

# MATTRESS STEWARDSHIP LEGISLATIVE RATIONALE

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HB930 - Environment – Office of Recycling –  
Mattress Stewardship Program –  
Establishment

# CHALLENGES

- ▶ Used mattresses are bulky, not easily compacted, slow to degrade and mostly disposed of in landfills, along roadsides or by incineration
- ▶ Separating into steel, foam, wood, and fiber produces reusable and recyclable materials
- ▶ Maryland Zero Waste Plan envisions planning for mattresses and other difficult-to-manage items
- ▶ Meaningful entry level employment opportunities for low-skilled, disaffected, homeless, and re-entry populations are limited and needed

# U.S. MATTRESS END-OF-LIFE MARKET

- **35-40 million new mattresses/box-springs/year**
- **100 new products sold generates 50+ discards**
- **Resulting in about 15-20 million discards annually**



## STEEL



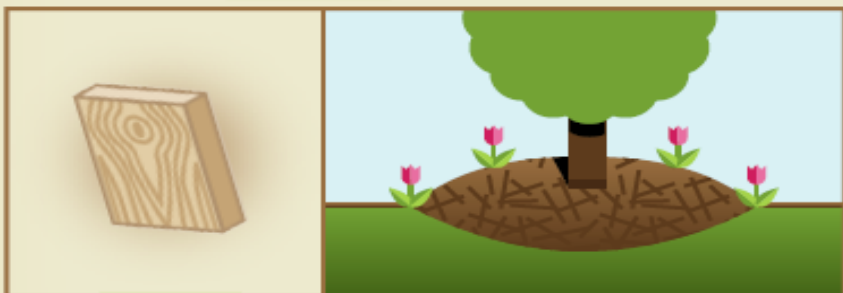
Mattress springs are valuable steel that is melted and remade into any number of products.

## FOAM



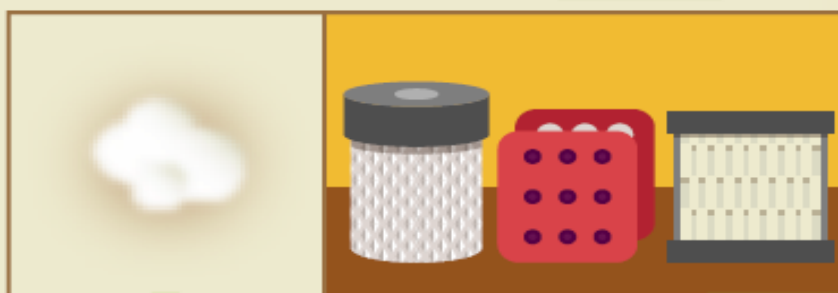
Mattress foam is processed into carpet underlay.

## WOOD



Wood can be used to make mulch.

## FIBER



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

**Mattress End-of-Life Programs  
Can Have Environment,  
Social Service, and Economic  
Benefits**



**DR3 – Divert \* Reduce \* Re-Use \*  
Recycle**

**wholly owned subsidiary of the**

**St. Vincent de Paul Society**

**Oakland CA    Woodland CA  
Eugene OR**

**first financially-viable mattress  
recycling facility and program**

# DR3

St. Vincent de Paul Society

Economic Development Waste  
Diversion Community Reinvestment



- Partners with hotels, universities, local landfills, garbage haulers and transfer stations and uses manual deconstruction
- conserves landfill space
- protects environment
- provides jobs
- Funds services that benefit more than 84,000 low-income, homeless and at-risk individuals

# DR3 - St. Vincent de Paul Society

Oakland CA    Woodland CA    Eugene OR

Started in 2000, today runs three facilities

- Financially viable
- 85 -90% mattress recovery
- Processes over 300,000 mattresses annually
- Diverts 17.8 million pounds from landfill
- Employs 50 people
- Profits benefit more than 84,000 low-income, homeless and at-risk individuals
- Reconstructs mattresses to sell refurbished beds at affordable, used product prices
- Manufactures pet beds from old mattresses





UTEC MATTRESS

RECYCLING

LOWELL, MA

“SOCIO-ECONOMIC SERVICE  
TO HIGH IMPACT YOUTH”



- **Employs at-risk youth**
- **Contracts with municipalities, hotels, schools, universities, assisted living facilities and hospitals**
- **Provides training, job experience, work place skills and teaches environmental values**
- **Picks up, deconstructs, and recycles mattresses**

# SPRING BACK RECYCLING

## BELMONT UNIVERSITY - ENACTUS

NASHVILLE, TN    DENVER, CO    TACOMA, WA

CHARLOTTE, NC    SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

- ▶ A sustainable, economically profitable alternative to landfills.
- ▶ Re-purposes material into familiar products like carpet underlay, insulation, and new metal goods.
- ▶ Recycles 90% of each mattress and provides employment for individuals to “spring back” into society.
- ▶ Receives mattresses from retailers, universities, hotels, government institutions, and individuals.
- ▶ Expanding to other communities.

# BYE BYE MATTRESS

## MATTRESS RECYCLING COUNCIL\*

CALIFORNIA CONNECTICUT RHODE ISLAND

- ▶ State Stewardship Mandated Program
- ▶ Industry Developed and Run
- ▶ Point-of-Purchase Fee (\$9-\$11)
- ▶ Manual and Mechanical Deconstruction
- ▶ Recovered Material Sold
- ▶ Has Stimulated Growth of Contracted Recyclers and Spurred Job Creation

\*a nonprofit formed by the mattress industry to operate recycling programs in states with mattress recycling laws

***With your help, Baltimore County  
can finally put this issue to bed!***

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