

Mattresses

The Problem

Mattresses are bulky and difficult to transport, and public access to inexpensive recycling opportunities is very limited, so illegal dumping of mattresses is a widespread problem. According to CalRecycle's Mattress & Box Spring Case Study, an estimated 4.2 million mattresses and box springs are discarded annually in California, but less than 5 percent were being recycled at the time of the report.

Policy and Legislation for Mattresses in California

[SB 254](#) (Hancock) was enacted in 2013 and aims to reduce illegal dumping, increase recycling, and substantially reduce public agency costs for the end-of-use management of used mattresses. The legislation requires industry to create a statewide recycling program to increase the recovery and recycling of mattresses at their end-of-use. The Program is administered by the [Mattress Recycling Council](#) (MRC) and funded through a \$10.50 recycling fee collected from consumers at point-of-sale when a mattress or box spring is purchased. MRC runs the [Bye Bye Mattress California program](#) to meet program requirements and provide fee payers access to mattress recycling services. Since 2016, 5 million mattresses were collected as part of the Bye Bye Mattress program in California, which has saved 6 million cubic yards of landfill space.

[SB 1274](#) (Hancock) was passed in 2014 to provide additional clarity regarding definitions, report submittals, and record keeping requirements. In 2019, [AB 187](#) (Garcia) passed to add further improvements to the mattress stewardship program. Keeping jobs in California and the recycling industry is exactly why we need AB 187 passed this year. AB 187 [protects jobs](#) by ensuring the program is sustainably funded and there is no disruption in subsidy payments to the waste haulers and others if the stewardship organization ceases to operate. AB 187 further protects California jobs by prioritizing in-state processing. Four key areas this bill improves the original legislation:

1. Expanding the scope of the program to include futons and mattresses delivered by common carrier.
2. Setting program goals to establish metrics for consumer access.
3. Requiring the organization, to develop strategies for collecting used mattresses for recycling in areas and communities that face unique challenges associated with proper waste management such as poverty, language barriers, and illegal mattress dumping.
4. Establishing a "bridge plan" so if the stewardship organization is revoked for any reason, there is a process to bring the \$40M+ of fee money back to CA to support our businesses and recycling infrastructure.

California Illegal Dumping Compensation Program for Mattresses and Box Springs

The MRC's California Illegal Dumping Payment Program (IDPP) fund helps off-set costs associated with efforts to clean-up illegally dumped mattresses and box springs in California by providing qualifying urban and rural local governments, participating permitted solid waste facilities and authorized solid waste operations payments for illegally dumped mattress and box

springs collected from the public right-of-way. Visit the IDPP registration page or contact [Mark Patti](#) with MRC for more information.

- [Registration](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Media Offerings from the Bye Bye Mattress Program](#)

Research & Relevant Articles

- [DSM-Niaga and Auping to Develop Fully Recyclable Mattresses](#)– Newswire, 11/21/17
- [Waking Up to Mattress Recycling](#) – Roger Guttentag, Resource Recycling Magazine, 6/2015
- California Mattress Recycling Advisory Committee comments on the MRC [2017 Annual Report](#) (7/19/18) and [Revised Annual Report](#) (11/14/18)
- [CalRecycle Meeting on MRC Fee drop, 9/19/18](#)
- [CalRecycle GHG Mattress study, 5/2012](#)

Links

- [Mattress Recycling Council](#) website
- [Bye Bye Mattress](#) – California, Connecticut, and Rhode Island mattress recycling program operated by the Mattress Recycling Council

