Survey for Used Mattress Management in Connecticut

Preliminary Results & Findings

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SWAC Meeting
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Survey Responses

- Target audience – municipal officials/employees
  - How does your community manage disposal of used mattresses?
- Preliminary data compiled from responses submitted March 23, 2011 to April 6, 2011
- 90 CT municipalities responded so far
  - 53% of the state
  - Good cross-section of small towns, suburban communities and larger cities
Very little, if any, residential recycling of mattresses (those that come through municipal facilities).

Question: Where does your municipality send disposed mattresses?

- Waste to energy facility: 36%
- Bulky/solid waste landfill: 60%
- Recycling center: 4%
Question: How does your municipality cover the cost for mattress disposal?

- Resident Charged Fee: 69%
- Municipal Taxes: 49%
Question: How does your municipality provide for mattress disposal?

- Transfer Station (Fee): 63%
- Transfer Station (No Fee): 22%
- Curbside Collection (Fee): 16%
- Curbside Collection (No Fee): 25%
Survey Question: Give an estimate, or known number, of mattresses disposed every year at:

- a) Transfer Station
- b) Curbside

-Analyzed by matching yearly totals with town population to generate per capita collection rates.

-Preliminary data indicates the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Average Per Capita Rate (mattresses/person/year)</th>
<th>0.025</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State Population (July 2009)</td>
<td>3,518,288</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Collected Per Year Statewide (residential and through municipality)</td>
<td>88,050*</td>
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* Does not include all curbside collections
“Cost of time & equipment to pick up illegally dumped materials and dispose of properly, not to mention lost dumping fees.”

“It causes blight, once residents see a mattress lying on the side of the road they start dumping other bulky items there.”

“It requires staff from public works to collect them and then transfer them to our transfer station. This time erodes into other projects.”

“As the economy flounders and disposal costs to individuals rise I fully expect that illegal dumping will escalate.”
Additional Comments

Product Stewardship

- “It would be nice if the manufacturers had a system of recycling the old ones.”
- “Our town would like to see a mattress take back program in place by all appropriate retailers/ manufacturers, without undue expense placed upon the resident.”

Other Concerns

- “[Mattresses] are problematic when processing them with landfill equipment, so we would prefer there to be alternative options.”
- “During evictions in our city, workers do not want to unload mattresses for health concerns and recent bed bug infestations.”
- “Residents are not happy about paying a separate fee for the disposal of mattresses & box springs.”