

CT Mattress Stewardship Working Group
Meeting Summary
September 18, 2013
CRRA Visitor's Center, Murphy Road, Hartford, CT

All presentations for this meeting will be posted on the DEEP website. See below for attendee list.

Notes submitted by Tom Metzner.

Meeting began at 10:00am with introductions. Present were representatives of Connecticut municipalities, mattress recyclers, waste haulers, mattress manufacturers, mattress retailers, and consultants.

Tom Metzner from the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) spoke about the purpose of the working group being to provide information and advice to the mattress manufacturers and DEEP in the drafting of the mattress recovery program. Under the law, the mattress manufacturers are responsible for writing the plan and DEEP is responsible for approving it. There was a brief discussion on group process. There will be in-person meetings and correspondence through emails and conference calls. The department is maintaining a webpage where information on the meetings including agendas and meeting summaries will be posted. There is also an email list for anyone interested in receiving the latest information.

Tom Metzner provided a brief presentation on the law focusing on plan requirements for the mattress manufacturers. The deadline for submission of the plan to DEEP is July 1, 2014. Under a best case scenario, the program would be implemented in the first quarter of 2015.

Chris Hudgins, representing the International Sleep Products Association, gave a brief presentation providing the status of implementation from the manufacturers' perspective. Chris announced the formation of the Mattress Recycling Council (MRC) to represent the manufacturers in this law. Chris also announced that the MRC has contracted with Mike O'Donnell to assist them in implementation of the program in Connecticut. Mike most recently worked on an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) program for compact fluorescent lamps in Washington State.

Two topics are the focus of today's meeting: collection systems and standards for mattress recycling.

Collection systems

The discussion on the collection of mattresses was divided into municipal and retail systems. There was an initial discussion of municipal collection of mattresses and how they are currently collected in Connecticut. Tom started the conversation by dividing up municipalities into the larger cities, mid size towns and smaller towns. The MRC will need to work with each city individually to design a collection program.

- Marilyn Cruz Aponte, **Hartford**, indicated that Hartford collects mattresses from the curbside using a municipal crew from homes and apartment buildings with six or fewer units. The mattresses are collected separately and direct hauled to a recycler in the neighboring town of Bloomfield. Because the recycler is close by, there is no need to double handle the mattresses and such a system would probably continue under the program.
- While there were no city officials from **Bridgeport** present, Adrienne Houel informed the group that there is no municipal curbside pickup of mattresses in Bridgeport. Residents are instructed to bring the mattresses to the municipal transfer station.
- Residents of **New Haven** can get their mattress picked up at the curb but it is collected with other bulky waste items and would need to be separated at some point.
- In **Waterbury** mattresses are self-hauled and accepted at the transfer station.
- Jerry Rollett from **Torrington** spoke about how his mid size town – about 35,000, collects mattresses. He indicated they are collected in the back of a compactor truck by a private hauler under contract to the city where they are taken to a private transfer station.
- Sheila Baummer of **Naugatuck** indicated mattresses are accepted at the transfer station and are separated from the other garbage and bulky waste.
- Pam Roach said that **Hamden** conducts two curbside bulky waste pickups per year that include mattresses and that residences may bring mattresses to the transfer station.

Many small towns in Connecticut have their own transfer station where residents can bring bulky waste items including mattresses. Some residents in those towns have the option of having a private hauler pick up their mattress at the curbside.

The focus then shifted to collection of mattresses from retailers.

- Leanne Musket from **JC Penney** questioned a slide from the presentation she felt implied retailers may be used as collection sites. She stated that retailers should not be asked to serve as collection sites. Chris Hudgins responded that retailers will not be asked to serve as collection points.
- Doug Richardson advised that **JC Penney** currently manages mattresses picked up in exchange for a new mattress through a third party transporter. There is no clear data on the percentage of mattresses managed through a retailer compared to a municipality.
- Tim Phelan of the **Connecticut Retail Merchants Association** indicated that some retailers have their own delivery trucks and some use a third party transporter who delivers the new mattress and collects the old ones.

Terri McDonald, St. Vincent DePaul, mentioned high end mattresses from hotels often have resale value and will continue to find their way into that market. Other mattresses are sold or given to refurbishers.

Recycling Standards

The law favors recycling to the extent “technologically feasible and economically practical”. It is important for the program to establish standards for recycling to ensure that the maximum amount of materials is recovered. Some companies will strip a mattress only to recover the scrap metal and dispose of the rest of the material. Other recyclers employ more sophisticated procedures to recover more of the material.

Some of the important standards discussed included:

- 1) Condition of the mattress upon receipt. It can be more difficult to recover wet or mangled mattresses.
- 2) Amount of material recovered. As mentioned above, some recyclers capture some of the components of a mattress and some can recover as much as 95% of the material.
- 3) There are different recycling practices and markets for foam versus innerspring products. The makeup of the mattress can determine standards and markets.

The next meeting of the mattress working group is scheduled for Monday, October 28. Time and location TBD. As suggested, we will provide a call-in option.

Attendees:

Name	Affiliation	email
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Jerry Rollett	City of Torrington	Jerry_Rollett@torringtonct.org
Joe Rotella	Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation	joer@rirrc.org

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Marilyn Cruz Aponte	City of Hartford	Cruz002@hartford.gov
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Tim Phelan	Connecticut Retail Merchants Association	tim@crmaonline.com
Susan Hemenway	Tunxis Recycling Operating Committee	shemenway@brrfoc.org
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