



**California Used Mattress  
Recovery and Recycling Act**

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**What is the MRC?**

- In 2013, California passed SB-254 creating a statewide mattress recycling program
- Mattress Recycling Council (MRC) was created by the International Sleep Products Association (ISPA), the trade association for the mattress industry
- Non-profit with targeted task of implementing recycling laws in states with supporting legislation (CT, CA, RI)
- Certified by, and has oversight by CalRecycle



## Program Objectives

- ✓ Increases the number of mattresses recycled
- ✓ Effectively communicates with consumers
- ✓ Minimize the consumer recycling fee
- ✓ Prevents and reduces illegal dumping



## How is the Program Funded?

- Visible mattress recycling fee on all CA mattress sales
- \$11.00 per unit fee on all sales effective December 30, 2015
- No free-riders; applies to all in-state and on-line sales
- Retailers collect and remit fees directly to MRC



## Solid Waste Facility Collection Network

- All permitted solid waste facilities are eligible
- Contracted locations will accept mattresses from consumers at no cost
- Approximately 100 Collection sites Statewide and still expanding



## Further Expansion?

- One-day collection events to augment existing infrastructure
  - MRC provides on-site labor, trailer, transport and recycling at no cost
  - Best coordinated with other bulky/difficult to manage material events (HHW, e-waste, paint, white goods, tires)
- Non-profits, mattress retailers, university clean-outs, military installations, others



Mattress Recycling Council

## Mattress Recyclers

- RFP: spring of 2015
- 7 companies, 11 locations under contract
- Have capacity to service entire state
- Variety of transport containers and service providers
- Over 250,000 units recycled to date
- Soft launch, metered expansion



Mattress Recycling Council

## Illegal Dumping

- Program structured to prevent illegal dumping through:
  - No cost retailer pick-up from consumer
  - No cost drop off at solid waste facilities
  - Consumer incentive at recycling facilities
- \$750,000 fund established for 2016
- Basic annual reporting required
- On-line registration active; 54 registered collectors



## Communications

- Industry: [mattressrecyclingcouncil.org](http://mattressrecyclingcouncil.org)
  - Links to laws, plans, registration
  - Retailer education and print media
- Consumers: [ByeByeMattress.com](http://ByeByeMattress.com)
  - Collection site locator
  - Recycling fee information
  - Bi-lingual receipt attachments
  - Multi-media (video attachment)



## Video





## Continuous Improvement

- New locator - clunky and insufficient
- Retailer access; upstream product diversion
- Contracting challenges
  - Voluntary participation
  - Profits vs. recycling goals
  - Contracting delays; legal review
  - Changing rate structures



## Questions?

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