

# CHALLENGES

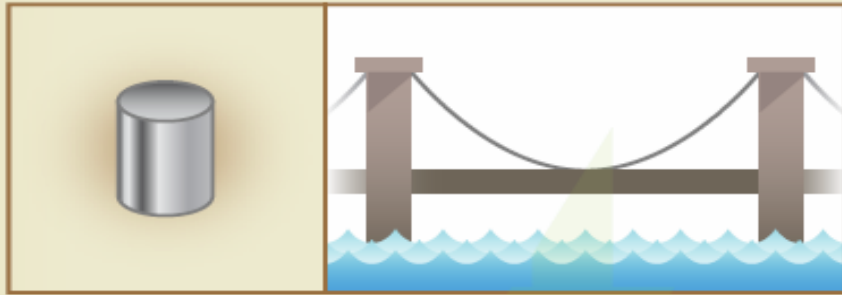
- Used mattresses are bulky are bulky, not easily compacted, slow to degrade and mostly disposed of in landfills, along roadsides or by incineration
- Separating into steel, foam, wood, and fiber produces reusable and recyclable materials
- Maryland Zero Waste Plan envisions planning for mattresses and 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**

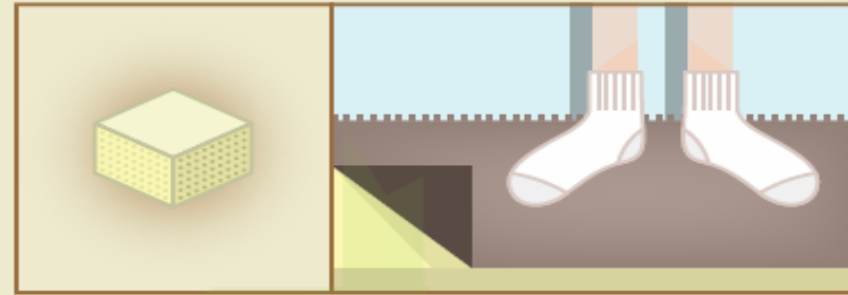


## STEEL



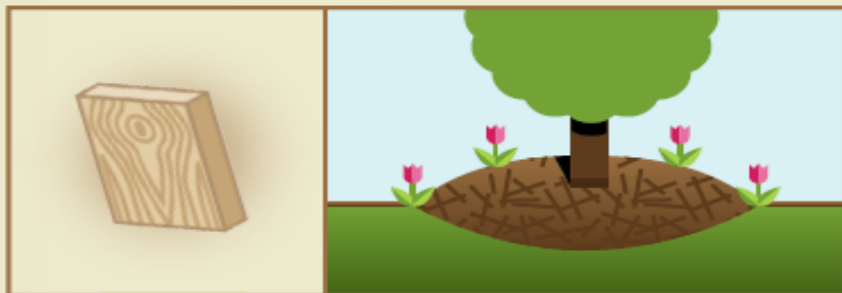
Mattress springs are valuable steel that is melted and remade into any number of products.

## FOAM



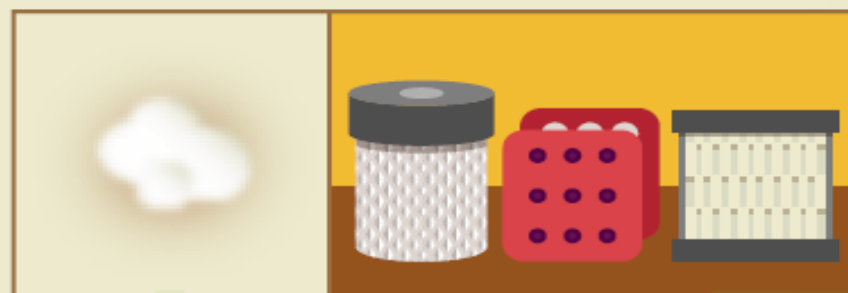
Mattress foam is processed into carpet underlay.

## 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**

**2000 - St. Vincent de Paul Society**  
**Eugene, OR**



**first financially-viable mattress  
recycling facility**

**DR3 (Divert \* Reduce \* Re-Use \* Recycle)**  
wholly owned subsidiary of the St. Vincent de Paul  
Society.

# **DR3 - St. Vincent de Paul Society**

**Oakland CA    Woodland CA    Eugene OR**

- Financially viable**
- 90% recycling rate**
- Processes over 300,000 mattresses annually.**
- Employs 50 people**
- Profits benefit more than 84,000 low-income, homeless and at-risk individuals**
- Reconstructs mattresses to sell refurbished beds at an affordable price**
- Creates pet beds from old mattresses**

**Partners with hotels,  
universities, local landfills,  
garbage haulers and  
transfer stations and uses  
manual deconstruction**

- **recovers 85-90% of  
mattress**
- **conserves landfill space**
- **protects environment**
- **provides jobs**
- **Funds services that  
benefit more than 84,000  
low-income, homeless  
and at-risk individuals**

# **Economic Development Waste Diversion Community Reinvestment**

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





# St. Vincent de Paul Society Eugene, OR



Today three facilities:

- process over 300,000 mattresses annually.
- divert 17.8 million pounds from landfill.
- construct mattresses for sale at used product prices.
- create pet beds from old mattresses.
- employ 500+, many from disadvantage populations.

# **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**

**Nashville, TN   Denver, CO   Tacoma, WA**

**Charlotte, NC   Salt Lake City, Utah**

- **Belmont University Enactus created 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

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