cos. Inc.	Paramount Sleep
PPJ, LLC	Customatic Adjustable Bedz
Pragma Corporation	Pragma Corporation
PranaSleep, LLC	PranaSleep
Prestige Fabricators Inc.	Prestige Fabricators Inc.
Progressive Products Inc.	Progressive Products Inc.
PT. Graha Seribusatujaya	PT. Graha Seribusatujaya
Puffy, LLC	Puffy Mattress
Purple Innovation, LLC	Purple
Quality Sleep Shop	My Green Mattress
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	Serta and Simmons

PRODUCERS CONT.

JUNE 30, 2021

ACCOUNT

Shen Zhen L&T Industrial Co. LTD
ShenZhen Yun Lee Sponge Products Co. LTD
Shevick Sales Corp.
Sinomax USA Inc.
Sleep Studio, LLC
Sleeping Pure, LLC
Sleeptek MFG Limited
Sommium Inc.
South Bay International Inc.
Span America Medical Systems Inc.
Spring Coil of the USA, LLC
State of Connecticut
Suite Sleep Inc.
Technogel US Inc.
Tempur Sealy International Inc.
Thanepohn Corp.
The Bedding Group Inc.
The Original Mattress Factory Inc.
Therapedic of New England, LLC
University Loft Company
Ureblock S.A. DE C.V.
Venture Products, LLC
Vinyl Products Mfg. Inc.
Vispring Limited
Vi-Spring Limited
Washabelle, LLC
Werner Media Partners, LLC
White Dove Mattress LTD
Woodhaven Furniture Industries
Yaasa Studios Inc.
Zhejiang Alright Home Textiles Co. LTD
Zinus Inc.

DBA

Luen Tai Global LTD
Luen Tai Global LTD
Sleep on Latex
Sinomax USA Inc.
Authentic Comfort
Sleeping Pure
Sleeptek MFG Limited
Sommium Inc.
South Bay International Inc.
Span America Medical Systems
Comfort Bedding of the USA, LLC
Correctional Enterprises of Connecticut
Suite Sleep
Technogel US
Tempur-Pedic, Tempur, Sealy, Stearns & Foster, Sherwood
Mattress Mill
The Bedding Group Inc.
The Original Mattress Factory
Therapedic of New England
University Loft Company
Ureblock
Venture Products, LLC
Vinyl Products Mfg. Inc.
Vispring Limited
Vispring
Washabelle, LLC
Ghostbed
White Dove Mattress LTD
Woodhaven Furniture Industries
Yaasa Studios Inc.
Zhejiang Alright Home Textiles Co. LTD
Zinus Inc.

APPENDIX A: REGISTERED BRANDS

BRANDS

JUNE 30, 2021

12 Park	Essential
7" PARAGON 12-SLAT FDN	Evaya
9" CONTRACT 12-SLAT FDN 7524	FACTORY DIRECT, INC.
ACCOR BOX COVER FR 28-4215	FE Inverted Seam Innerspring Collection
Ace Hotel Mattress	Flame Chek
Aireloom	Flame Chek Foam
airweave	Flame Chek Supreme
AMERICAN NATIONAL MANUFACTURING INC	Flame Chek Ultra
Amore Beds	Flex-A-Bed High-Low
Ananda	Flex-A-Bed Premier
Anew	Flex-A-Bed Value Flex
Anti-Gravity PR Collection	FOAM CRAFT DIVISION OF FUTURE FOAM INC
Ascent	FOXZY PRODUCTS CORP
Authentic Comfort	G6 PREMIUM
Barclay Butera Lifestyle Bedding	G6 ULTRA PLUSH
BASEPLATE 7" PARAGON 12-SLAT FDN	Geo-comfort
BedInABox	Geo-gel
bigolbed	Ghost Bed
BIO SLEEP CONCEPT	GHOSTBED
Biofresh	Grande Hotel
Blissful Nights	Harvest Green Mattress
Bob Barker	Helix Sleep
Body Flex	Hope Mattress
Body Solutions	Hotel
Boyd Mattresses	Idle Sleep
Brentwood Home	IKEA
Broyhill Mattresses	Invacare
CAPITAL BEDDING INC	Jamison
Childrens Products LLC	Jazvin
Christeli	Jordan's
ComforPedic	Jussi & Carpe Diem
ComforPedic Loft	Karma by PranaSleep
Comfort Bedding	Keetsa
Comfort Dreams	King Koil
Comfort Revolution	Kingsdown
Comfort Shield	Kluft
ComfortSpring PLUS	LADY AMERICANA SW.
ComfortSpring™	Lifekind
CONCERTO II 800 PLUSH	LinenSpa®
CORSICANA OPERATING CO., LLC	Linon Home Decor
Cradlesoft	Little Lamb Organics
Custody	Live and Sleep
Customatic	Lotus by PranaSleep
Denver Mattress	LUCID®
Denver Mattress Hospitality	Luft
dream bed	LUMEX
Dream Rest	Luuf
Eclipse	Luxury Solutions
Eco	MADERITE BEDDING CO
Engineered Sleep	MAGNIFLEX
ENSO	Mattress Mill
EnviroSpring™	Maximum Security
Ergovea	MFL, Inc.

BRANDS CONT.

JUNE 30, 2021

Michael Thomas Furniture	Thomasville Mattresses
microAIR	University Sleep Products' Enhanced Style B Mattress
Miles Talbott Furniture	University Sleep Products' Enhanced Style C Mattress
Milliard	University Sleep Products' Style D Mattress
Natura	Valeo
Nipponflex Smart Care	ValueLine
Nipponflex Smart Flex	Veridian
Nipponflex Smart Springs	ViscoFresh
Obasan	Vispring
Om by PranaSleep	Washabelle
OXYGEN XG200	Wellsville®
Pacific Mattress	WESTWOOD II PLUSH
PARAGON PLUSH	WESTWOOD PLUSH
PARK VIEW PLUSH	Zinus Inc.
PFS Fiber Core Collection	Zoma Sleep
Posh and Lavish	
PragmaBed	
PranaSleep	
Puffy	
Pure Green Natural Latex Mattress	
PureSleep	
Purple	
Quality Sleep Shop, dba. My Green Mattress	
Reguvigel	
Relax the Back	
Remedy	
Rescue	
Resort Collection	
Resort Mattress Collection	
Resort Sleep	
Rize	
Sealy	
Select Luxury	
Serenia Sleep	
Silver Rest	
Silver Spring Collection	
Simmons Juvenile Furniture	
Simmons Kids	
Sleep Creations	
Sleep Love	
Sleep Studio	
SleepFresh	
Sleeptek	
Slumber Perfect	
Slumber Solutions	
Snuggle	
Softform	
Solace	
Somnium	
somnum®	
Stellar Foam Core Collection	
Sterling Sleep Systems	
STO-A-WAY Mattress Foundation	
Suite Dreams	
Suite Essentials	
The Haven Bed	
The Original Mattress Factory	

APPENDIX B: COLLECTION SITES, RECYCLING FACILITIES & COLLECTION EVENTS

COLLECTION SITES: MUNICIPAL TRANSFER STATIONS & RECYCLING CENTERS

SITE	ADDRESS	CITY	ACCESS/UNIT LIMIT
Barrington Transfer 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
Charlestown Residential Collection Center	50 Sand Hill Rd.	Charlestown	Drop-off for residents up to 3 units
Glocester Transfer Station	121 Chestnut Hill Rd.	Chepachet	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 Division	929 Phenix Ave.	Cranston	Drop-off for residents up to 3 units
East Greenwich Transfer Station	Crompton Avenue	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 Dept. Public Works	86 Foster Center Rd.	Foster	Drop-off for residents up to 3 units
Jamestown Transfer Station	1218 North Main Rd.	Jamestown	Drop-off for residents up to 3 units
Little Compton Transfer 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 Transfer Station	345 Devils Foot Rd.	North Kingstown	Drop-off for residents up to 3 units
Scituate Dept. Public Works	1 Lincoln Cir.	North Scituate	Drop-off for residents up to 3 units
Town of North Smithfield	281 Quaker Hwy.	North Smithfield	Drop-off for residents up to 3 units
Highway Garage			
Town of Burrillville	350 Whipple Ave.	Oakland	Drop-off for residents up to 3 units
Portsmouth Transfer Station	West Main Road and Hedley Street	Portsmouth	Drop-off for residents up to 3 units
Providence Dept. Public Works	700 Allens Ave.	Providence	Drop-off for residents up to 3 units
Tiverton Landfill	3524 Main Rd.	Tiverton	Drop-off for residents up to 3 units
Rose Hill Regional Transfer Station	163 Rose Hill Rd.	Wakefield	Drop-off for Wakefield & Narragansett residents up to 3 units
Warren Municipal Transfer Station	21 Birch Swamp Rd.	Warren	Drop-off for residents up to 3 units
Warwick Recycling Facility	111 Range Rd.	Warwick	Drop-off for residents up to 3 units
West Greenwich Transfer Station	68 Bates Trail	West Greenwich	Drop-off for residents up to 3 units
West Warwick Dept. Public Works	10 Junior St.	West Warwick	Drop-off for residents up to 3 units
Town of Westerly	39 Larry Hirsch Ln.	Westerly	Drop-off for Westerly & Hopkinton residents up to 3 units
Woonsocket Solid Waste Recycle Facility	943 River St.	Woonsocket	Drop-off for residents up to 3 units
Richmond Transfer Station	51 Buttonwoods Rd.	Wyoming	Drop-off for residents up to 3 units

COLLECTION SITES: CURBSIDE

SITE	ADDRESS	CITY	CONTACT
Central Falls Dept. Public Works	Curbside pick up by appointment	Central Falls	Municipal Recycling Coordinator
City of East Providence	Curbside pick up by appointment	East Providence	Municipal Recycling Coordinator
City of Pawtucket	Curbside pick up by appointment	Pawtucket	Municipal Recycling Coordinator
Town of Lincoln Highway Dept.	Curbside pick up by appointment	Lincoln	Municipal Recycling Coordinator
Town of North Providence	Curbside pick up by appointment	North Providence	Municipal Recycling Coordinator

COLLECTION SITES: PRIVATE TRANSFER STATIONS

SITE	ADDRESS	CITY	ACCESS/UNIT LIMIT
Waste Management	65 Halsey St.	Newport	Drop-off for Newport residents up to 3 units
Blackstone Valley Regional Transfer Station	240 Grotto Ave.	Pawtucket	Drop-off for Central Falls, Pawtucket and Providence residents up to 3 units
Waste Management - Cranston	Curbside pickup by appointment	Cranston	For Waste Management customers

COLLECTION SITES: LANDFILL

SITE	ADDRESS	CITY	ACCESS/UNIT LIMIT
RI Resource Recovery	65 Shun Pike Rd.	Johnston	Drop-off for all RI residents

RECYCLING FACILITIES

SITE	ADDRESS	CITY	ACCESS
Ace Mattress Recycling	14 Clyde St.	West Warwick	Drop-off for all RI residents; allows pre-scheduled business drop-off from MRC registered participants
Green Mattress Framingham Willimantic Waste	12 Industrial Rd. 185 Recycling Way	Milford, MA Windham, CT	No public drop-off No public drop-off

COLLECTION EVENTS

SITE	ADDRESS	CITY	DATE
Town of Smithfield Department of Public Works	3 Spragueville Rd.	Smithfield	7/18/20
Town of Smithfield Department of Public Works	3 Spragueville Rd.	Smithfield	11/7/20
Town of Smithfield Department of Public Works	3 Spragueville Rd.	Smithfield	3/13/21
Middletown at Gaudet Middle School	1113 Aquidneck Avenue	Middletown	7/24/20
Middletown at Gaudet Middle School	1113 Aquidneck Avenue	Middletown	8/8/20
Middletown at Sachuest (AKA Second) Beach	474 Sachuest Point Rd	Middletown	9/26/20
Middletown at Sachuest (AKA Second) Beach	474 Sachuest Point Rd	Middletown	11/7/20
Middletown at Sachuest (AKA Second) Beach	474 Sachuest Point Rd	Middletown	3/27/21
Middletown at Sachuest (AKA Second) Beach	474 Sachuest Point Rd	Middletown	5/1/21
City of Providence Mattress Drive	159 Sackett St.	Providence	10/24/20
City of Providence Mattress Drive	265 Manton Ave.	Providence	3/20/21
City of Providence Mattress Drive	159 Sackett St.	Providence	6/26/21

APPENDIX C: STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH

JULY 1, 2020 - JUNE 30, 2021

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	STAKEHOLDER GROUP
8/19/20 - 8/21/20	Furniture Today Bedding Conference	Virtual	Mattress Industry
8/28/20	AlphaSights Shredder Call	Phone Call	Waste & Recycling Industry
10/20/20 - 10/22/20	Northeast Recyclers Coalition Fall Conference	Virtual	Waste & Recycling Industry
10/20/20 - 10/22/20	AASHE Conference	Virtual	Educational Facilities
11/4/20 - 11/5/20	Polyurethane Foam Association Annual Meeting	Virtual	Mattress Industry & Research
12/1/20 - 12/3/20	National Recycling Coalition Zero Waste Conference	Virtual	Waste & Recycling Industry
3/30/21 - 3/31/21	Northeast Recyclers Coalition Spring Conference	Virtual	Waste & Recycling Industry
4/16/21	MassRecycle Conference	Virtual	Waste & Recycling Industry
5/4/21 - 5/5/21	Interzum At Home	Virtual	Mattress Industry
5/4/21	Lodging Industry Virtual Meeting	Virtual	Lodging Facilities
6/23/21	PSI EPR Webinar	Virtual	Waste & Recycling Industry

APPENDIX D: PUBLIC EDUCATION MATERIALS

INFO CARDS



DIGITAL BADGE



Rest Easy! Your Old Mattress Can Be Recycled.

Drop it off at a nearby location or ask your retailer about taking it back.



Rhode Island law has created a mattress recycling program that requires retailers to collect a \$16 fee on every mattress and box spring you purchase. This amount will be listed on your receipt as "recycling fee" and is subject to sales tax.

This fee is used to establish a network of collection sites and events where you can drop off your old mattress and box spring (regardless of when you bought them). When they are recycled, the steel, foam, fiber and wood are used to make other new products.

Mattress retailers that take used mattresses and box springs back from their Rhode Island customers may recycle them through the Program. Ask your retailer if they participate. *Delivery or set up fees for new mattresses may still apply.*



byebyemattress.com

A Program of the Mattress Recycling Council®

Visit ByeByeMattress.com to learn more.



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 50,000 mattresses a day are discarded in the United States and more than 80 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 more than 1.5 million mattresses each year. For more information about MRC, go to www.MattressRecyclingCouncil.org. To learn how to recycle your mattress or to find a collection location or event near you, visit www.ByeByeMattress.com.

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, the Bye Bye Mattress program will accept your old mattress through our collection network no matter when it was originally purchased. To be recycled, units must be clean and dry. Normal wear and tear is expected. We cannot recycle units infested with bed bugs or that are heavily soiled or damaged.

- MORE FAQ's ON NEXT PAGE -

CONSUMER FAQ'S

PAGE 2 (MATTRESS RECYCLING FEE FAQs)

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.

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 new appliances and 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:

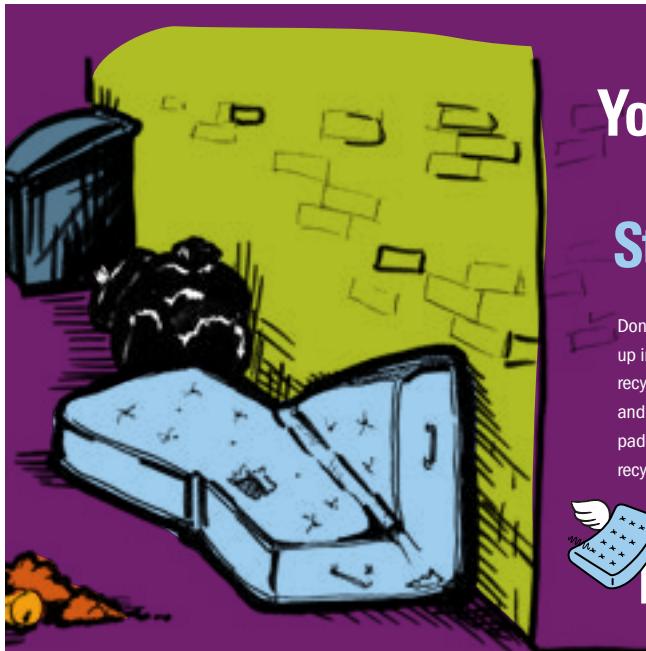
Mattresses are collected from a vast network of free collection sites throughout the state. These are typically public works yards or transfer stations. Your city/town may also collect bulky items at curbside as part of your trash service. Visit www.ByeByeMattress.com to see what options are available.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

FYI - In California, mattress retailers are required by law to offer to take back old mattresses when delivering new ones. Retailers can work with MRC to have the used mattresses collected from customers recycled for free as part of our program.

NEED MORE INFORMATION? Please contact info@mattressrecyclingcouncil.org or call 1-855-229-1691.

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

PRINT AD



You can recycle your old mattress for free.
Stop illegal dumping.

Don't dump your old mattress. Not only is it illegal, but it will end up in a landfill when it could be so much more. On the other hand, recycling the mattress and box spring lets the steel, foam, fiber and wood become new products. Like steel parts, filters, carpet padding and even mulch for your garden. Find out about your FREE recycling options at ByeByeMattress.com.

byebyemattress®
A Program of the Mattress Recycling Council™

To learn more about the benefits of mattress recycling, visit ByeByeMattress.com

BILLBOARD



Don't dump it.
Recycle your mattress for free!

bye bye mattress®
A Program of the Mattress Recycling Council™

