



CASE STUDY: CITY OF FRAMINGHAM MATTRESS RECYCLING PROGRAM

Mattresses are made up almost entirely of recyclable materials. Once disassembled, up to 95% of their components can be recycled. Mattresses discarded in the trash stream are notoriously difficult to manage. They are expensive to transport, take up a lot of space in landfills, are hard to compact, and get caught in waste-to-energy facility processing equipment. MassDEP's Mattress Recycling Incentive (MRI) grant program provides funding to municipalities to aid in the collection, transportation, and recycling of residential mattresses and box springs.

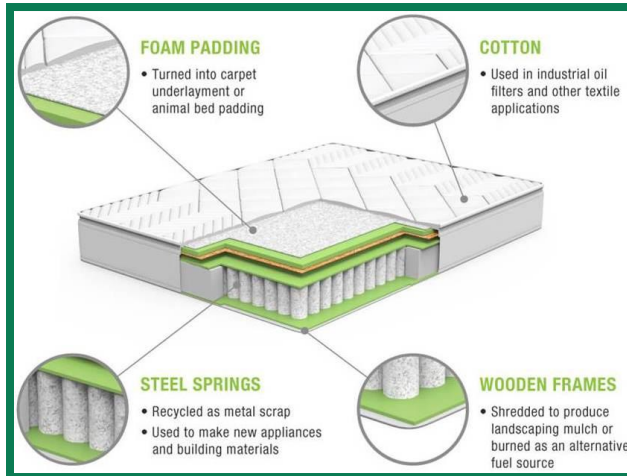


Photo Credit: Mattress Recycling Council

Population: 71,200

Households Served: 26,175

Services Provided:

Residents can bring mattresses and box springs to the Framingham Recycling Drop-Off Center for a fee of \$20 each. There is a collection container for mattresses and staff is available to help residents load them into the container. Residents can also schedule a special curbside pick-up for \$25 a unit. A DPW truck collects curbside and loads them into the mattress container.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW:

- The City of Framingham launched their MRI program for residential mattress recycling in February 2016.
- MassDEP assigned UTEC (United Teen Equality Center), one of four mattress recycling vendors on state contract FAC90, to collect and process Framingham's mattresses for the three year duration of the grant.
- UTEC picked up full containers from Framingham's Drop-off Center and brought them back to their facility where staff manually deconstructed the mattresses, separating the fabrics from the wood, steel, and foam and recycling each component separately.
- UTEC invoiced MassDEP for transportation and the per-piece mattress recycling rate at the state contract price.
- Grant funding covered the rental of a collection container initially. In 2018, additional grant funds paid for a 20-foot closed top container for mattress storage.
- Unacceptable mattresses (e.g., very wet, moldy, or infested with bed bugs) were put aside for trash disposal.

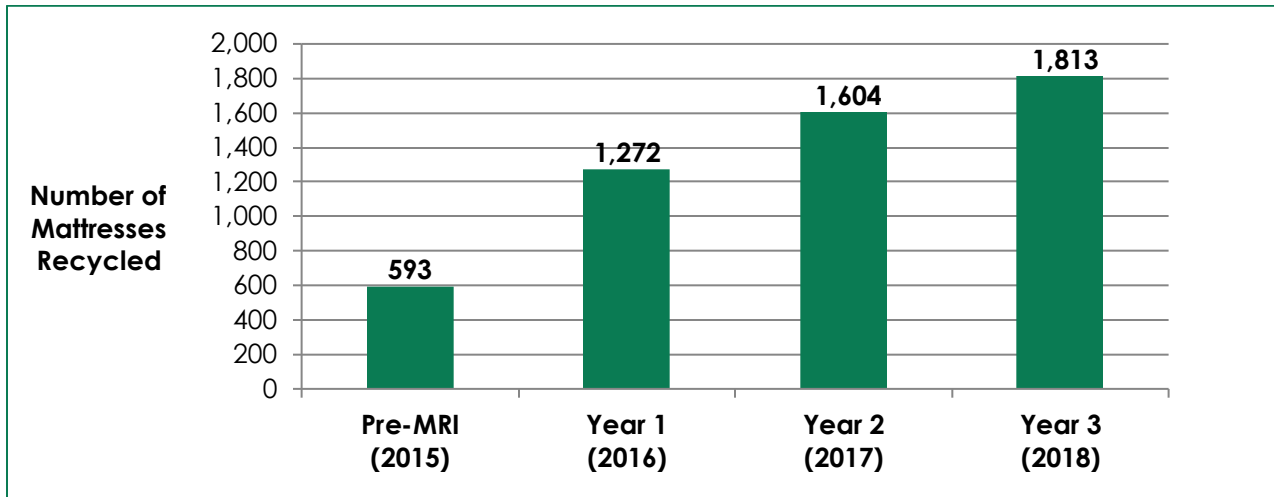


Photo Credits: City of Framingham

PROGRAM RESULTS:

- In 2015, prior to receiving the MassDEP MRI grant, Framingham collected approximately 593 mattresses.
- With grant funding, the City increased outreach and promotion of mattress recycling and nearly tripled the number of mattresses collected annually. See Figure 1 below.
- **In three years, 4,689 mattresses** were collected and recycled.
- The costs of this program, including the collection container, transportation, and processing, were paid for by MassDEP via the MRI grant and **totaled \$90,860.00**.
- Most importantly, all of these mattresses were diverted from disposal. Wood, metal, textiles, and foam were recovered and sent to market.

FIGURE 1: Framingham Mattress Recycling Data



POST GRANT:

- The City continues to collect mattresses for recycling at their drop-off facility, and self-transport them to UTEC for recycling.
- Recycling mattresses and box springs, instead of disposing of them, will continue to save the City of Framingham money. Not including transportation, municipalities typically pay \$10-\$20 per unit for mattress recycling, while landfills and waste-to-energy facilities charge about \$20-\$60 for disposal.



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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[MassDEP's Mattress Recycling Webpage](#)