

Mattress Stewardship Program Advisory Committee Meeting

Sept. 3, 2026, Zoom Virtual Meeting

This is a meeting of Oregon's Mattress Stewardship Program Advisory Committee Meeting. DEQ is holding this meeting for the review and discussion of the Mattress Recycling Council's [2025 Annual Report](#) and [2027 Budget Report](#).

Meeting minutes

1:00 p.m. – Welcome & Agenda Review

Roxann Nayar, Mattress Stewardship Program Coordinator from DEQ opened the meeting, reviewing the meeting rules and objectives.

1:10 p.m. – Committee Member Introductions

Roxann Nayar introduced fellow DEQ staff in attendance and the following Committee Members in attendance:

- Phil Chesbro, University of Oregon
- Elizabeth Cole, City of Beaverton
- Kristina Fiebig, Wasco County
- Pea Hamilton, The public
- Eli Hunt, Retailer – The Mattress Lot
- Britte Kirsch, The environmental community
- Dylan Lomanto, City of Roses Disposal and Recycling
- Jennifer Purcell, Oregon Refuse and Recycling Association
- Kyrrha Sevco, City of Grants Pass
- Madeline Sorensen, Small business – All This Organizing
- Catherine Tran, The public

1:15 p.m. - Mattress Recycling Program Overview

DEQ gave a short presentation on the Mattress Recycling Program:

- **Program Milestones**
 - 2022 - Mattress Stewardship Act passes.
 - 2023 - Environmental Quality Commission votes to adopt the Mattress Stewardship rules.
 - 2024 - Mattress Recycling Council's Program Plan approved by DEQ
 - 2025 - Program officially launched Jan. 1, 2025.
 - 2026 - First full annual report submitted on July 1st, reporting for the first full calendar year of implementation.
- **Program Definitions**
 - Product Stewardship: all parties involved with design, production, sale and use of a product are responsible for minimizing its environmental impacts through all stages. Also, this is the name of the DEQ program itself and extends to other products like paint and electronics
 - Stewardship Organization: A non-profit organization designated by a producer or group of producers to implement a mattress stewardship program (i.e. Mattress Recycling Council). The producer organization who formed MRC is called the International Sleep Products Association.
 - Eligible materials: Mattresses and foundations (box springs, frames, ticking)
- **Review of Program Participants and Responsibilities**
 - DEQ: provides regulatory oversight.

- MRC: delivers program implementation (stewardship organization).
- Consumers: pays fee and bring unwanted mattresses/foundations to collection sites for disposal at no-cost.
- Manufacturers and Renovators: registers with MRC to sell their products in the state.
- Retailers: can only sell mattresses from registered manufacturers/renovators, must collect and remit fees to MRC, provide educational materials to consumers.
- Collection Sites and Recyclers: voluntary participants who collect and/or dismantle mattresses and foundations.
- **Annual Report**
 - Due to DEQ annually on July 1st.
 - Submitted by MRC, describing how they satisfied the Program Plan and Statute. Topics covered include service requirements (i.e. convenience standards), quantity of mattresses collected, recycled, landfilled, summary on outreach and promotion efforts, total mattress sales, fiscal summary and next year's budget in a separate document.

1:25 p.m. Mattress Recycling Council Presentation

Representatives presenting from Mattress Recycling Council (MRC): Justine Fallon, Darcy Perez, Amanda Wall

- **Overview:**
 - The Mattress Recycling Council operates the consumer-facing brand called Bye-Bye Mattress. The Bye-Bye Mattress website lists collection sites residents can use to find a place near them to recycle a mattress.
 - Since launching their first program in Connecticut, MRC has recycled over 17 million units, cumulatively recycling 650 million pounds of materials.
 - 134,000 units from collection sites, events, retailers and institutional sources were recycled in 2025.
 - 198,000 units projected to be recycled in 2026 and 226,000 in 2027.
 - In 2025 MRC worked with three recycling facilities, established 24 collection locations, held 54 events and 5.9 million pounds of mattress materials were sent for recycling.
 - MRC generated 390 media clips in 2025.
- **Collection network:**
 - One third of Oregon's population is concentrated in the Portland metro area.
 - Rural, less population dense areas present both challenges and opportunities for mattress recycling.
 - Service requirements are population based and MRC has used a combination of collection sites and events to meet these requirements.
 - Different channels feed mattresses into the program: from retailers, third parties, drop off sites and collection events.
 - MRC works with reuse organizations serving as drop off locations. If a mattress qualifies for their reuse purposes definition, the organization can keep those units, and if it doesn't qualify for reuse, then MRC handles the transportation and disposal of those units.
- **Alternative Convenience Requirement:**
 - MRC reports to have exceeded the required alternative convenience at the close of 2025.
 - There were 29 Oregon counties with populations over 10,000, and of those, 13 had at least one permanent collection site, and the remaining counties had at least one collection event.
 - For the seven counties with a population under 10,000, at least one event was held in each of those counties.
 - MRC also provided additional 25 opportunities throughout the state, outside the alternative convenience requirement.
 - There were 11 additional sites and an additional 23 events.
 - In 2026, MRC added 12 sites and will have held 56 events before end of year.
 - MRC started holding quarterly events to increase access and is conducting studies to better understand where improvements can be made using a convenience analysis.

- MRC offers funding for collection site improvement (ramps, forklifts, sheds, etc). One project site improvement project was completed in 2025.
- **Processing Outcomes:**
 - Commodities which were recycled: Steel (53.6%), Foam (25.5%), Quilt and Toppers (5.3%), Wood (15.6%), Cardboard (less than 1%).
 - Disposition of materials: landfill (24.4%), biomass (10.4%), reuse/renovation (2.8%), recycled (62%).
 - Reuse and renovation disposition: 1258 units collected at collection sites were sent to reuse, 823 units collected from recyclers were sent to reuse, 101,530 lbs. mattress material sent from recyclers as commodities sent to reuse/renovation.
- **Research Efforts:**
 - MRC's priority is developing higher-value, scalable end markets for recovered mattress materials. Developing new markets for mattress foam is a priority because the primary market for the foam is carpet padding, which is unpredictable. Options being explored to diversify those markets include:
 - Foam powder technology. Its primary application is as a filler for cement, or as sealants or adhesives.
 - Vitrimization of foam- creates thin sheet of polyurethan foam, used in shoe soles, phone cases, synthetic textiles.
- **Illegal Dumping Mitigation:**
 - MRC is deploying a three-part strategy:
 - 2025: Conducted stakeholder meetings with five organizations who met with and discussed how they address illegal mattress dumping. Illegal dumping was attributed to the lack of access and awareness about disposal opportunities.
 - 2026: Conducting illegal mattress dumping census/survey (in progress).
 - 2027: Offering a pilot project funding to assist local governments in areas with high dumping.
 - Will share results as case studies when complete.
- **Required Studies:**
 - 2027: Lifecycle Analysis of mattresses sold in Oregon (in progress).
 - 2027: Low income and multi-family dwellings.
 - 2027: Scope of discarded mattresses not captured in the program.
- **Education and Outreach:**
 - MRC's outreach strategy focuses on both consumers and industry.
 - MRC did a lot of work to obtain mattress industry compliance. Support became more solidified with program plan approval.
 - To reach consumers MRC used local media outlets to promote events, worked with collection sites to help amplify awareness.
 - Paid for 390 media clips (tv media online, print). Did open house media events in key outlets.
 - MRC provides outreach materials to retailers to provide to consumers, but retailers are not required to use MRC materials.
 - Online ads are being increased (e.g. Nextdoor and Reddit).
 - Public Service Announcements: sent to public service directors at local tv and radio stations.
 - MRC is also conducting industry outreach for large volume commercial collection, with a focus on property managers.
 - Will be working with community-based organizations in 2026 to increase large volume collection.
- **Financing:**
 - MRC projects the fee will remain \$22.50.
 - Most of expenses are for operational costs (recycling transportation, studies, etc.).
 - MRC's Board requires a reserve fund, with working capital and unallocated reserves to manage the program in case of economic disruption, and to have sound financial footing to avoid having a sudden fee increase.

2:05 p.m. Public Input Period

1. Sabrina Gogol (Metro Regional Government)

Metro acts as a collection site at one transfer station and is growing increasingly concerned that the compensation model for collection sites is not covering the costs related to being a collection site. Interested to see the convenience standard and any approved alternative standard be met with permanent locations. Metro is interested in seeing more clarity about how the cost increases in the proposed budget, such as the collection costs and administration cost categories, are going to be used to actually secure additional permanent collection locations.

2. Danit Rothstein, Community Warehouse

Community Warehouse (CW) is Oregon's largest furniture bank and one of the biggest mattress reusers in the state, primarily serving families experiencing furniture poverty across Multnomah, Washington, and Clackamas counties. Community Warehouse's Portland furniture bank location is a mattress collection site, and collected 3,061 units (1,258 of those units were reused) last year.

The minimal per unit recycling reimbursement that CW received does not cover the reasonable actual costs of collecting and managing units at the collection sites. When they communicated that the per unit reimbursement was not covering actual costs, they were not met with negotiations.

The Annual Report does not fully represent the level of engagement CW experienced with MRC. They had anticipated that MRC would help facilitate multiple relationships with recyclers to increase the number of units diverted to reuse, while an introduction to one recycler was made, it did not result in an ongoing partnership. CW believes that this is largely due to no financial incentive for the recycler to participate.

CW believes that meaningful reuse diversion will require both stronger relationship building and compensation that reflects the actual costs recyclers incur to participate in the program. This feels like a priority area to focus on in the upcoming years, given that fewer sites signed up to collect mattresses than expected

2:12 p.m.- Committee Discussion

1. Jennifer Purcell, Oregon Refuse and Recycling Association

Question for DEQ: is there a sense of the total number of mattresses disposed of in Oregon and what percent of total volume is being captured as program mattresses?

DEQ: Does not have that information available at this moment but we can follow-up with more information.

Question for MRC: Was the program intended to pay for collection of mattresses that aren't brought to a collection site or the commercial volume program (i.e. bulky pickup from residential homes)?

MRC: That is not part of the cost model of the program. The law does allow for premium service to be charged however, so there is this option with an additional cost associated with this service.

Comment: Solid waste is covered by Oregon's solid waste franchise system, so this premium service should be provided by franchise haulers. There were several mentions of junk haulers in the report, which are commonly operating in violation of the franchise system and franchise authority of the local governments across the state. Just drawing to your attention that MRC and that they may want to confirm that transport of mattresses outside of MRC's direct transportation services is in fact being provided by franchised haulers in those communities.

For permanent collection sites or collection events that are not at solid waste permitted facilities who provides the oversight for public health and safety, worker health and safety, environmental impacts? Is that a DEQ responsibility? Is that an MRC responsibility? Is it expected that local government code enforcement is providing that?

DEQ: There are layers of oversight, DEQ has oversight of making sure all the elements in the MRC program plan are being followed. But if there's something specific you want us to know about or to look

at, we should talk more. If there's local jurisdictional issues, we would have to look into the specific situation to identify who is responsible.

Comment: The Annual Report refers to MRC visiting collection sites every other year and that seems insufficient. And the plan and report doesn't speak to how MRC will respond to complaints.

2. Catherine Tran, The Public

What are the late fees for retailers?

MRC Response: It's to incentivize retailers to remit payment on time.

Are there plans for more local businesses/retailers to become collection sites?

MRC: Some non-program retailers do operate a separate takeback program at no charge, but shoppers need to discuss with retailers if this available to them. There is a big focus for recruiting retailers. MRC is actively looking to expand the network and loop in more retailers as collection sites for this program.

How do people find out about available Bye-Bye Mattress tools?

MRC: MRC targets shoppers through ads and local media campaigns primarily. MRC also uses targeted online search ads and promotion at community events.

3. Pea Hamilton, The Public

Regarding education, outreach and marketing: Why is there not a primary focus on multi-family homes for advertising efforts? There would be greater success in shifting emphasis onto this market. Is there a way to better engage multifamily tenants directly?

MRC: There is a priority to reach underrepresented, low-income minority, and multifamily housing. MRC has done a lot around property manager outreach because they are often the gatekeepers to the tenants who want to get rid of the mattress: the property manager is key. MRC needs their engagement to have access to tenants. Winning over property managers is the first important step before even more targeted outreach to multifamily residents is able to happen. There's also a requirement to convene a stakeholder group, including multifamily tenants, but this hasn't started yet.

Question: Are there resources in non-English languages (primarily Spanish and Mandarin).

MRC: Yes, they are available in the top 5 languages spoken in the state and MRC has access to a consultant that can translate materials into even more languages if requested.

4. Elizabeth Cole, City of Beaverton

Question regarding the Capture Rate: a hauler mentioned that the requirement to document non-program mattresses is burdensome and time consuming. There is concern undercounting is occurring because of this administrative burden.

What are franchise haulers supposed to be doing with mattresses they collect during curbside collection? What would the ideal be for handling those materials collected at the curb via the franchise hauler, but could still be taken to a program facility for recycling?

MRC: We need to talk to franchise hauler directly to brainstorm how to best handle this. Franchise haulers can bring them to collection sites, but if that overwhelms the collection site there are other options that can be figured out on an individual basis.

5. Kristina Fiebig, Wasco County

There is a stark jump in the 2026 projection and the 2027 budget working capital and reserves. Does MRC have enough within that reserve to keep everything going.

MRC: We can assure you it is a number we look at all the time-- we're not going to let that get to a point where we can't run the program. We have this fiduciary responsibility and a board policy that we must

follow. We review this monthly. Board policy requires six months of reserves and three months of working capital.

Among counties with populations over 10,000 that are required to have a permanent collection location, what is MRC's current progress toward establishing at least one permanent site in every county across the state?

MRC: There are currently 11 counties without a permanent site. At some of these sites, MRC is doing quarterly events and trying to hold monthly events. There are different recruiting and outreach plans for each county. Potential locations in some counties without a permanent collection site have expressed that they don't want to join as permanent collection sites, but they are open to hosting events.

6. Madeline Sorenson, Small business – All This Organizing

Have large thrift store/non-profits like Goodwill been pursued to become collection sites?

MRC: Goodwill doesn't accept mattresses for donation, so the messaging is challenging to bring them into the program. Re-Store/Habitat McMinnville recently joined the program. MRC does target these types of organizations and are actively working to recruit them.

Are there waste haulers who would be willing to market through their own customer communications of behalf of the program?

MRC: Yes, but it depends on the waste hauler, it's a case-by-case basis.

7. Jennifer Purcell, Oregon Refuse and Recycling Association

Oregon Office of Rural Health has some definitions around rural and remote communities that are based more on population density and distance to population centers, and they've got great data that might be helpful to better understand the Oregon composition geographically.

Note in the report where MRC indicates challenges in establishing permanent collection sites at solid waste facilities. It is noted that solid waste facilities declined to participate. We are hearing broadly from our members that negotiations did not result in what is the cost recovery of reasonable actual costs of managing mattresses. MRC has data from other states that has an average expected cost per mattress, but Oregon's geography is very different, and a flat rate for managing mattresses is unrealistic. I think may be misleading to say that solid waste facilities declined participation when it was actually the inability to reach an agreement around actual cost recovery.

We would like to learn more about plans to target ads to disposal behaviors.

3:01 p.m. – Next Steps

- MRC has various studies and reports due to DEQ between December 2026 and July 2027.
- Supporting materials and written input (can be emailed to: mattress.info@deq.oregon.gov) until Sept 17th.

3:01 p.m. - Meeting Adjourned

Non-discrimination statement

DEQ does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, age, sex, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status in the administration of its programs and activities.

For translation or other formats, visit DEQ's [Civil Rights and Environmental Justice page](#).