MATTRESS RECYCLING COUNCIL (MRC)

CT Solid Waste Advisory Committee Meeting

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What is the MRC?

• Mattress Recycling Council (MRC) was created by International Sleep Products Association (ISPA), the trade association for the mattress industry.

• Non-profit organization tasked with implementing mattress recycling laws in states with supporting legislation. Seeks standardization among states.

• Connecticut, California, Rhode Island
MRC Program Objectives

- Design and implement programs that:
  - Increase number of mattresses recycled
  - Reduce illegal dumping
  - Is efficient and cost effective to minimize consumer recycling fee
  - Recycles mattress components
Mattress Composition

- Urethane and memory foam: strong markets driven by carpet pad re-bonders
- Steel: strong local markets
- Cotton, natural fibers, felt pads: limited domestic markets
- Wood: limited markets in landscaping and mulch
- Non-recyclable: 5-15%
Connecticut Mattress Stewardship Plan

- Submitted to CT DEEP on July 1, 2015
- Program commences 120 days after DEEP approval of the plan; anticipate start date in early 2015
- Blueprint for program implementation
  - Program Fees
  - Covered Entities
  - Mattress Diversion from Source to Recycler
  - Education and Outreach
Program Fees

• Mattress recycling fee of $9.00 per unit proposed by MRC, approved by auditor

• Retailers charge the visible fee on each unit sold in the state

• The fee is remitted to MRC

• MRC uses the fee revenues to pay our service providers
CT MRC Service Providers

Recycling Processors:
• Park City Green, Bridgeport, CT
• Recyc-Mattresses, East Hartford, CT

Haulers/Transporters:
• Winters Brothers
• CWPM
• Willimantic Waste
Covered Entities

- Municipalities & Municipal Transfer Stations
- Mattress Retailers
- Permitted Transfer Stations
- Waste to Energy Facility
- Health Care Facility
- Educational Facility
- Correctional Facility
- Military Base
- Lodging Establishments
Municipal Collection Sites

• 146 permitted municipal transfer stations
• Voluntary participation
• What’s provided by MRC at no cost:
  • Collection containers
  • Transportation from collection site to contracted recycler
  • Mattress recycling services
Municipal Collection Site Guidelines

- Voluntary participation
- Provide secure site for placement of containers
- Provide appropriate equipment to staff handling mattresses
- Use containers to segregate mattresses
- Pack mattresses efficiently in containers
- Keep mattresses dry
- Complete required paperwork to track shipments
- Comply with all permit requirements
Program Materials

Acceptable

- Mattresses or box-springs discarded in Connecticut
Program Materials

Unacceptable Materials

- Severely damaged, twisted, wet, frozen or soiled mattresses
- Mattresses infested with bed bugs or other living organisms
- Juvenile products - playpen, dressing table, crib bumpers, bassinet, etc.
- Sleeping bags, pillows and cushions
- Car beds, water beds
- Camping air mattresses
- Fold-out sofa beds
- Futons and furniture
Other Covered Entities

- MRC provides no-cost transportation and recycling of 50 or more accumulated mattresses and box-springs
- MRC assigns transporter and processor
- Same acceptable and unacceptable program materials for all covered entities
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