Why Recycle Mattresses?

MATTRESESS AT
LA CROSSE COUNTY LANDFILL
IN 1988 LA CROSSE COUNTY SPENT $200,000 FIGHTING A LANDFILL FIRE THAT CLOSED HIGHWAY 16
IT TAKES AN EXTRA 3-5 MINUTES TO MANAGE MATTRESSES OR $6
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Create Side Slope Seeps

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NEAL BOLTON, A NATIONAL LANDFILL OPERATION’S EXPERT AND LA CROSSE COUNTY’S CONSULTANT WROTE IN APRIL ISSUE OF MSW MANAGEMENT

A CHARGE OF $13/MATTRESS MAKES SENSE AT A $50/TON LANDFILL TO COVER THE COST OF AIRSPACE
AND THE SOLID WASTE DEPARTMENT MISSION:
TO PROVIDE ENVIRONMENTALLY AND ECONOMICALLY SOUND SOLID WASTE SERVICES
Mattresses are inherently recyclable

85% BY WEIGHT
90% BY VOLUME
Local mattress recycling is triple bottom line

SUSTAINABLE
La Crosse County used to bury 7,500 to 9,000 mattresses per year.
What do some Wisconsin landfill’s charge for mattresses?

$15 TO RECYCLE
$18 TO BURY

$65 FOR 1-3 MATTRESSES
$270 TON FOR MORE

$15 TO RECYCLE
$15 TO BURY
Could La Crosse County tire recycling be a model for mattress recycling?

- Mixed in load
- $4 to recycle
- $10 to bury
FORCE for POSITIVE CHANGE

FINALIST
2018 Sustainable Process of the Year
Small Business Award Winner
• Wisconsin requires DNR approval to be a mattress recycler

• 7RR is the only DNR approved mattress recycler
• Information/Education
• Accessibility
• Stable Infrastructure
• Affordability, including an incentivized pricing structure
• Wait until it’s the law

• Don’t Recycle mattresses

• Believe nothing can be learned from other waste separation practices (e.g. barrels, tires, yard waste, plastics, appliances recycling, yard waste recycling etc.)
• Be informed -- continue the discussion
• Support current State of Wisconsin efforts
• Encourage Public/Private programs
• Start
Questions?