

Mattress Recycling & Solid Waste Solutions

MMA Solid Waste Webinar
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Trash & Recycling Service in Newton

- Population: 88,000
- Weekly curbside trash and recycling collection (contracted)
- Households served: 28,500
- Permanent recycling center open 6 days/week



November 2022 Waste Ban Impacts

- Commercial organics – no operational impact
- Textiles
 - Added drop-boxes at 14 of 22 schools
 - Curbside collection on demand
 - 6 drop-boxes at recycling center
- Mattresses
 - New program launching in sync with the Nov 1 effective date



Current Mattress Management

- Currently: Mattresses = bulky waste with \$20 per item fee (curbside only)
- City takes payments and coordinates collection with resident
- Weekly list provided to vendor
- Mattresses picked up following week on trash day



Mattress Recycling Program

- Drop-off collection - \$35/item
 - Agreement using FAC90 terms
 - 20' shipping container for onsite storage (using MassDEP reimbursement grant)
- Curbside collection - \$50/item
 - Preferred vendor model – city website and customer service team will direct residents to our preferred vendor (Hand Up)
 - Vendor will handle payment, coordinate collection, and communicate with residents; very little city obligation



Municipal Concerns

- November 1 deadline
 - Significant coordination is needed to set up a new program with many moving parts; many steps take longer than anticipated
 - State contract became available in July
- Costs
 - FAC90 only covers drop-off collection
 - Absorbing costs into operating budget or expending RDP funds
 - Passing costs onto residents that vary from \$25-\$70
- Handling unrecyclable mattresses
 - Disconnect between waste haulers and mattress recycler expectations for rejection and collection
- Illegal dumping
- Staff concerns about handling mattresses for muni-run programs



Solution: Product Stewardship for Mattresses

- CT, RI, CA have producer responsibility programs for mattresses
- Point of sale fee on new mattresses creates a fund
- Mattress manufacturers use fund to run mattress recycling collection (drop-off only)
- Challenging to get a law “right” – CA overhauled their law
- Winners and losers when systems change
- Advantageous to local governments and taxpayers



Massachusetts Product Stewardship Council

- Formal Subcommittee of MassRecycle, the only 501(c)3 dedicated to materials management issues in MA
- Mission: shift cost and management burden off of municipalities and taxpayers and on to producers
- Leadership team includes 4 MR board members, plus 4 invited experts within our field
- 2021-2022 Legislative Session
 - Two bills for programs similar to RI & CT introduced this session
 - One redraft bill developed by Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources, and Agriculture (ENRA)



How to Support a Statewide Solution

- Encourage residents upset about mattress recycling options to ask their state legislators to support a mattress producer responsibility program
- Report program challenges to MassPSC by emailing me
- And/or encourage elected officials to report program challenges to MMA
- Pass a municipal resolution in support of a mattress producer responsibility program
- Join MassRecycle to participate in MassPSC calls



Contact me:

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