



# Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## Extended Producer Responsibility Commission

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### MEETING 3

Wednesday, June 18, 2025 | 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.  
100 Cambridge Street, 2nd floor conference room | Boston  
and via Zoom

# Housekeeping



# Housekeeping: roll call

Member	Agency / organization
CHAIR: John Beling	Deputy Commissioner, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
Senator Mike Barrett	Chair, Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Energy, and Utilities
Sharon Byrne Kishida	Nominee, Senate Minority Leader
Leigh-Anne Cole	Executive Director, Community Action Works
Rep. Michael Day	Massachusetts House of Representatives
Jose Delgado	Arise for Social Justice
Janet Domenitz	Executive Director, MassPIRG
Lew Dubuque	Vice President, Northeast Chapter, National Waste and Recycling Association
Magda Garncarz	Vice President of Government Affairs, Associated Industries of Massachusetts
Sarah Kalish	Executive Office of Economic Development
Kris Callahan	Director of Policy and Regulatory Affairs, Bureau of Climate and Environmental Health, Massachusetts Department of Public Health
David Melly	Legislative Director, Environmental League of Massachusetts
Conor O'Shaughnessy	Budget Director and Environmental Policy Analyst, Office of Senator Bruce Tarr
Andrew Potter	Chair, Select Board, Town of West Stockbridge
Catherine Ratte	Director, Land Use and Environment Department, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission
Bill Rennie	Senior Vice President, Retailers Association of Massachusetts
Neil Rhein	Executive Director, Keep Massachusetts Beautiful
Waneta Trabert	Vice President, MassRecycle
Tracy Triplett	Senior Enforcement Counsel, Office of Attorney General Andrea Joy Campbell
Abbie Webb	Vice President of Sustainability, Casella Waste Management

Note: the DEP is still seeking an individual to fill one vacancy

# Housekeeping

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- Adopt June 18 meeting agenda
- Adopt May 21 meeting minutes



# Housekeeping: staff and consultants

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Staff/consultant	Organization
Greg Cooper	Director, Hazardous and Solid Waste, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
John Fischer	Deputy Director, Hazardous and Solid Waste, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
Courtney Rainey	Deputy Chief of Staff and Director of Government Affairs, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
Julie McNeill	Attorney, Bureau of Air and Waste, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
Jennifer Haugh	Vice President of Planning, GreenerU
Craig Altemose	Director of Programs, GreenerU
Madeline Rawson	Project Manager, Planning, GreenerU



# Review of meeting goals and agenda

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Wednesday, June 18, 2025  
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

## Goals

- Roll call, approve agenda, and minutes
- Finalize paint EPR recommendation
- Level set on past and present mattress EPR efforts
- Hear ideas, concerns, support
- Identify and discuss support for proposed mattress EPR recommendations

## Agenda

- Roll call
- Approval of agenda and minutes
- Discussion and final vote on paint EPR
- Presentation: overview of mattress EPR
- Presentation: mattresses in Mass
- Clarifying questions
- Discussion: proposed mattress EPR recommendation
- Public input
- Next steps

Paint EPR policy



# Discussion/confirmatory vote on paint EPR recommendation

The Commission recommends the Massachusetts legislature enact legislation establishing an extended producer responsibility program for paint. The Commission recommends the development and implementation of a program (e.g., PaintCare) that aligns with programs already in place in other Northeast states (Connecticut, Maine, Rhode Island, Vermont, and New York), to provide consistency across the region.

The Commission acknowledges proposed paint EPR legislation under consideration before the Massachusetts legislature at time of report publication: H.886, which includes aerosol-based paint, and S.647.

SCALE OF AGREEMENT				
ADAPTED FROM KANER ET AL.				
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VOTE BELOW				



# Presentations

There  
is more  
to every  
mattress



Mattress Recycling Council®

Dan McGowan, Northeast Program Manager | June 18, 2025

# Who we are



**International Sleep Products Association**  
Trade association for the mattress industry



Mattress  
Recycling  
Council

## **Mattress Recycling Council**

The nonprofit ISPA created in 2013 to develop and implement recycling programs in states that enact mattress recycling laws



**bye bye  
mattress®**  
A Program of the Mattress Recycling Council®

## **Bye Bye Mattress**

The consumer-facing brand MRC developed for the recycling program



# What MRC does

- Program administration
- Competitive bidding process
- Contract with collection sites
- Contract with transporters
- Contract with mattress recyclers
- Inform consumers and industry about recycling opportunities through [ByeByeMattress.com](http://ByeByeMattress.com) website



# Recycling benefits

## Economic benefits

- Supporting local jobs
- Saving municipalities money

## Environmental benefits

- Diverting valuable materials from the waste stream
- Life cycle analysis found significant water and energy savings while reducing greenhouse gases



# Model mattress stewardship legislation

## **Statewide legislation**

- Consistency with the state and across program states
- Level playing field for all stakeholders
- Industry supported and operated

## **Sustainable financing**

- To ensure sustainability over time

## **Anti-trust protection**

- To allow program to establish uniform fee assessment

# The role of the state regulator

## **Ensure compliance with the stewardship law**

- Review and approve program plan, including the fee
- Enforce law's provisions
- Review and approve annual report
- Maintain information about the mattress stewardship organization

# How is the program funded?

- The single externalized fee
- A visible fee collected at point-of-sale on all mattresses and foundations
- A visible fee provides evidence for revenue compliance and tracking
- Brick-and-mortar and e-commerce retailers are required to assess the fee
- End users like hotels, hospitals and universities also pay the fee
- Flat rate regardless of mattress size or type
- Collected fees are remitted to MRC monthly



# What does MRC use the fee for?

- Transportation of mattresses to recyclers
- Recycling of mattresses
- Containers for collection sites
- Collection events
- Education and outreach
- Program administration
- Department oversight and enforcement

## Current Connecticut Fee Expenditures

Transportation Costs	27.9%
Recycling Costs	56.7%
Collection Costs	3.7%
<b>Total Ops Costs</b>	<b>88.3%</b>
Admin Costs	9.7%
Marketing Costs	2.1%
	100.0%

# The Massachusetts Landscape

## **Statewide landfill ban as of November 2022**

- Mattresses joined several other product categories
- Units may not be landfilled or exported out of state unless they are otherwise unsafe to handle

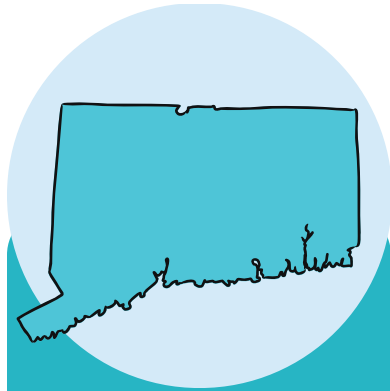
## **Increased cost to dispose of mattresses in the Commonwealth**

- Patchwork approach with widely varying policies and costs
- \$125 in Sudbury, \$55 in Medford, \$60 in Wakefield

## **Neighboring states already have the MRC program, and more are considering it**

- Connecticut and Rhode Island have had programs for 10 years
- New York and New Jersey have legislation pending this session

# Our state programs



**CONN.**

**Launched:**  
May 1, 2015

**Fee:**  
\$16.00

**Recycled:**  
1.7 million

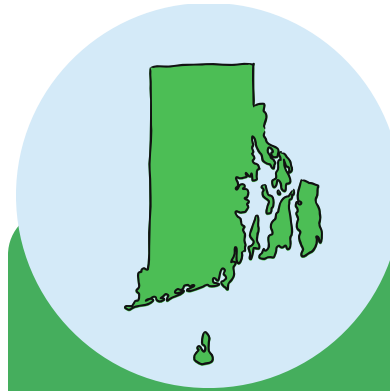


**CALIF.**

**Launched:**  
Dec. 30, 2015

**Fee:**  
\$16.00

**Recycled:**  
13 million

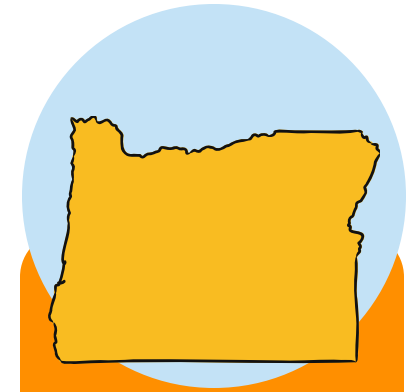


**R.I.**

**Launched:**  
May 1, 2016

**Fee:**  
\$20.50

**Recycled:**  
750 thousand



**ORE.**

**Launched:**  
Jan. 1, 2025

**Fee:**  
\$22.50

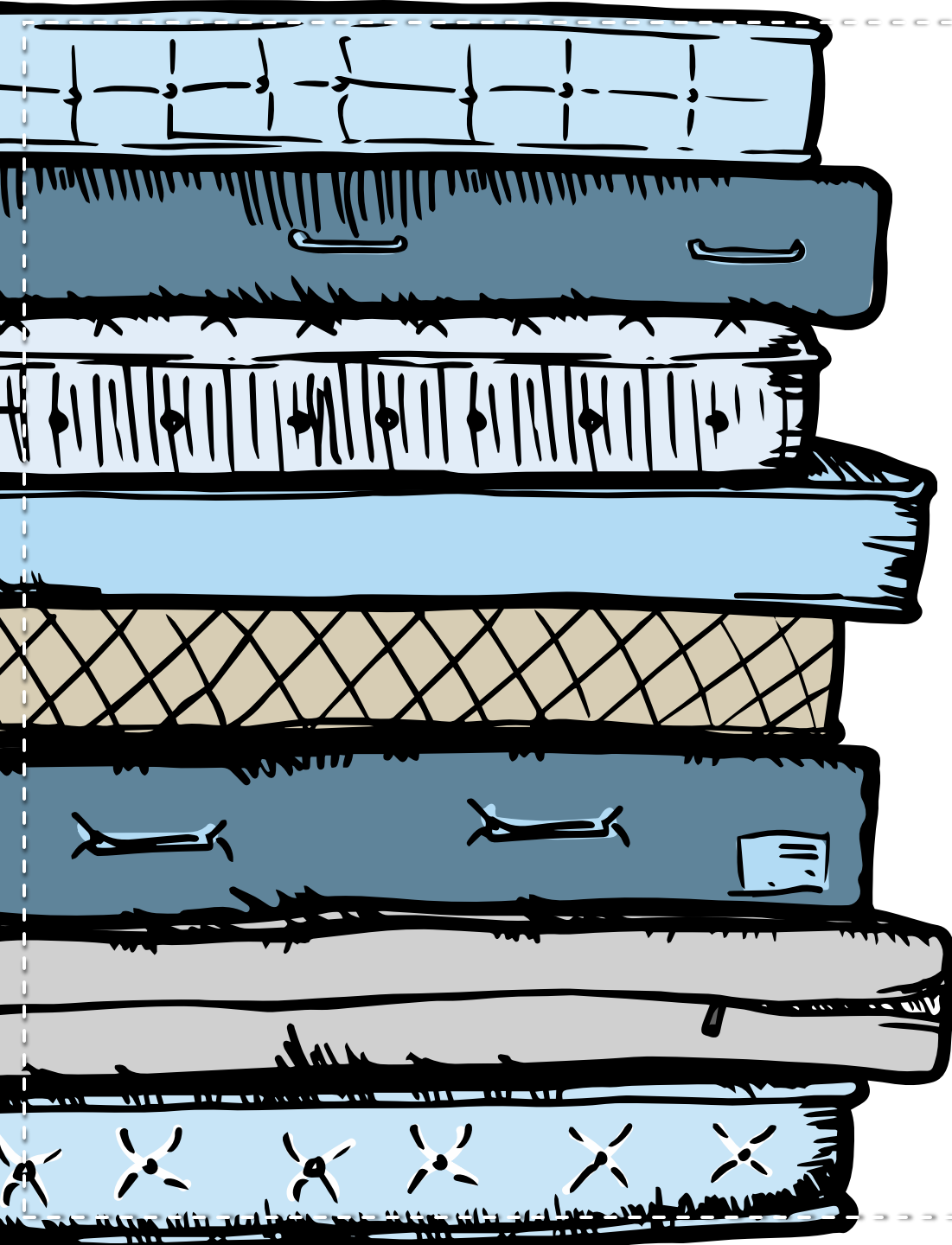
**Just  
started!**

# Our current networks



# Our typical collection network





## Our lifetime totals

**15** million  
units recycled

**14.9** million  
cubic yards

**575** million  
pounds

# How are mattresses recycled?

- Combination of manual and automated equipment
- Recyclers track inbound and outbound data to achieve a minimum 75% recycling rate which includes reuse and refurbishment
- Significant diversion of resources from landfills and waste to energy facilities
- Report data annually to state on units collected, materials recovered.

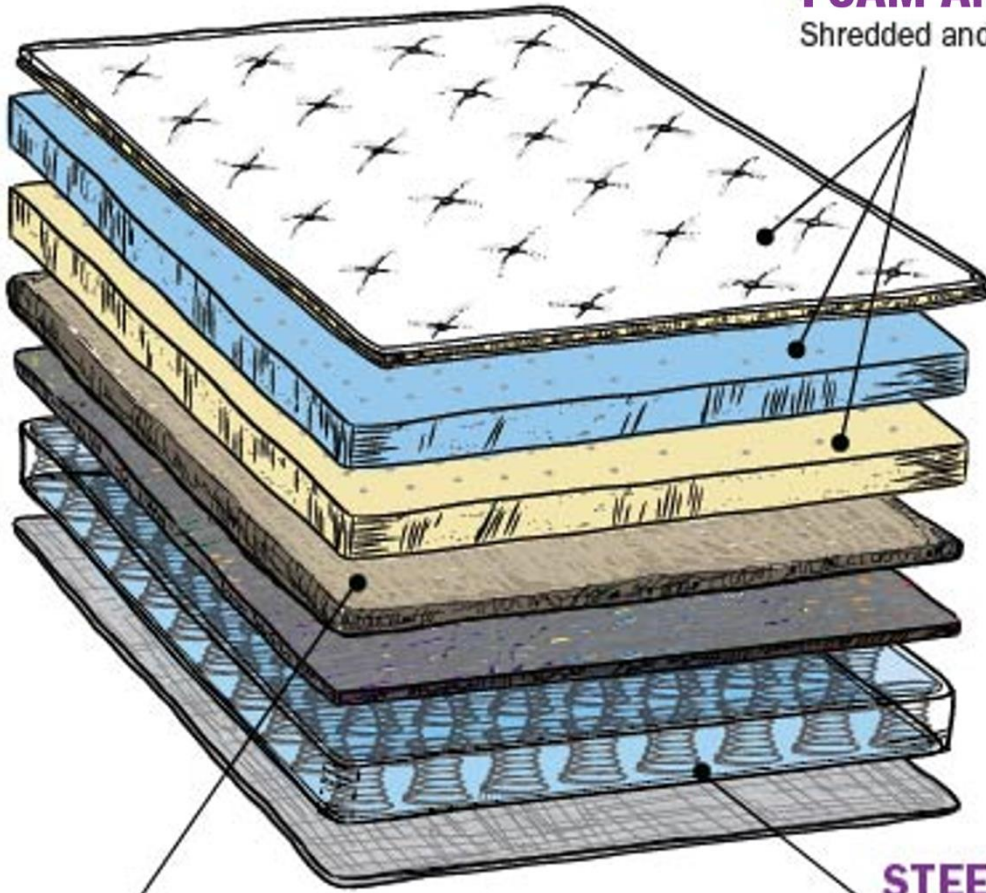




# MATTRESS & BOX SPRING BREAKDOWN

## FOAM AND QUILT PANELS

Shredded and blended into carpet padding

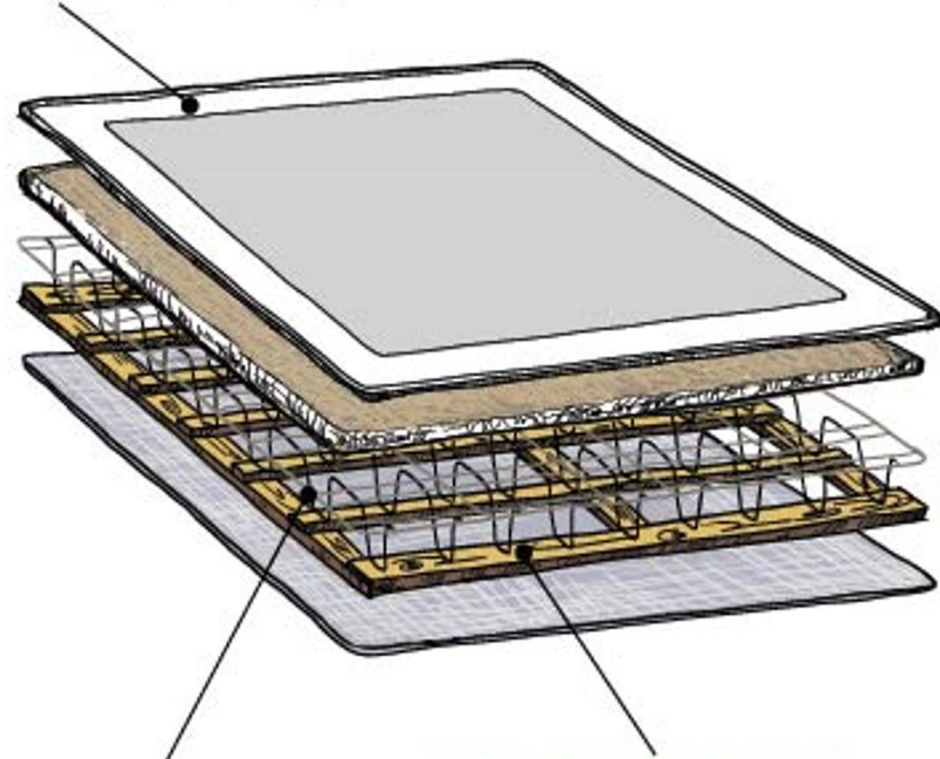


## COTTON FIBERS

Used in insulation products

## STEEL SPRINGS

Recycled as metal scrap and used in construction rebar and other steel products

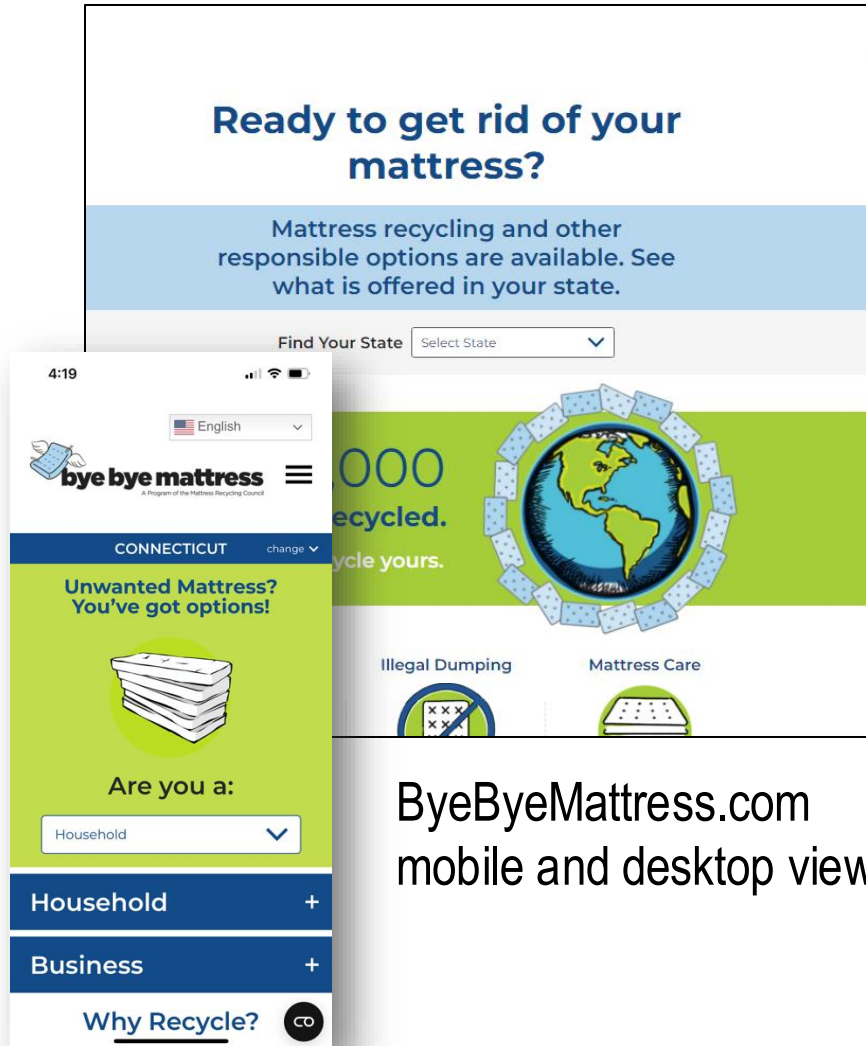


## WOOD

Shredded to produce landscaping mulch or burned as an alternative fuel source



# Consumer outreach examples



ByeByeMattress.com  
mobile and desktop views



Public Service  
Announcement



Billboard



Online search  
and digital ads

In-Store Poster



# Industry engagement



# Why we are successful

- Harmonized, workable legislation
- Externalized, transparent fee
- One PRO, consistent nationwide messaging
- Highly recyclable product
- Effective collection networks
- Supply chain experts
- Redundant recycling facilities
- Industry engagement
- Research efforts target end market development



# Mattress Recycling Council®

**Dan McGowan**

Northeast Program Manager

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(860) 830-3832

[www.MattressRecyclingCouncil.org](http://www.MattressRecyclingCouncil.org) | [www.ByeByeMattress.com](http://www.ByeByeMattress.com)

Follow MRC on Facebook, LinkedIn, X and YouTube

and follow Bye Bye Mattress on Facebook, Instagram, Threads and X



# Mattress recycling efforts in Massachusetts

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- Initiated mattress recycling efforts in 2016
- Municipal grants:
  - Total of \$2.7 million in grants to 128 municipalities plus 34 additional regional participants
    - ~\$600K for mattress collection containers
    - ~\$2.1 million for mattress collection and recycling costs
- State mattress recycling contract with four vendors
- Business grants:
  - Awarded eight grants for \$1.35 million for mattress recycling
  - Awarded six grants for \$380,000 for mattress collection



# Mattress recycling progress in Massachusetts

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- Waste disposal ban implemented in November 2022
- Nine known mattress recyclers in state

2022	167,000 units recycled or reused
2023	394,000 units recycled or reused
2024	399,000 units recycled or reused

# Clarifying questions

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- What questions do you have for the presenters?

**BIO BREAK: 10 MINUTES**



# Discussion

# Discussion

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- Do you think the proposed Mattress Recycling Council program would work in Massachusetts?
- What are your concerns about the proposed approach?
- Does the Commission have other policy recommendations?
- Is there any information missing that requires further research?



# Public comment

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Thank you for your interest in participating in today's EPR Commission meeting.

**Please state your name and affiliation clearly for the record and keep your comments succinct (under three minutes).**

Written comments may be submitted through the EPR Commission website:  
<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/extended-producer-responsibility-commission>

**Action**



# Straw poll

—To support a recommendation to enact legislation to establish an extended producer responsibility law for mattresses that aligns with the Mattress Recycling Council model.

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## Next steps

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- DEP/GreenerU to draft EPR background document on mattresses
- Distribute mattress EPR background document prior to July meeting for review
- Discuss, revise, and finalize vote on mattresses at June meeting
- Advisory board on electronics to meet Monday, June 30, 1–3 p.m.
- Advisory board on plastics and packaging to meet Thursday, July 24, 10 a.m. to noon



# Next meeting and adjourn

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Next meeting:

**BATTERIES**

Wednesday, July 16, 2025

10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Agenda, Zoom link, and reading materials will be available at least one week prior to the meeting.