

MATTRESS RECYCLING

Zero Waste Advisory Commission

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Mattress Recycling: History

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- Contract: April 2013- April 2014
- Two bidders: Goodwill (\$277,800) and Central Waste and Recycling (\$752,000)
- Pickup price, \$5.00, and recycling price, \$12.00 = \$17.00 per piece
- Experience did not match solicitation estimates
 - Expected 8,200 mattresses & 8,200 box springs
 - Received 3,802 units total
- Volume inconsistent month to month
 - Lowest month: 234
 - Highest month: 1,097
- 9% of mattresses set out were not able to be picked up due to being buried under other materials, significantly soiled or infested, or shredded
- Goodwill opted not to renew the contract at the end of the contract term

Challenges

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- ❑ Labor intensive
- ❑ Contamination
- ❑ Consistency
- ❑ Collection infrastructure
- ❑ Commodities: steel, foam, wood, fiber
 - Processing of steel required depends on location of end markets
 - Wood is challenging to recycle due to age of wood, nails, and staples
 - Fiber type and quality variations

Mattress Recycling in the U.S.

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- 30+ mattress recyclers in U.S.
 - Most are non-profits, a few for-profit enterprises
 - Processing fees between \$5-\$50 per unit
- Mattress Recycling Legislation
 - California, Rhode Island, and Connecticut
 - Point of sale fee to fund mattress recycling programs
 - Promoted by Mattress Recycling Council, industry-created non-profit organization

Source: National Recycling Coalition Sustainable Materials Management Webinar, November 18, 2014

Mattress Recycling in Austin

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- Entrepreneurial opportunity, either for-profit or within a non-profit
- Austin Materials Marketplace to identify commercial sources of mattresses
- Future collection infrastructure upgrades could enable Pay As You Throw and/or better pricing structure for mattress recycling

Other Presenters

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- Houston Furniture Bank Presentation
 - Board Vice Chair, Larry Cress
 - Oli Mohammed, Executive Director
- Redeuces Presentation
 - Derek Sinns, Founder