

The Sustainable Materials Management Webinar Series

Mattress Recycling in the United States

Tuesday November 18, 2014/1:30 – 2:45PM ET

Presenters: Ryan Trainer & Chris Hudgins,
International Sleep Products Association -
Mattress Recycling Council





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Mattress Recycling in the United States

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The Mattress Industry



- ISPA was formed in 1915 by 39 mattress manufacturers and serves as the voice of the mattress industry
- About 95% of US mattress manufacturers are small businesses
- 90% of mattresses are assembled domestically
- Roughly 35 – 40 million units are sold annually in the U.S.
- Approximately 20 million units are disposed of annually



A municipality, retailer or consumer takes them to a:

- Landfill
- Waste-to-energy facility
- Recycler

Abandoned or
illegally dumped



Sent to a renovator



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Mattress Recycling

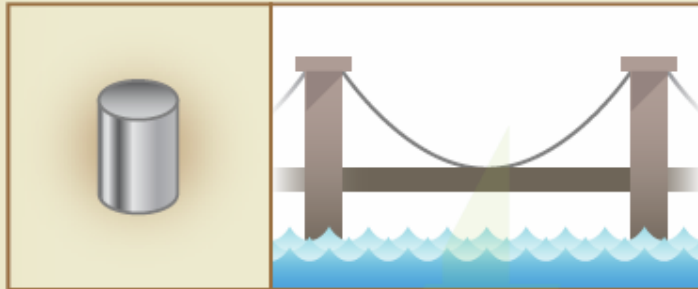
- 30+ mattress recyclers in U.S.
- Many are non-profit organizations or partnerships
- Most use manual labor to dismantle the mattress
- Processing fees range from \$5 to \$50/unit



“The Stripper”



STEEL



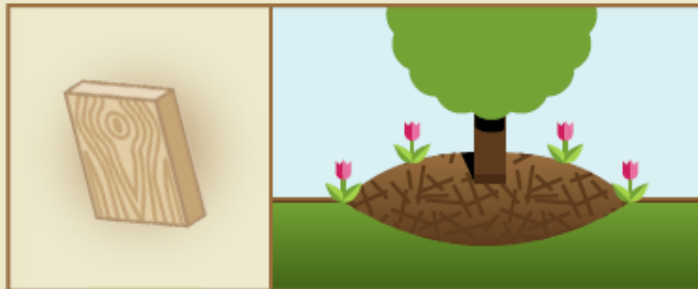
Mattress springs are valuable steel that is melted and remade into any number of products.

FOAM



Mattress foam is processed into carpet underlay.

WOOD



Wood can be used to make mulch.

FIBER



Fiber is reprocessed and used to create filters for industrial equipment.





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Mattress Recycling Laws



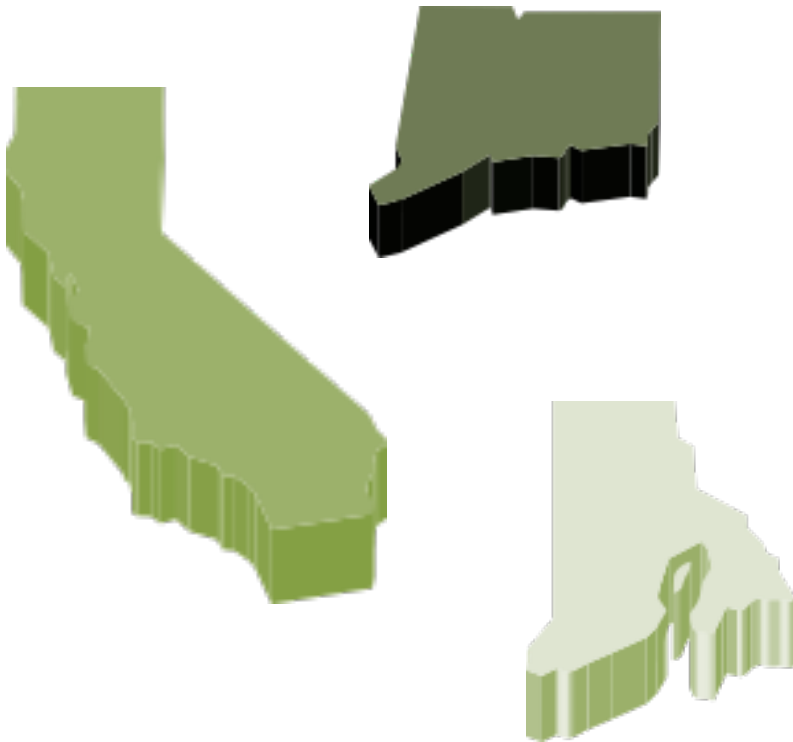
- In 2013, ISPA worked with lawmakers, state and city officials and environmental groups to pass mattress recycling legislation in California, Connecticut & Rhode Island.
- ISPA supported these laws because they include a **visible, point-of-sale fee** to fund a mattress recycling program



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Mattress Recycling Laws



- Mattress Recycling Council (MRC)
- National, industry created non-profit organization
- Tasked with designing, implementing and administering mattress recycling programs in states with such laws
- Each state has its own program
- www.mattressrecyclingcouncil.org



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Program Requirements

- Provide for management of discarded mattresses
- Funded by the organization using fee revenues
- Provide collection or receipt of mattresses from municipal waste sites, retailers, bulk generators
 - Participation is voluntary!
- Develop an education program
- Issue annual reports to regulators



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How does the program work?

- Mattress recycling fee is established by MRC and approved by state regulators
- Retailers charge the fee on each mattress unit sold in the state
- The fee is remitted to MRC
- MRC contracts with recyclers, transporters and collectors to facilitate mattress recycling
- MRC uses the fee revenues to pay service providers



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Collection

- Program will use existing collection methods when feasible
- Consumers will continue to use traditional disposal options:
 - Retailer take back with new purchase
 - Transfer station drop-off
 - Municipal curbside collection
- Drop off at designated consolidation points
- Mattresses transported from consolidation sites to recyclers at MRC's expense



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State Plans



Each law requires the industry to submit a mattress recycling plan to state authorities

Connecticut

- Program plan submitted July 2014
- Implementation : Spring 2015

Rhode Island

- Program plan due July 2015
- Implementation : Spring 2016

California

- Program plan due July 2015
- Implementation : Spring 2016



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- MRC submitted program plan on July 1, 2014
- MRC proposed \$9/unit recycling fee
- Awaiting CT's approval of plan

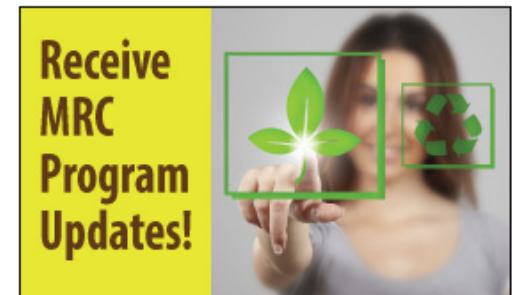


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MRC Implementation Activities for All States

- Registration portal on MRC website
→ www.mattressrecyclingcouncil.org
- Recycling fee remittance process
- Anti-fraud controls
- Consumer & industry outreach





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Next Steps

- Working to implement CA, CT and RI laws
- Holding stakeholder meetings, educational sessions and communicating with affected constituencies
- Expect to launch CT Program Spring 2015
- ISPA is not currently advocating for additional laws



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QUESTIONS?

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