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RHODE ISLAND ANNUAL REPORT

SUBMITTED BY

Mattress Recycling Council Rhode Island, LLC
501 Wythe Street
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SUBMITTED TO

Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation
65 Shun Pike Road
Johnston, RI 02919

SUBMITTED ON

October 1, 2020

 Mattress Recycling Council®



This year, MRC's Rhode Island Bye Bye Mattress program collected **82,549** mattresses and diverted **1,271** tons of material from disposal.

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The mattress industry created the Mattress Recycling Council (MRC), a non profit 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 2019-2020 Fiscal Year (July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020) (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

FOURTH 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 fourth year include:

- Collected 82,549 mattresses and recycled 1,271 tons of material
- Provided program access in 37 of 39 Rhode Island municipalities
- Extended service to 169 other covered entities consisting of retailers, lodging establishments, healthcare facilities, educational facilities, small bulky waste haulers and others with large volumes of discarded mattresses
- Retained participation by 88% of Rhode Island's solid waste service providers exceeding the goal by 8 percentage points
- Surpassed the healthcare facility participation goal - adding 10 facilities for a total of 21 and resulting in 757 units recycled
- Recycled 1,512 units from educational facilities and off-campus housing stakeholders - a 10% increase from the previous reporting period
- Added three lodging facilities to the program and recycled 905 mattresses from nine hotels
- Continued to recycle mattresses collected from Naval Station Newport and its off-base housing complexes
- Remained fully operational and prevented service failures despite the rise of the COVID-19 pandemic

REPORT OVERVIEW

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

1. The weight of mattresses collected pursuant to the program from:
 - i. Municipal and/or transfer stations;
 - ii. Retailers; and
 - iii. All other covered entities;
2. The weight of mattresses diverted for recycling;
3. Identification of the mattress recycling facilities to which mattresses were delivered for recycling;
4. The weight of discarded mattresses recycled, as indicated by the weight of each of the commodities sold to secondary markets;
5. The weight of mattresses, or parts thereof, sent for disposal at each of the following:
 - i. Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation; and
 - ii. Any other facilities;
6. Samples of public education materials and methods used to support the program;
7. A description of efforts undertaken and evaluation of the methods used to disseminate such materials;
8. Updated performance goals and an evaluation of the effectiveness of the methods and processes used to achieve performance goals of the program; and
9. 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 **169** 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, 169 other entities (including mattress retailers, lodging establishments, educational facilities and others that dispose of large 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

Green Mattress Framingham

12 Industrial Road
Milford, MA 01757

Willimantic Waste

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

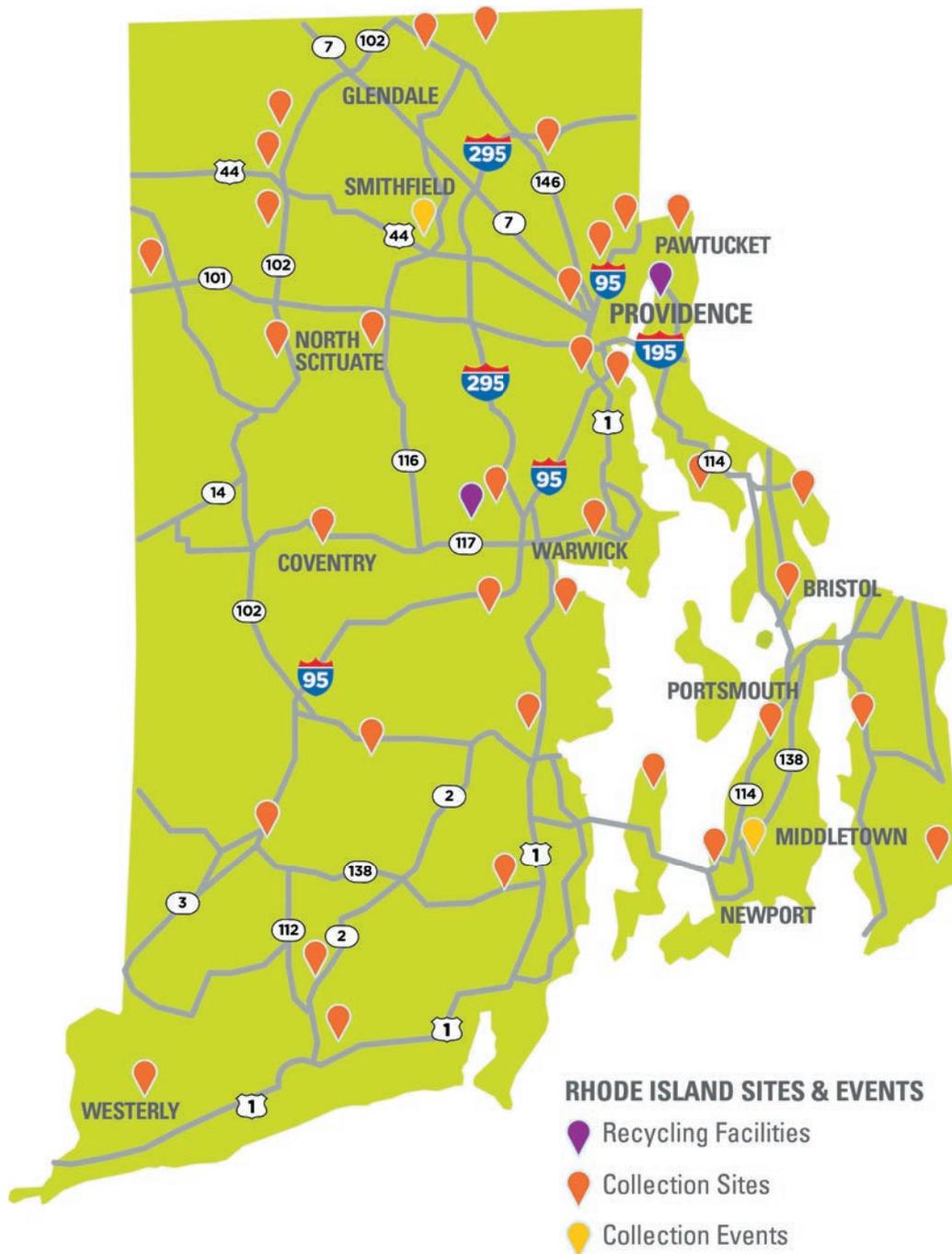
14 Clyde Street
West Warwick, RI 02893

Mobile Storage

81 Pilsudski Street
Providence, RI 02909

Willimantic Waste

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 the program works, what MRC has accomplished and the impact it is making in the state
- How and where to recycle discarded mattresses and why it is beneficial
- Why the recycling fee is needed and what it funds
- The legal obligations the mattress industry must fulfill and how various parties are affected

To reach these audiences, 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, site visits and participation 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 trademarked "Bye Bye Mattress" as its consumer-facing identity.

This approach aligns with MRC's Rhode Island program 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 education and outreach 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 (PSA) 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.

To monitor the effectiveness of this strategy, MRC planned to conduct its annual consumer awareness survey in April 2020, but this was disrupted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. MRC will resume measuring consumer awareness in 2021.

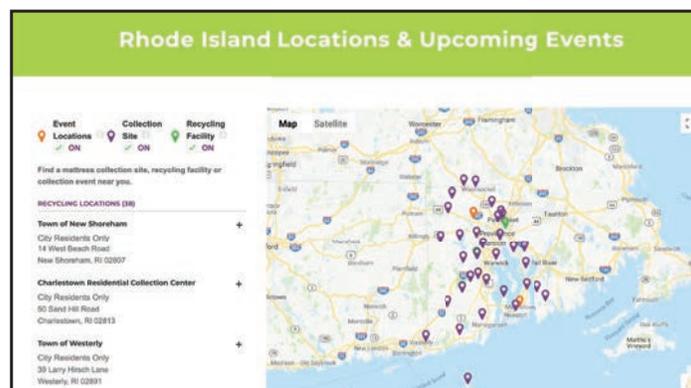
BYEBYEMATTRESS.COM

Consumers can easily find no-cost recycling locations in Rhode Island and information about the recycling fee and program on ByeByeMattress.com. In October 2019, MRC updated the site to include a bulky item directory, which is a listing of the cities and towns that offer their residents at least one free curbside bulky item pickup each year.



BYEBYEMATTRESS.COM

Although most consumers visit ByeByeMattress.com to access the recycling locator or bulky item directory, the site is also a platform for educating the public about the mattress recycling process and its environmental benefits.

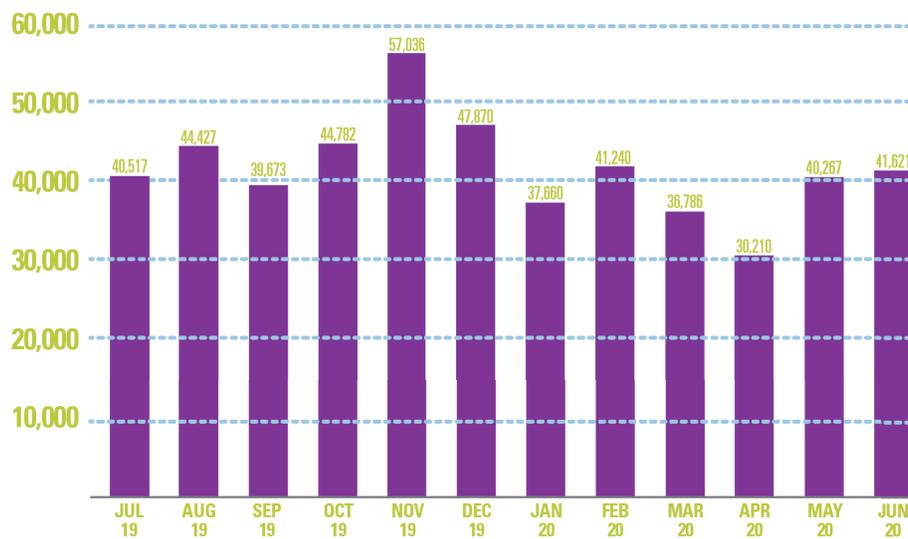


BYEBYEMATTRESS.COM

MRC promotes ByeByeMattress.com through consumer education materials, PSAs, media relations and social media. RIRRC's A to Z directory also provides a link to the site and how to recycle mattresses in each city or town.

During the reporting period, 491,973 users visited ByeByeMattress.com generating 627,493 sessions. This is a growth of 18% in users and 17% in sessions from the previous reporting period.

**Bye Bye Mattress Web Traffic Sessions
July 2019 - June 2020**



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 an information card, in-store posters and a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document. 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.

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 retailers display them in-store. Versions in Spanish and Asian languages also 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 reorders are free. We also send starter kits to newly registered retailers or those opening new stores in the state. The kit includes a postage-paid response card that allows retailers to opt-in to receiving automatic refills of materials.

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 is currently exploring how to increase consumer education at the digital point-of-sale versus in-store experience.



INFORMATIONAL CARD



IN-STORE POSTER



CONSUMER FAQs

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT CAMPAIGN

MRC's "Stop Illegal Dumping" PSA campaign consists of TV, radio, print and outdoor ads and is used across all program states. To date, the PSA has received more than 3 million impressions. However, Rhode Island media have been the least receptive 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.

In 2021, MRC will be 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

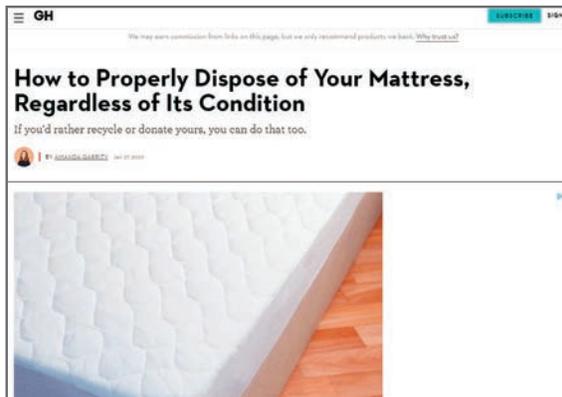
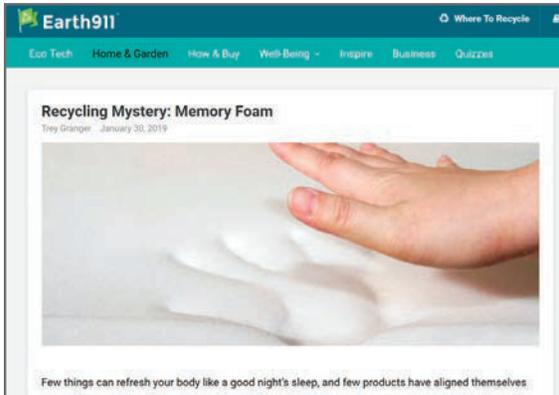
**Don't dump it.
Recycle your mattress for free!**



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

MEDIA RELATIONS

During the reporting period, MRC responded to reporters' requests for information. Notable media placements included local news coverage in the *Providence Journal* and *Valley Breeze* community papers, as well as national mentions in *Good Housekeeping*, *Glamour*, Earth 911 and Houzz.



COMMUNITY EVENTS

MRC engages with the public through collection events and public appearances. Collection events help MRC service 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.

MRC remained selective about collection events and withheld public appearances as its Rhode Island recyclers continued to process high volumes of collected units. The COVID-19 pandemic further exacerbated MRC's ability to interact face-to-face with the public.

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

MRC planned a second collection event for an off-campus housing property manager to take place in May 2020, but the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted the collegiate academic year and the property manager cancelled their event. However, as communities have progressed in reopening, MRC has seen resumption of collection event interest.

As for public appearances, MRC does not anticipate cities, towns or organizations resuming large in-person gatherings in 2021. However, we are monitoring how established events such as Earth Day (April 22) and Keep America Beautiful's Great American Clean up (First day of Spring) and America Recycles Day (November 15) create virtual experiences and encourage community engagement on social media platforms.

COLLECTION SITE AND EVENT TOOLKITS

To promote collection sites, MRC prepared a template news release and suggested content that municipalities could use to publicize their participation in the program through online and social media outlets. 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/4pJlDe>



COLLECTION EVENT PROMOTION TOOLKIT

<https://dl.orangedox.com/67ephJ>



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

SOCIAL MEDIA

MRC created Twitter and Facebook profiles for Bye Bye Mattress to connect with consumers.

Having a daily news feed of engaging, relevant information is important for maintaining a presence on these social media 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 household items and interests its followers share.

During the reporting period, Bye Bye Mattress' national social media audience and engagement continued to grow, surpassing 2.8 million impressions on Facebook and Twitter. Meanwhile, on Facebook, more than 2,400 people each month are sharing, liking and commenting on posts. This is a 70% increase in impressions and 6% increase in engagement.



FOLLOW & LIKE
@BYEBYEMATTRESS



INDUSTRY COMMUNICATION

To inform retailers, producers and other industry stakeholders about the 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 entrants into the mattress segment and non-compliant parties 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 interested retailers in utilizing 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.

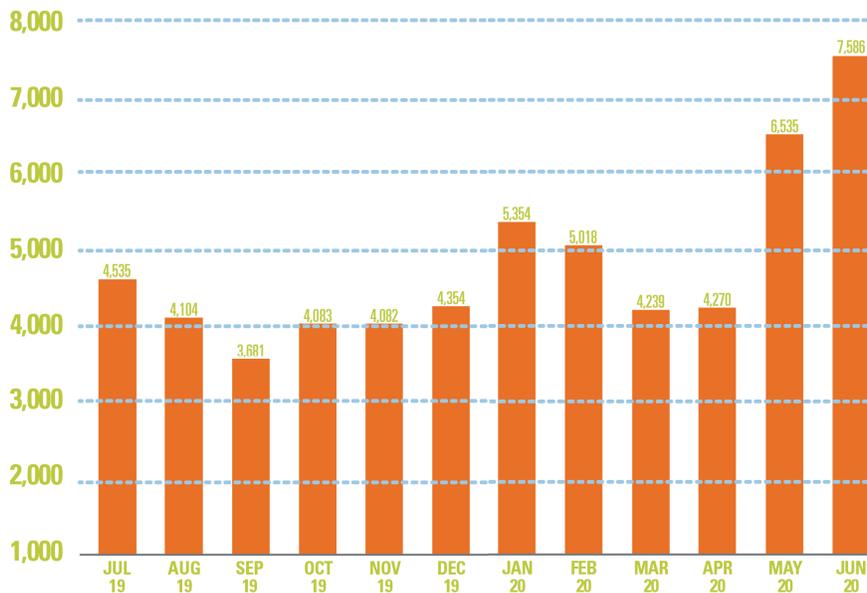
As required by the law, **Appendix A** contains a complete list of registered producers. The list is current as of August 1, 2020.

WEBSITES

MattressRecyclingCouncil.org: Designed for use by the mattress industry, regulators and non-consumer stakeholders, this website attracted 46,799 users generating 57,841 sessions between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020. This level of website traffic represents a 16% growth in users and 15% growth in sessions from the previous reporting period.

In October 2019, MRC surveyed users from these key audiences about their experiences with MRC, the website and its resources. This led to a full redesign and reorganization that was completed in September 2020.

**Mattress Recycling Council Web Traffic Sessions
July 2019 - June 2020**



The site as it looked during the reporting period contained information specific to each of the three states in which MRC operates mattress recycling programs. This included copies of recent MRC notices, links to resources, and bridges to ByeByeMattress.com and MRC's registration and payment portal (MRCreporting.org).

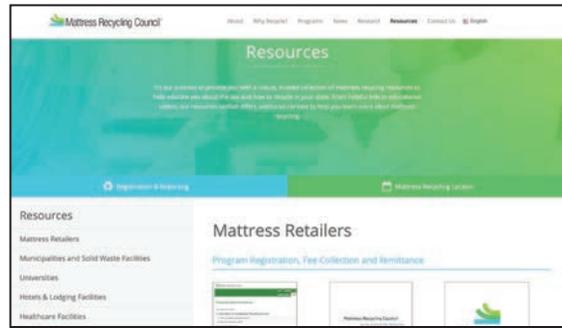
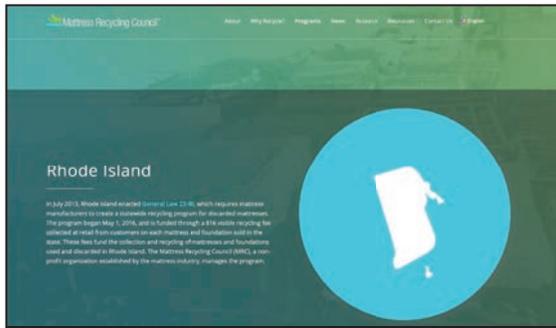
The Rhode Island state page contained information on the law and details on how the program had expanded. By clicking on links from this page:

- Stakeholders may read the law and information about the program, including the approved plan and current annual report
- Solid waste facilities and other eligible entities can make a request to become a collection site or event host
- Retailers and other entities can make a request to participate in recycling

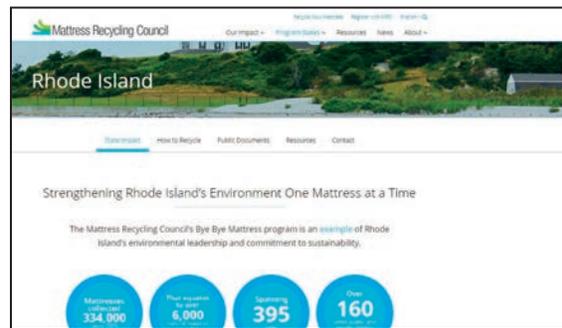
- Retailers and producers may link to MRC’s reporting and remittance portal and learn about their legal obligations under the program
- Stakeholders can subscribe to receive MRC’s monthly newsletter

The website also contained a resources library with links and information about MRC’s reporting and payment portal, consumer education materials, collection site guidelines and information sheets about recycling options for different entities (e.g., transfer stations, retailers, lodging establishments, etc.).

The redesigned site continues to contain this information, though it has been reorganized and streamlined based on the feedback gained from the user surveys and analysis of website metrics.



MATTRESSRECYCLINGCOUNCIL.ORG DURING THE REPORTING



MATTRESSRECYCLINGCOUNCIL.ORG AS IT IS TODAY



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.

During the reporting period MRC made changes to the portal to improve data accuracy and reporting quality, as well as help MRC improve customer service. Major changes relevant to Rhode Island participants included:

- Implementing a required annual review of account information. Upon the participant's yearly anniversary of its account approval, a participant must review its account information for accuracy and is given an opportunity to make changes as necessary.
- Expanding profile information. MRC requires participants that report on behalf of multiple locations to list those storefront addresses and applicable contact information. It also requires participants to disclose whether the company is currently delivering, taking back and recycling mattresses and if sales are conducted online, through brick-and-mortar locations or both.

Given the extent of the changes, MRC conducted a thorough site audit and updated all the portal's content including linked documents and resources.

The screenshot shows the MRC Reporting website interface. At the top, there is a green navigation bar with the MRC logo and the text "Mattress Recycling Council" on the left, and "Login | Create Account" on the right. Below the navigation bar, there is a horizontal menu with links for "Home", "Reporting", "My Account", "Make a Payment", "Program Updates", "Resources", and "Help". The main content area features a large green heading "MRC REGISTRATION & REPORTING" and a sub-heading "Welcome to the MRC Online Registration and Reporting System". Below this, there is a paragraph of text explaining the mattress recycling program in California, Connecticut, and Rhode Island. To the right of the main text, there is a "News and Notifications" section with two links: "Commercial Volume Pickup Program Notice, June 2019" and "Units Returned for Refund (September 2018)".

MRC REGISTRATION & REPORTING

Welcome to the MRC Online Registration and Reporting System

California, Connecticut and Rhode Island have enacted laws requiring the mattress industry to establish a mattress recycling program in each of these states. You may be required to register with MRC, depending on where you conduct business. 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.

Each state has different registration requirements:

Connecticut
Each company that produces, imports or distributes mattresses for sale in the state must join MRC. To join, you must register online with MRC through this system.

As of May 1, 2015, businesses selling mattresses must collect a \$9 recycling fee on each mattress or box spring sold to Connecticut consumers.

Rhode Island
Each company that produces, imports or distributes mattresses for sale in the state must join MRC. To join, you must register online with MRC through this system.

The Rhode Island program began on May 1, 2016. As of May 1, 2016, businesses selling mattresses must collect a \$16 recycling fee on each mattress or box spring sold to Rhode Island consumers.

California
Each company that produces, imports, distributes, or renovates mattresses for sale in the state must register online with MRC through this system.

News and Notifications

- [Commercial Volume Pickup Program Notice, June 2019](#)
- [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:

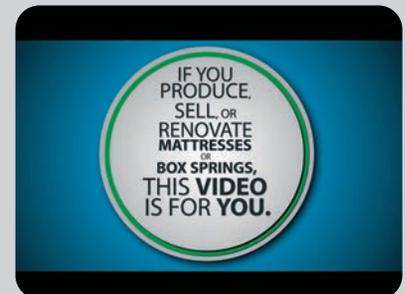
About the Mattress Recycling Council: Provides an overview of state recycling laws, the recycling fees, what the fees pay for and encourages stakeholders to recycle with MRC.

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.

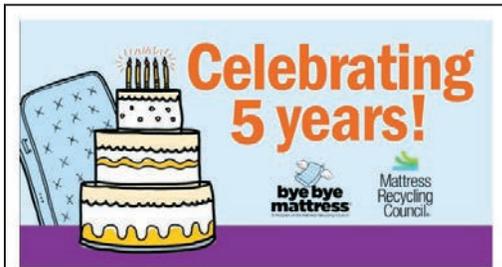
Reporting & Remitting Your Recycling Fees: Explains how mattress retailers and producers can use the online portal to report and remit to MRC the recycling fees they have collected.

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

Click Below To View



MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER



Happy 5th Birthday to MRC!

This month MRC is celebrating five years of mattress recycling. Our Bye Bye Mattress program launched in Connecticut in May 2015. Since that time, Rhode Island and California have joined and MRC has recycled [more than six million mattresses](#). We are proud to be doing our part for the environment. In addition, more than one million people have visited [ByeByeMattress.com](#) and our [public service announcement](#) has over three million views! We work hard to spread the word that recycling matters and that mattresses should never be dumped illegally. Thank you to our amazing supporters for helping us reach these milestones!



COVID-19 Update

This week, all 50 states have begun to reopen to some degree in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. MRC is seeing an uptick in mattress recycling volume in program states and is "cautiously optimistic," according to managing director Mike O'Donnell, as retailers and collection points begin a phased-in opening process, as well. Pictured above are some of the front line workers at two of our recyclers hard at work this month. We are grateful to all of the recycling heroes across our mattress recycling network! MRC has a [COVID-19 page on our website](#) offering updates and resources for our program participants. Please contact your program coordinator with any questions or concerns. Stay safe!

MRC Highlights reaches more than 3,000 recipients and continues to see above average industry open rates (above 20%). The mailing list includes all registered retailers, renovators, manufacturers, collection site hosts 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.

MRC continues to find ways to better serve and increase the audience of the newsletter. As part of our October 2019 survey of key audiences, we are considering issuing more frequent or geographically focused issues in the future. In 2021, readers may see further changes to the newsletter that coincide with the redesigned [MattressRecyclingCouncil.org](#) website.

INDUSTRY EVENTS

During the reporting period, MRC attended the following events:

Las Vegas Market (each winter and summer): Las Vegas Market is the largest bedding show in the United States. It attracts retailers, distributors and manufacturers from all 50 states and over 80 countries. Many new companies entering the U.S. bedding market also debut their products here.

During the Summer 2019 and Winter 2020 Las Vegas Markets, MRC exhibited in the Home Furnishing Association's Retailer Resource Center. MRC answered retailers' registration, reporting, payment and recycling questions.

Northeast Furniture and Accessory Market (February 2020): Regional furniture, bedding, and home decor/accessory companies attend this event. MRC answered retailers' registration, reporting, payment and recycling questions.

MRC planned to attend others, which were ultimately cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Most notable was ISPA EXPO, where MRC was scheduled to present about its recycling program progress, research efforts and other developments.

As event directors shift towards offering digital experiences and reimagine their major conferences and tradeshows, MRC is considering how to best remain relevant and visible to event attendees. We don't foresee eliminating the use of industry events despite the prolonged inability for large in-person gatherings.



LAS VEGAS MARKET



ISPA INDUSTRY CONFERENCE

MEDIA RELATIONS

MRC contributes content to ISPA's publications - *Sleep Savvy* and *BedTimes*. This coverage appears in each publication's sustainability section, and ranges from information about the fee and its collection, to updates about the program or other recycling trends.

MRC news has been published in other industry media including *Furniture Today*, *Home Furnishings Business*, *RetailerNOW*, and *Sleep Retailer*.

MRC also distributes news to the waste and recycling industry media. During the reporting period, these outlets received announcements regarding MRC's recycling accomplishments and research activities.



SOCIAL MEDIA

MRC uses Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn and YouTube. Collectively, MRC has more than 1,236 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 more than 196,000 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.

Mattress Recycling Council
April 15 · 🌐

#GoodNews! MRC has recycled more than six million mattresses through its **Bye Bye Mattress** program, thanks to incredible support from consumers and our recycling network in program states.

Laid end to end, that is enough mattresses to get from California to Connecticut and Rhode Island and back!

Thank you! **#RecyclingMatters**

#mattressrecycling
CalRecycle
Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP)
Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation
Earth Day Network

We've recycled 6 million mattresses!

Laid end to end, it's enough mattresses to travel from California to Connecticut and Rhode Island — and back again!

bye bye mattress
A Program of the Mattress Recycling Council

Mattress Recycling Council

#DIYR MRC collects mattresses from nearly every municipality in Rhode Island as well as more than 140 public and private entities that dispose of large volumes of discarded mattresses. **@RIRRC #KeepRIBeautiful**

Learn more here: bit.ly/351nN8B

9:34 AM · Nov 20, 2019 · iOS/Android

3 Comments · 1 Double Tweet · 4 Likes

Mattress Recycling Council
December 6, 2019 · 🌐

Q: I want to recycle my old mattress but I am not buying a new mattress. Do I still have to pay the recycling fee?

A: No. A purchase isn't required to take advantage of free drop-off or recycling in MRC's program states: CA, CT & RI.

#FAQFriday #mattressrecycling

#FAQFriday | **Mattress Recycling Council**

MattressRecyCouncil @MattRecyCouncil · Apr 1

If you are a university in Rhode Island and have mattresses to get rid of, check out our recycling program for universities and institutions. We will pick up your used mattresses free of charge! **#mattressrecycling** Learn more here: mattressrecyclingcouncil.org/wp-content/upl...

bye bye mattress
A Program of the Mattress Recycling Council

Rhode Island Mattress Recycling Program for Educational Institutions

Rhode Island's General Law 23-96 requires the mattress industry to create a recycling program for mattresses and box springs used and discarded.

The Mattress Recycling Council (MRC) is a non-profit organization established by the mattress industry to plan and manage the Rhode Island mattress recycling program. As of May 1, 2016, retailers and other businesses selling mattresses began collecting a recycling fee on each mattress and box spring that is sold to a Rhode Island consumer. These fees are remitted to MRC and used to recycle mattresses.

FOLLOW & LIKE
@MATTRECYCOUNCIL





MRC has met, exceeded or is on track to achieve nearly all of its performance goals.

PERFORMANCE GOALS & EVALUATION

PERFORMANCE GOALS & EVALUATION

EVALUATION OF PERFORMANCE GOALS & METHODS

MRC's approved plan included performance goals for the first two years of the program, which focused on developing an accessible statewide collection network. MRC set program targets for different categories of covered entities based on RIRRC mattress disposal data from 2012 and 2013. Based on experience gained during its first year of operations, MRC proposed updated performance goals in its 2016-17 Annual Report, which RIRRC accepted on June 1, 2018. MRC further updated retailer and lodging goals in its 2017-18 Annual Report.

Below is an evaluation of the current 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 or hosting a mattress collection event. Recycling centers 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.

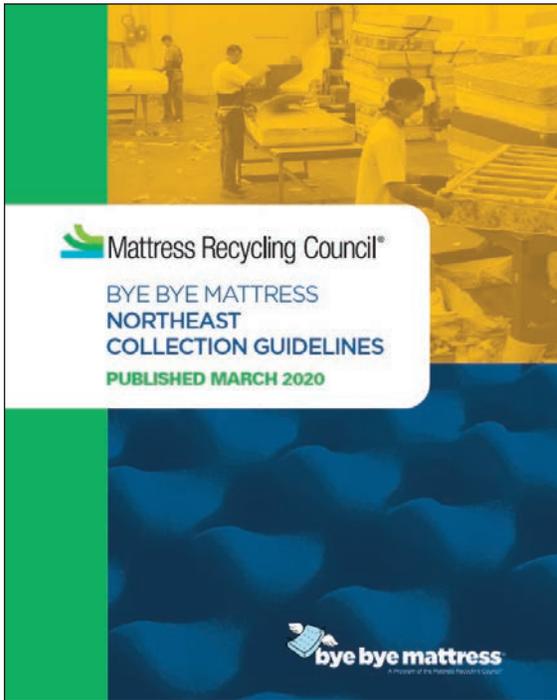
Given that 88% of solid waste service providers in Rhode Island participate in the program, MRC continued its efforts to identify and contact small commercial haulers that ordinarily drop off discarded mattresses at the RIRRC Central Landfill and encourage them to deliver units directly to MRC recyclers. This would relieve the Central Landfill of any responsibility for those units. As a result of these efforts, four small haulers registered with MRC to participate in the program this reporting period.

For municipalities and transfer stations that lacked resources to participate as fixed drop-off locations, MRC hosted one-day community collection events. 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. Among them is the only municipal drop-off facility not yet participating in the program. Since this transfer station represents the only town without a local drop-off option, MRC met with the municipality to discuss the program's benefits. As of this report, the transfer station has not yet registered.

Providing support and assistance to participating solid waste service providers also requires regular communication. During the reporting period, MRC's Northeast Program Coordinator conducted site visits at all the participating municipalities to discuss the program and compliance with participation requirements. Topics covered in these meetings included identifying non-program material that MRC recyclers cannot accept, screening mattresses for excessive damage or contamination, informing residents about the program and addressing illegal dumping concerns. 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 continued to provide bedbug identification resources for program participants and interested parties. During the reporting period, MRC staff provided all participating municipalities with a brochure and directed personnel to a bedbug training webinar housed in the resources section of its website (MattressRecyclingCouncil.org) that participants could view on demand. The training was conducted by the Connecticut Coalition Against Bed Bugs (CCABB) and remains available to all program participants at no cost. Highlights of the presentation include dispelling health-related myths, bedbug identification and best practices for protecting facility staff. MRC also integrated CCABB's information into MRC's program guidelines. This information helps reduce the number of mattresses that are rejected for recycling and helps address concerns that potential collection site and event hosts have about participating in the program.



Mattress Recycling Council®

**BYE BYE MATTRESS
NORTHEAST
COLLECTION GUIDELINES**
PUBLISHED MARCH 2020

bye bye mattress
A Division of The Mattress Recycling Council®

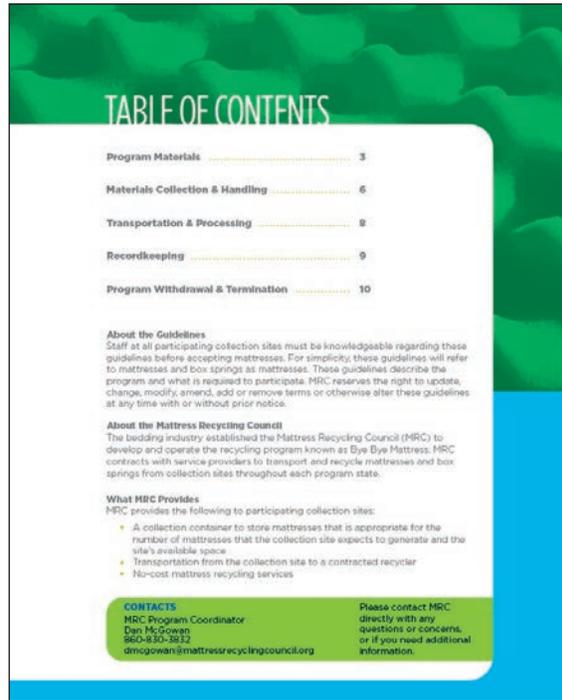


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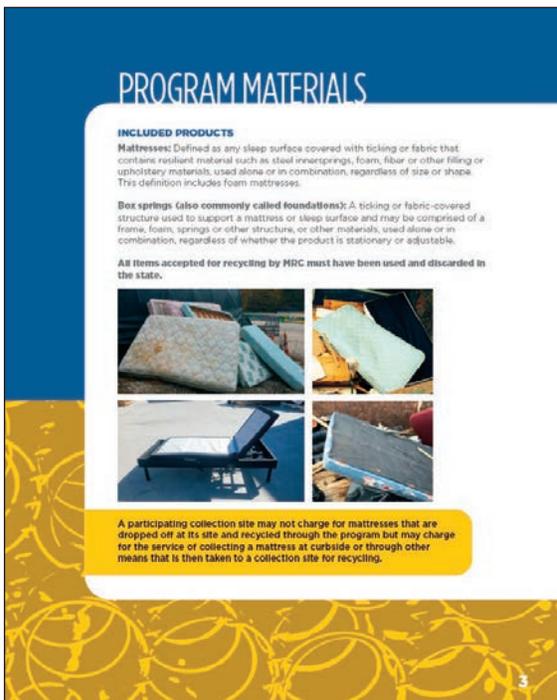
About the Guidelines
Staff at all participating collection sites must be knowledgeable regarding these guidelines before accepting mattresses. For simplicity, these guidelines will refer to mattresses and box springs as mattresses. These guidelines describe the program and what is required to participate. MRC reserves the right to update, change, modify, amend, add or remove terms or otherwise alter these guidelines at any time with or without prior notice.

About the Mattress Recycling Council
The bedding industry established the Mattress Recycling Council (MRC) to develop and operate 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 state.

- What MRC Provides**
MRC provides the following to participating collection sites:
- A collection container to store mattresses that is appropriate for the number of mattresses that the collection site expects to generate and the site's available space
 - Transportation from the collection site to a contracted recycler
 - No-cost mattress recycling services

CONTACTS
MRC Program Coordinator
Dan McGowan
960-830-3832
dmcgowan@mattressrecyclingcouncil.org

Please contact MRC directly with any questions or concerns, or if you need additional information.



PROGRAM MATERIALS

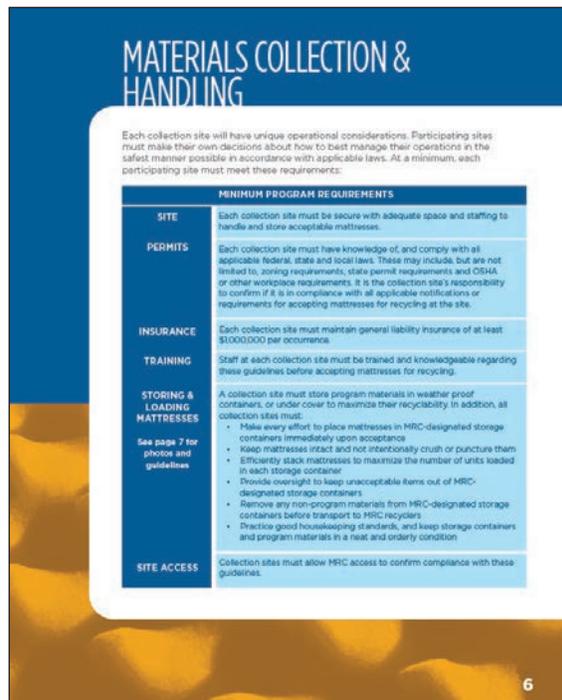
INCLUDED PRODUCTS
Mattresses: Defined as any sleep surface covered with ticking or fabric that contains resilient material such as steel innersprings, foam, fiber or other filling or upholstery materials, used alone or in combination, regardless of size or shape. This definition includes foam mattresses.

Box springs (also commonly called foundations): A ticking or fabric-covered structure used to support a mattress or sleep surface and may be comprised of a frame, foam, springs or other structure, or other materials, used alone or in combination, regardless of whether the product is stationary or adjustable.

All items accepted for recycling by MRC must have been used and discarded in the state.



A participating collection site may not charge for mattresses that are dropped off at its site and recycled through the program but may charge for the service or collecting a mattress at curbside 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. Participating sites must make their own decisions about how to best manage their operations in the safest manner possible in accordance with applicable laws. At a minimum, each participating site must meet these requirements:

MINIMUM PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS	
SITE	Each collection site must be secure with adequate space and staffing to handle and store acceptable mattresses.
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, state permit requirements and OSHA or other workplace requirements. It is the collection site's responsibility to confirm if it is in compliance with all applicable regulations or requirements for accepting mattresses for recycling at the site.
INSURANCE	Each collection site must maintain general liability insurance of at least \$100,000 per occurrence.
TRAINING	Staff at each collection site must be trained and knowledgeable regarding these guidelines before accepting mattresses for recycling.
STORING & LOADING MATTRESSES	A collection site must store program materials in weather proof containers, or under cover to maximize their recyclability. In addition, all collection sites must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make every effort to place mattresses in MRC-designated storage containers immediately upon acceptance • Keep mattresses intact and not intentionally crush or puncture them • Efficiently stack mattresses to maximize the number of units loaded in each storage container • Provide oversight to keep unacceptable items out of MRC-designated storage containers • Remove any non-program materials from MRC-designated storage containers before transport to MRC recyclers • Practice good housekeeping standards, and keep storage containers and program materials in a neat and orderly condition
SITE 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.



NEARLY ACHIEVED - As of June 30, 2020, the program achieved 85% of this goal by recycling 6,402 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, 10 retailers, some of which are among the state's largest sellers, recycle discarded mattresses with the program. However, temporary store closures as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic hindered MRC's efforts to increase volume in the latter half of the reporting period.

TABLE 1: UNITS COLLECTED FROM RETAILERS DURING REPORTING PERIOD

Reporting Period (July 1 - June 30)	UNITS COLLECTED
2017-2018	6,708
2018-2019	7,287
2019-2020	6,402

RHODE ISLAND

BYE BYE MATTRESS COMMERCIAL VOLUME PROGRAM

NO-COST MATTRESS RECYCLING FOR BUSINESSES



Overview

The Mattress Recycling Council's Bye Bye Mattress Program collects more than 1.5 million mattresses for recycling each year from across its program states. Contributing to that success are mattress retailers, hotels, universities, hospitals and other organizations that dispose of many mattresses at once.

The Commercial Volume Program makes it easy for your business to use Bye Bye Mattress to recycle and cut down your transportation and recycling costs too.

The Mattress Recycling Council (MRC) is a nonprofit organization established by the bedding industry to administer and operate the mattress recycling program created by General Law 23.90.

What We Provide

Contact MRC today to receive:

- No-cost recycling services.
- No-cost drop-off at a participating recycler (a minimum required).
- No-cost transportation of collected mattresses to a participating recycler (50 unit minimum required).

Eligibility Requirements

RETAILERS

- Mattress retailers must be registered with MRC, sending the recycling fees and compliant with all provisions of the law to participate.
- To receive no-cost drop-off, must make arrangements with MRC.
- To receive transportation, must have accumulated a minimum of 50 units. Partnering with other local businesses, organizations or allowing public drop-off to reach the minimum is permitted.
- Units must have been used and discarded in Rhode Island.

OTHER COVERED ENTITIES

Hotels & Lodging Facilities
Universities & Educational Institutions
Military Bases
Healthcare
Waste-to-Energy Facilities
Correctional Facilities

- To receive no-cost drop-off, must make arrangements with MRC.
- To receive transportation, must have accumulated a minimum of 50 units. Partnering with other local businesses, organizations or allowing public drop-off to reach the minimum is permitted.
- Units must have been used and discarded in Rhode Island.
- When purchasing new units, the vendor must be collecting and sending the recycling fee.

COMMERCIAL VOLUME PROGRAM CONTACT:
Dan McGowan: (860) 830-3832, dmcgowan@mattressrecyclingcouncil.org
Or visit ByeByeMattress.com/Commercial-Recycling for details.




RHODE ISLAND

COMMERCIAL VOLUME PROGRAM

COMMERCIAL VOLUME PROGRAM CONTACT:
Dan McGowan: (860) 830-3832, dmcgowan@mattressrecyclingcouncil.org



Participation Requirements

- Complete registration form and return it no later than 14 days prior to desired pickup or drop-off date. Obtain registration form by contacting MRC.
- Follow the Commercial Volume Guidelines.
- Provide a collection area that is capable of allowing access to a 53-foot trailer.
- Keep collected units dry.
- Provide a minimum of two staff to load units into the provided trailer.

Ineligible Items

- Units from out of state sources.
- Units infested with bed bugs or other living organisms.
- Severely damaged, twisted, wet, frozen or soiled units.

Unacceptable Items

- Adjustable bases not covered in toling or fabric.
- Air mattresses that contain no upholstery material (such as camping beds).
- Car beds.
- Collapsible roll-away beds.
- Fold-out sofa beds.
- Furniture.
- Juvenile products, including: cribs, bassinets, strollers, playpens, infant carriers, lounge pad, crib bumpers.
- Loose bedding, blankets or sheets.
- Mattress pads and toppers.
- Metal bed frames.
- Pillows and cushions.
- Sleeping bags.
- Water beds.

Frequently Asked Questions

What if I do not have 50 units to discard?
MRC requires a minimum of 50 units to receive transportation. A participant may partner with nearby retailers or other covered entities, or allow the public to drop off units at the site in order to reach the minimum. A participant may also drop off units at a participating recycler. Contact MRC for details.

Can I store mattresses until I have the 50 minimum unit amount?
Yes. Mattresses must be stored in a location where they remain clean and dry. Contact MRC for transportation options.

Will MRC assist in loading trailers?
No. It is the responsibility of the participant to load the trailer. Participants are required to provide a minimum of two staff members to load units into the provided truck within two hours.

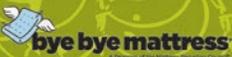
How long do I have to load the trailer?
Two hours are allocated to load the trailer. If more time is needed, contact MRC to discuss alternate solutions.

Where will the mattresses be taken?
The mattresses will be taken to an MRC-contracted recycler.

Will I receive documentation for recycling mattresses?
MRC's transporter will provide a Bill of Lading document, the shipment. Keep a copy for your records.

Can I recycle mattress related items?
No. Only eligible mattresses and box springs are accepted. See Ineligible and Unacceptable Items section above.

Can I recycle mattresses that are infested with bed bugs, damaged, wet, twisted, frozen, or heavily soiled?
No. Mattresses in these conditions should be disposed of as solid waste at the participant's expense.




the guide

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



SIX MILLION MATTRESSES RECYCLED & COUNTING



We are proud of the work we are doing: recycling mattresses, keeping valuable material out of the waste stream and making a real difference in our program states.




Learn more: MattressRecyclingCouncil.org

WE ARE TAKING A LOAD OFF OF RETAILERS.



If you operate in California, Connecticut or Rhode Island, we can recycle the old mattresses you've taken back from your customers. Ask us how to receive no-cost recycling and transportation of your collected units.



To learn more, visit ByeByeMattress.com/Commercial-Recycling

Lodging Establishments

GOAL:

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



NEARLY ACHIEVED – As of June 30, 2020, the program recycled 905 units from these entities. Thirty lodging establishments are currently registered with MRC, an increase of three 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, 2020, 30 lodging establishments were registered with the program. Of those, three hotels were new registrants. Nine hotels used the program during the reporting period to recycle 905 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. Additionally, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the tourism and lodging industry may result in more lodging establishments postponing renovations and mattress purchases.

TABLE 2: UNITS COLLECTED FROM LODGING ESTABLISHMENTS DURING REPORTING PERIOD

Reporting Period (July 1 - June 30)	UNITS COLLECTED
2017-2018	1,350
2018-2019	922
2019-2020	905

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 and evaluated mattress composition to determine the recyclability of the discarded units. We remain in contact with the Rhode Island Department of Corrections.

METHODS:

MRC continues to encourage Rhode Island's Department of Corrections to recycle its discarded mattresses. The Department has expressed interest in the program but has not yet registered to participate.

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 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 (which coincides with the state's 2019 fiscal year).



ACHIEVED - 10 healthcare facilities joined the program this reporting period increasing the grand total of participating facilities to 21 - a 91% increase. 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.

MRC is encouraged by the substantial increase in both registered healthcare facilities and units recycled during this reporting period. Most of this growth is a result of participation by assisted living facilities. However, MRC does not anticipate this amount of growth in the future as many healthcare facilities have been hesitant 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
2017-2018	73
2018-2019	201
2019-2020	757

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 1,512 units from seven of the eight participating educational facilities registered with the program, a 10% increase from 1,368 units collected in fiscal year 2019.

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 continued to provide support to university off-campus collection events during this reporting period. Providence College students living in off-campus apartments recycled 189 mattresses over a four week period. A scheduled collection event for University of Rhode Island students living in off-campus housing in the town of Narragansett was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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 used the program once during this reporting period.

METHODS:

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

Naval Station Newport regularly uses the program to recycle mattresses from on-base housing complexes. It has recycled 523 discarded mattresses since the program launched. MRC will continue to maintain a relationship with the naval station and assist it with recycling discarded mattresses.

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 99 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 6,946 units through the program. MRC also recruited 13 new registrants consisting of property management, 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	7
Property Management	48
Small Commercial Haulers	38
Housing Authorities	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, 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 its educational and outreach materials.



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

GOAL:

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

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, MRC’s scheduled survey of Rhode Island residents (April 2020) was postponed.

METHODS:

As described in the previous **Education & Outreach** section, 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, site visits and community and industry events. Nearly every Rhode Island municipality is participating in the program and MRC already achieved or is on pace to achieve the goals related to covered entity participation.

MRC intended to measure consumer awareness in April 2020. However, at the time

MRC was scheduled to conduct the survey, the COVID-19 pandemic had just begun. With local governments and businesses grappling with how to respond and residents figuring out how to adjust their daily life in this chaotic situation, MRC elected to postpone until 2021.

MRC will continue to use established communication and marketing methods to build awareness of the Bye Bye Mattress program among consumers and the mattress industry.

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:

- i. Municipal and/or transfer stations;
- ii. Retailers; and
- iii. 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 in Table 5.

§ 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	1,738.8
Retailers	176.1
All other covered entities	355.3
TOTAL DIVERTED FOR RECYCLING	2,270.1

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, nor Rhode Island commodities from those from out-of-state mattresses. 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 2019-2020 REPORTING PERIOD

MATERIALS RECYCLED*	WEIGHT(Tons)
Steel	678.6
Foam	147.0
Quilts & Toppers	82.4
Cotton	0
Other	5.4
Wood	317.2
Cardboard	19.3
Plastics	21.6
TOTAL MATERIALS RECYCLED	1,271.5

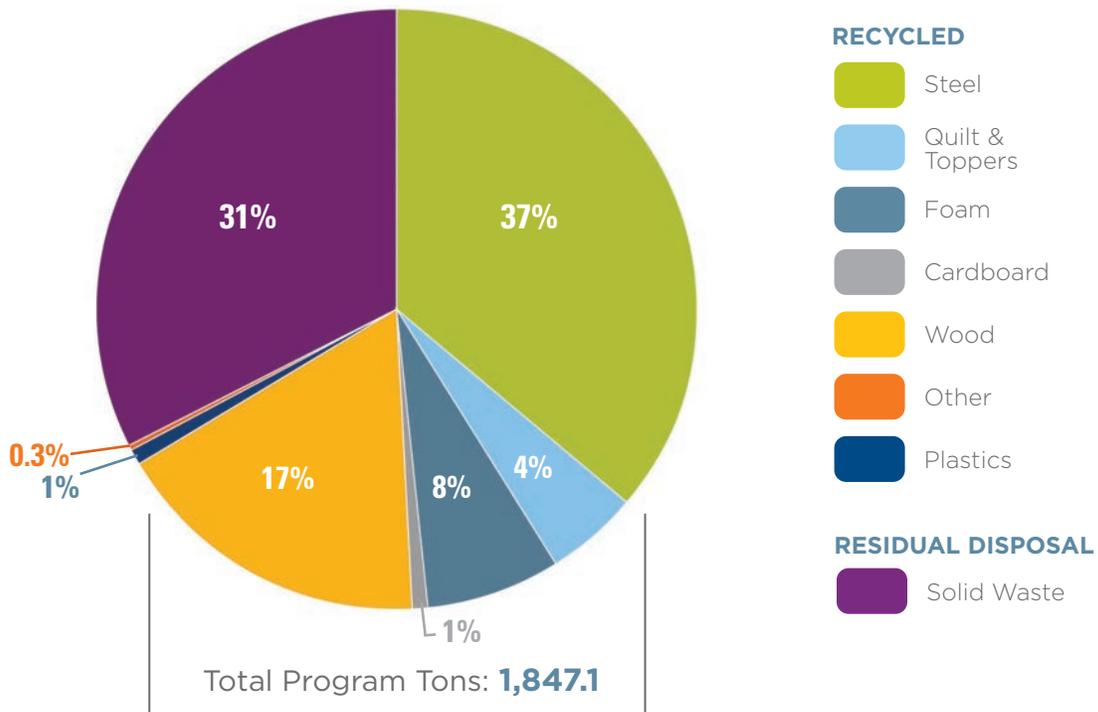
*These categories represent outbound shipments of materials recycled but do not include unprocessed units or recyclable material in inventory.

§ 23-90-5(j)(5) of the law requires MRC to report the weight of mattresses, or parts thereof, sent for disposal at each of the following:

- i. Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation; and
- ii. Any other facilities

TABLE 7: WEIGHT OF MATERIAL SENT TO DISPOSAL BY SOURCE DURING 2019-2020 REPORTING PERIOD

SOURCE	WEIGHT (Tons)
RIRRC	62.0
Any other facility	513.6
TOTAL RESIDUAL MATERIAL	575.6



During the reporting period, MRC recyclers achieved a 69% recycling rate.

TABLE 8: AMOUNT OF MATERIAL BY DISPOSITION DURING 2019-2020 REPORTING PERIOD

DISPOSITION	WEIGHT (Tons)	PERCENTAGE
Material Recycled	1,271.5	69%
Material Disposed	575.6	31%
TOTAL	1,847.1	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 of the polypropylene fiber encasing the coils, amounting to 8% to 10% of the material's weight. As a result, some recyclers disposed of their pocketed coils because they could not find steel scrap recyclers willing to accept the coils.

MRC is taking meaningful steps to increase the recycling rate and recyclability of a mattress. The following describes the research activities and projects that may benefit Rhode Island.

RESEARCH AND SUSTAINABILITY

MRC seeks to improve the sustainability of mattress recycling by:

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

To assist in developing and managing its research efforts, MRC is working with experienced contractors on a variety of projects. 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 multiyear horizons.

MRC's research efforts identify one or more innovative organizations that are qualified to undertake defined projects contingent on established, structured, milestone-driven contracts with metrics structured to:

- Reward learning
- Encourage taking and managing risks
- Encourage collaboration
- Meet project milestones
- Produce 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 discarded mattresses 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 mattress components and in theory, both the steel and the polypropylene fiber are recyclable. But at present, it is impractical for individual recyclers to manually or mechanically 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 is seeking a long-term solution to the problem in the form of one or more practical separation technologies. MRC began the process by discussing technical challenges with manufacturers of pocketed coils and recycling equipment. Based on this input, MRC awarded a contract to Knoble Design in 2019 to develop a low-cost, automated machine which efficiently separates the metal coils from the pockets without destroying either material. Preliminary studies found it feasible to process pocketed coils efficiently at a rate sufficient to handle the output of a typical recycler and generate both clean steel and polypropylene fiber.

The research project will conclude in 2020, with a fully automated prototype machine expected to be ready for field demonstration.

FUTURE AREAS OF INTEREST

Battery and Superconductor Exploratory Study: A significant challenge to increasing the use of electric vehicles and renewable energy (e.g., solar and wind power) is low-cost energy storage options. High surface area carbon electrode materials are critical components of superior-performance, low-cost batteries that have high energy density and long-term stability. Manufacturing these electrodes requires large volumes of low-cost carbon, and demand for these materials is growing exponentially.

In early 2020, MRC launched a project with the Kansas Polymer Research Center to explore whether recovered mattress materials could be used to manufacture electrodes. The Center has developed and patented carbon electrode manufacturing technologies using bio-waste and scrap wood. A mattress is made from many carbon containing components (e.g., shoddy, cotton, foam, wood, ticking, etc.). The Center is testing whether these materials could provide a large volume, consistent and high-quality source of carbon for carbon electrodes. Early results are promising. The study will conclude in early 2021.

Analysis of Metals Recovered from Mattress Recycling Processes: Some scrap metal recyclers have noted that the hardness of steel obtained from mattress recyclers varies, which in some cases has caused difficulties in downstream processing. In 2020, MRC tested the metallic composition and hardness of the mix of conventional innerspring units, pocketed coils, foundation wire and staples being processed by recyclers today. Recyclers can use this information to determine whether it is advantageous to segregate different types and qualities of steel prior to sale to scrap dealers. Analytical results are posted on [MattressRecyclingCouncil.org](https://mattressrecyclingcouncil.org)..

Development of Mattress Fluff End Uses with Alternative Recycling Processes: Some mattress recyclers in other countries are shredding whole units, removing the metal and recycling the remainder (that is, foam, fiber and fabric, or collectively “fluff”) as an alternative fuel in cement kilns. This approach could be less expensive for Rhode Island mattresses than current manual dismantling methods. MRC is encouraging the development of end use applications for this mixed component material. Analytical results of the fluff material is posted on [MattressRecyclingCouncil.org](https://mattressrecyclingcouncil.org)..

Life Cycle Assessment: MRC is in the initial planning stages of conducting a life cycle assessment (LCA) of mattress recycling processes and end-uses. This study would build on mattress LCA work conducted by UC Santa Barbara in 2012. This in-depth LCA should provide a useful baseline for evaluating the relative environmental impacts of new technologies developed under the research program.

CIRCULAR ECONOMY

In 2019, MRC sought to establish collaborative relationships with industry leaders to initiate discussions about developing a circular economy for mattress materials. In recent years, many durable goods manufacturers and their suppliers have expressed strong interest in developing end-of-life strategies for their products. Our goal is to tap into this pool of expertise, develop relationships and engage in new and meaningful research collaborations.

The challenge of creating circular economies is not unique to mattresses. A central theme in many similar endeavors is to conduct a life cycle analysis (LCA) to establish baseline performance and identify obstacles to achieving a circular economy. In 2020, MRC plans to begin work preparing a life cycle analysis for mattresses to establish baseline performance for common mattress materials processed in current recycling facilities. As part of the LCA process (called the improvement stage), alternative life cycle management approaches are evaluated for potential improvement in environmental performance.

Understanding the environmental impact of recycling processes and new end uses for recovered materials are considered essential steps in creating a circular economy. MRC

associations and consortia, such as the Institute for Scrap Recycling Industries and REMADE. Much of the research being conducted by those groups today is focused on developing process technologies, such as sorting, shredding, separation and baling.

While these are worthwhile endeavors in potentially improving primary recycling efficiency, they do not directly create new market demand for the recovered materials. Fortunately, we have experienced a groundswell of interest from a number of other parties that are interested in exploring new and potentially better uses for post-consumer mattress materials, which is an encouraging sign.

In 2019, MRC entered into an agreement with Covestro, a global manufacturer of, among other things, polyurethane chemicals used to make mattress foams. Under this agreement, both parties are pooling resources to lay the foundation for a number of projects, including developing commercially and environmentally viable solutions for converting post-consumer flexible foam into a wide array of useful products, potentially including “closed-loop” flexible foam (that is, converting used foam back to its chemical constituents and using those chemicals to make new foam).

GASIFICATION AND PYROLYSIS

Gasification is a process by which mixed plastics and organics are converted to either fuels or useful chemicals in the presence of oxygen. Pyrolysis, by contrast, involves a similar conversion without oxygen. In 2019 and 2020, MRC continued to monitor developments in this area for the purpose of assessing whether the technology could be applicable for difficult to recycle materials. Collaborative discussions were held with experts and industry leaders who have made significant investments in this technology platform.

The economic viability of these processes may improve as a result of China’s well-documented policy change that significantly reduced its global purchases of recycled material. This development forced U.S. recyclers to seek alternative markets for their materials and ultimately prompted renewed interest in establishing new domestic pyrolysis and gasification capacity. In the past year, several significant developments were noted. In January 2019, the Alliance Against Plastic Waste was founded with support of several global materials manufacturers. A key part of this consortium’s mission is to advance technologies which address the end life of single-use plastics. Gasification and pyrolysis technologies are potential solutions. Process research and development thereby received renewed interest and significantly increased funding.

However, pyrolysis and gasification facilities also faced considerable economic headwinds due largely to softening demand for their outputs and falling oil prices. Some facilities closed, overall capital investment has declined, and financial community reviews are mixed. In a 2016 report, Mackenzie reported that gasification technologies

are on the cusp of long-term sustainable growth driven by transformative increases in plastics recycling.² By contrast, GAIA's 2017 technology risk assessment was far less favorable indicating the risks were much higher than proponents claim.³

In consultation with technical experts, we learned that a significant number of developers have changed focus away from waste-to-fuel production toward waste-to-chemical production. The main logic behind this shift is that chemicals will generate higher margins and be less susceptible to energy market price volatility. With this shift comes a new set of challenges. Foremost is that greater feedstock consistency is required to operate waste-to-chemical facilities efficiently. For several technical reasons, waste-to-chemical facilities also are engineered to deliver smaller volume outputs.

MRC sees these as potentially favorable developments. Recovered mattress materials represent a consistent quality feedstock that could be economically converted to useful chemicals in these types of facilities. Smaller capacity facilities are also more amenable to matching mattress recyclers' output capacity. Formidable technical challenges remain but we see enough potential to continue monitoring developments in this field.

MRC has refrained from directly funding research projects in this area. At this point, even though advancements have been made, technical risk is still considered high. The potential benefits are also longer term. Recently, we have been invited to participate in some feasibility studies funded by others. While MRC is not funding or actively participating in these studies, we are communicating with these researchers to learn and collaborate on efforts that support our circular economy objectives. With these and other emerging technologies, MRC will continue to proactively engage the innovation community and support research as opportunities present themselves.

² <https://www.mckinsey.com/industries/chemicals/our-insights/how-plastics-waste-recycling-could-transform-the-chemical-industry#>

³ <https://www.no-burn.org/wp-content/uploads/Waste-Gasification-and-Pyrolysis-high-risk-low-yield-processes-march-2017.pdf>



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHANGE

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHANGE

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



APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: REGISTERED PRODUCERS

PRODUCERS

AUGUST 1, 2020

ACCOUNT

airweave, LLC
Alessanderx Spa
Allied Aerofoam LLC
American Pacific Plastic Fabricators, Inc.
AMF Support Surfaces Inc.
Anodyne Medical Device, 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.
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. Klufft & Company LLC
Eastern Sleep Products Co. Inc.
Eco Bedroom Solutions LLC
Elite Foam, Inc.
Engineered Sleep LLC
Ergomotion, Inc.
Ethan Allen Retail, Inc.
Eve Sleep, Inc.
Exel, 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.

DBA

airweave
Alessanderx Spa
Allied Aerofoam LLC
Sterling Sleep Systems
Restex
Tridien Medical
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.
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 Industries, Inc.
Spring Air
Aireloom Mattress
Symbol Mattress
Ergovea Natural Mattress
Elite Foam, Inc.
Engineered Sleep LLC
Ergomotion, Inc.
Ethan Allen
Eve Sleep, Inc.
Exel, 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.

PRODUCERS CONT.

ACCOUNT

Hammer Bedding Corp.
Health Care Co. Ltd
Hickory Springs Manufacturing Company
Hickory Springs of California, LLC
Hill-Rom, Inc.
IKEA Supply AG
Inncor, Inc.
Innocor, Inc.
Innovative Bedding Solutions, Inc.
Invacare Corporation
Jeffco Fibres, Inc.
Jiaxing Taien Springs Co., LTD
Joerns Healthcare, LLC
Jussi Beds
Keetsa, Inc.
Kingsdown, Inc.
Klaussner Home Furnishings, Inc.
Latex Foam International, LLC
Leggett & Platt, Inc.
Linon Home Decor Products, Inc.
Lippert Components, Inc.
Live and Sleep LLC
Magniflex USA LTD
Mantua Manufacturing Company
Medical Depot, Inc.
Medline Industries, Inc.
MFL, Inc.
Michael Thomas Furniture, Inc.
Moonlight Slumber, LLC
Naturally Beds, Inc.
Nature Sleep System LLC
New England Bedding Transport, Inc.
Nipponflex LLC
Nitori USA, Inc.
Norix Group, Inc.
Norix Group, Inc.
Northeast Mattress LLC
Oddello Industries LLC
Organic Mattresses, Inc.
Pacific Urethanes LLC
Paramount Industrial Cos., Inc.
PPJ LLC
Pragma Corporation
PranaSleep LLC
Prestige Fabricators, Inc.
Progressive Products, Inc.
Puffy LLC
Purple Innovation LLC
Rest Easy LLC
Rest-Medic Sleep Products
Restmore, LLC.
Restwell Mattress Co.
Revive Sleep, Inc.
Safavieh International LLC
Safe For Home Products LLC
SBL LLC
Seahawk Designs, Inc.
Sealy Mattress Manufacturing Company LLC

DBA

Shifman Mattress
Health Care Co. Ltd
HSM
HSM
Hill-Rom Company, Inc.; Hill-Rom Holdings, Inc.; Hill-Rom DTC, Inc.
IKEA
Sleep Innovations, Inc.
Innocor Comfort
IBS
Invacare Corporation
Jeffco Fibres, Inc.
Jiaxing Taien Springs Co., LTD
Joerns Healthcare
Colet & Scandinavian Bed Company & Carpe Diem
Keetsa
Kingsdown, Inc.
Enso Sleep Systems
Talalay Global
Leggett & Platt, Inc.
Linon Home Decor Products, Inc.
Lippert Components, Inc.
Live and Sleep
Magniflex USA LTD
Rize
Dri. Medical Design and Manufacturing
Medical Device Manufacturer and Distributor
MFL, Inc.
The MT Company
University Sleep Products
Arizona Premium Mattress
Jazvin
New England Bedding Transport, Inc.
Nipponflex LLC
Aki Home
Norix Furniture
Norix Group, Inc.
Northeast Mattress LLC
Oddello Industries LLC
Organic Mattresses, Inc.
Pacific Urethanes
Paramount Sleep
Customatic Adjustable Bedz
Pragma Corporation
PranaSleep
Prestige Fabricators, Inc.
Progressive Products, Inc.
Puffy Mattress
Purple
Pacific Mattress Co.
Rest-Medic Sleep Products/Luen Tai Global Ltd
Restmore
Restwell Mattress Factory
Revive Sleep
Safavieh
Naturepedic
SBI LLC
Seahawk Designs, Inc.
Sealy Mattress Manufacturing Company

AUGUST 1, 2020

PRODUCERS CONT.

AUGUST 1, 2020

ACCOUNT

Select Comfort Retail Corporation
Select Comfort SC Corporation
Serta Simmons Bedding LLC
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
Solstisce Sleep Products, Inc.
Sommex Bedding Corporation
Somnium, Inc.
South Bay International, Inc.
Span America Medical Systems, Inc.
Spring Coil of the USA LLC
State of Connecticut
Suite Sleep, Inc.
Switlik Parachute Company, Inc.
Technogel US, Inc.
Tempur Sealy International, Inc.
Thanepohn Corp
The Bedding Group Inc.
The House Of The Foaming Case, Inc.
Therapedic of New England LLC
Ultracomfort, Inc.
University Loft Company
Ureblock S.A. DE C.V.
Venture Products LLC
Vinyl Products Mfg., Inc.
Vispring Limited
Vi-Spring Llimited
Washabelle LLC
Werner Media Partners LLC
White Dover Mattress LTD
Woodhaven Furniture Industries
Xpress Sweeping, Inc.
Yaasa Studios, Inc.
Zhejiang Alright Home Textiles Co., LTD

DBA

Sleep Number
Comfortaire
Serta and Simmons
Luen Tai Global LTD
Luen Tai Global LTD
Sleep on Latex
Sinomax USA, Inc.
Authentic Comfort
Sleeping Pure
Sleeptek MFG Limited
Solstice Sleep Products, Inc.
Sommex Bedding Corporation
Somnium, Inc.
South Bay International, Inc.
Span America Medical Systems
Comfort Bedding of the USA LLC
Correctional Enterprises of Connecticut
Suite Sleep
SWITLIK Comfort Technology
Technogel US
Tempurpedic, Tempur, Sealy, Stearns & Foster
Mattress Mill
The Bedding Group Inc.
Orthosleep Products
Therapedic of New England
Qomfort
University Loft Company
Ureblock
Venture Products LLC
Vinyl Products Mfg., Inc.
Vispring Limited
Vispring
Washabelle LLC
Ghostbed
White Dover Mattress LTD
Woodhaven Furniture Industries
Xpress Sweeping, Inc.
Yaasa Studios, Inc.
Zhejiang Alright Home Textiles Co., LTD

APPENDIX A: REGISTERED BRANDS

BRANDS

AUGUST 1, 2020

12 Park
7" Paragon 12-SLAT FDN
9" Contract 12-SLAT FDN 7524
Accor Box Cover FR 28-4215
Ace Hotel Mattress
Aireloom
airweave
American National Manufacturing, Inc.
Ananda
Anew
Ascent
Authentic Comfort
Barclay Butera Lifestyle Bedding
Baseplate 7" Paragon 12-SLAT FDN
BedInABox
bigolbed
Bio Sleep Concept
Biofresh
Blissful Nights
Body Flex
Body Solutions
Boyd Mattresses
Brentwood Home
Broyhill Mattresses
Capital Bedding, Inc.
Carpe Diem
Childrens Products LLC
Christeli
ComforPedic
ComforPedic Loft
Comfort Bedding
Comfort Dreams
Comfort Revolution
Comfort Shield
ComfortSpring PLUS
ComfortSpring™
Concerto II 800 Plush
Corsicana Operating Co. LLC
Cradlesoft
Crosstex Innerspring Mattress
Custody
Customatic
Denver Mattress
Denver Mattress Hospitality
Dream Bed
Dream Rest
Duratex Innerspring Mattress
Eclipse
Eco
Econotex Innerspring Mattress
Engineered Sleep
ENSO
EnviroSpring™

Ergovea
Essential
Ethan Allen
Evaya
Eve Mattress
Flame Chek
Flame Chek Foam
Flame Chek Supreme
Flame Chek Ultra
Flex-A-Bed High-Low
Flex-A-Bed Premier
Flex-A-Bed Value Flex
Foam Craft Divisoin of Future Foam, Inc.
Foxy Products Corp.
G6 Premium
G6 Ultra Plush
Geo-comfort
Geo-gel
Ghost Bed
Ghostbed
Grande Hotel
Helix Sleep
Hotel
IKEA
Invacare
Jamison
Jazvin
Jordan's
Jussi
Karma by PranaSleep
Keetsa
King Koil
Kingsdown
Kluft
Lady American SW
Lifekind
linenspa.com
LinenSpa®
Lion Home Décor
Little Lamb Organics
Live and Sleep
Lotus by PranaSleep
LUCID®
lucidmattress.com
Luft
Lumex
Luuf
Luxury Sleep
Luxury Solutions
Maderite Bedding Co.
Magniflex
Mattress Mill
Maximum Security

BRANDS CONT.

AUGUST 1, 2020

MFL, Inc.
Michael Thomas Furniture
micoAIR
Miles Talbott Furniture
Nipponflex Smart Care,
Nipponflex Smart Flex
Nipponflex Smart Springs
Obasan
Om by PranaSleep
Oxygen CG200
Pacific Mattress
Paragon Plush
Park View Plush
Posh and Lavish
PragmaBed
PranaSleep
Puffy
Pure Green Natural Latex Mattress
Pure Sleep
Purple
Qomfort
Reguvigel
Relax the Back
Remedy
Rescue
Resort Collection
Resort Mattress Collection
Resort Sleep
Restex Mattress Line
Rize
Sealy
Select Comfort SC Corporation - Comfortaire
Sentech, Sleep Assure
Serenia Sleep
Silver Rest
Simmons Juvenile Furniture
Simmons Kids
Sleep Creations
Sleep Love
Sleep Studio
SleepFresh
Sleeptek
Slumber Perfect
Slumber Solutions
Snuggle
Softform
Solace
Somnium
somnum®
Sterling Sleep Systems
STO-A-WAY Mattress Foundation
Suite Dreams
Suite Essentials
Supertex foam mattress
Thomasville Mattresses
Ultratex Foam Mattress
University Sleep Products' Enhanced Style B Mattress
University Sleep Products' Enhanced Style C Mattress

University Sleep Products' Style D Mattress
ValeoEco
ValueLine
Valuetex Innerspring Mattress
Veridian
ViscoFresh
Vispring
Washabelle
Wellsville®
Westwood II Plush
Westwood Plush

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 DPW	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 DPW	1 Lincoln Cir.	North Scituate	Drop-off for residents up to 3 units
Town of North Smithfield Highway Garage	281 Quaker Hwy.	North Smithfield	Drop-off for residents up to 3 units
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 DPW	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 DPW	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 DPW	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 Blackstone Valley Regional Transfer Station	65 Halsey St. 240 Grotto Ave.	Newport Pawtucket	Drop-off for Newport residents up to 3 units Drop-off for Central Falls, Pawtucket and Providence residents up to 3 units
WM - Cranston	Curbside pickup by appointment	Cranston	For WM 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	12 Industrial Rd.	Milford, MA	No public drop-off
Willimantic Waste	185 Recycling Way	Windham, CT	No public drop-off

COLLECTION EVENTS

SITE	ADDRESS	CITY	DATE
Middletown at Sachuest (AKA Second) Beach	474 Sachuest Point Rd.	Middletown	9/21/19, 11/19/19
Town of Smithfield Dept. of Public Works	3 Spragueville Rd.	Smithfield	7/20/19, 11/2/19, 3/14/20

APPENDIX C: STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH

JULY 1, 2019 - JUNE 30, 2020

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	STAKEHOLDER GROUP
7/25/19	Talalay Global Tour	Shelton, CT	Mattress Industry
7/28 - 8/2/19	Las Vegas Summer Market	Las Vegas, NV	Mattress Industry
8/6/19	EPA Region 1	Email	Healthcare Facilities
9/1/19	European Bedding Industry Association	Webinar	Mattress Industry & End Markets
10/7/19	Polyurethane Annual Conference	Orlando, FL	End Markets
10/29 - 10/30/19	Northeast Recycling Council Fall Conference	Providence, RI	Waste & Recycling Industry
10/31/19	PERC WTE	Orrington, ME	Waste & Recycling Industry
11/7/19	Bed Bug Forum	New Haven, CT	Collection Sites & Recyclers
11/15/19	EPA's America Recycles Day Summit	Washington, DC	Environmental, Waste & Recycling, End Markets
1/26 - 1/30/20	Las Vegas Winter Market	Las Vegas, NV	Mattress Industry
2/2 - 2/4/20	Northeast Furniture & Accessories Market	Edison, NJ	Mattress Industry
2/11 - 2/14/20	Keep America Beautiful National Conference	Memphis, TN	Environmental, Waste & Recycling
2/13/20	Hospital Association of Rhode Island	Email	Healthcare Facilities
2/25 - 2/26/20	SWANA	Portland, ME	Waste & Recycling Industry
3/27/20	COVID-19 Resources Roundtable	Conference Call	Waste & Recycling Industry
4/9/20	COVID-19 Resources Roundtable	Conference Call	Waste & Recycling Industry
4/15/20	COVID-19 Recycling Facilities Best Practices	Conference Call	Waste & Recycling Industry
4/23/20	COVID-19 Resources Roundtable	Conference Call	Waste & Recycling Industry
4/23/20	EPA Sustainable Materials Management	Webinar	Waste & Recycling Industry
5/28/20	COVID-19 Resources Roundtable	Webinar	Waste & Recycling Industry
6/18/20	Seasonal Reminder 2020	Email	Collection Sites & Recyclers

APPENDIX D: PUBLIC EDUCATION MATERIALS

INFO CARDS

**byebye,
mattress.**

**That recycling fee supports a
statewide mattress recycling program.**

The recycling fee listed on your receipt, which is required by law for each mattress and box spring sold, supports the statewide mattress recycling program known as Bye Bye Mattress.

The Program allows any mattress or box spring, regardless of date of purchase, to be dropped off at no-cost at a participating collection location, event or recycling facility.

Retailers may also use the Program. If you're having a new mattress delivered, ask them to take back your old one. The fees they may charge for delivery or set-up will still apply.

When mattresses and box springs are recycled they are dismantled. The steel, foam, fiber and wood become other products such as carpet padding or industrial filters.

**Find your nearest drop-off location
or learn more about the fee and
how the Program works at**

 **byebyemattress.com**
A Program of the Mattress Recycling Council

**Or contact us at info@byebyemattress.com
or 1-855-700-9973**

**byebye,
mattress.**

**El cargo de reciclado financia un programa
de reciclado de colchones a nivel estatal.**

El cargo de reciclado mencionado en su recibo, el cual es exigido por la ley para cada colchón y base de resortes vendidos, financia el programa de reciclado de colchones estatal conocido como Bye Bye Mattress.

El programa permite que cualquier colchón o base de resortes, independientemente de la fecha de compra, se pueda dejar sin costo en un punto de recolección, evento o centro de reciclaje participante.

Los vendedores minoristas también pueden utilizar el programa. Si le van a entregar un colchón nuevo, puede pedir que se lleven el viejo. Los cargos que le pueden cobrar por la entrega o el armado siguen aplicándose.

Cuando los colchones y bases de resortes se reciclan, se desarmen. El acero, espuma, fibra y madera se convierten en otros productos como fieltro o filtros industriales.

**Encuentre el punto de entrega más cercano u
obtenga más información sobre el cargo y
el funcionamiento del programa en**

 **byebyemattress.com**
A Program of the Mattress Recycling Council

**O póngase en contacto con nosotros a
info@byebyemattress.com o al 1-855-700-9973**

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 —

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.



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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!**



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