

Coast Waste Management Association

Oct. 19, 2018



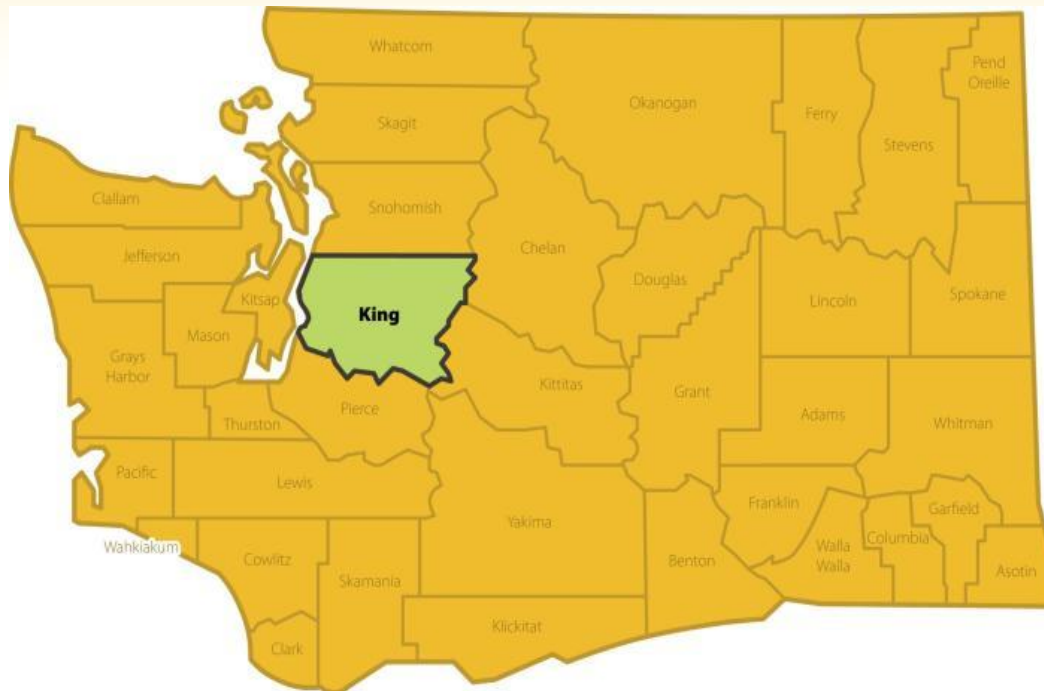
Alex Erzen, LinkUp Mattress Program Manager

King County
Department of
Natural Resources and Parks
Solid Waste Division

Serving Community • Protecting Environment • Operating Excellence

King County Solid Waste Division

Operates 8 transfer stations, 2 drop boxes, 1 landfill



Mattresses

- 2015 waste characterization study:
 - 8,251 tons** of mattresses/box springs per year through county solid waste facilities
- = 300,000 mattresses per year disposed



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King County LinkUp

Facilitate development of

- *collection and processing infrastructure* that supplies
- *end markets* for recyclable materials:

mattresses, textiles, carpet, asphalt shingles, compost, wood

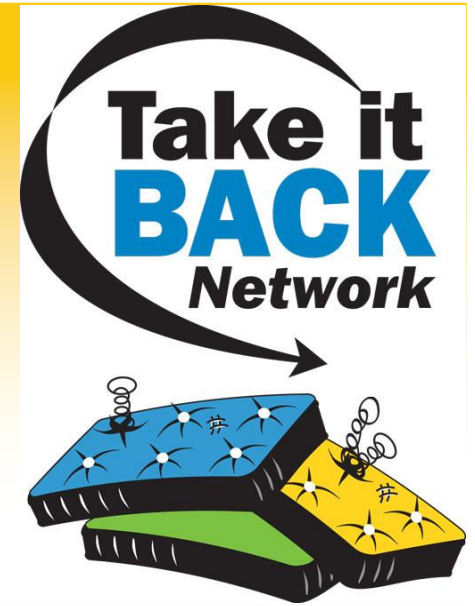


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LinkUp mattress market development

- Outreach: direct mail, online ads, site visits, stakeholder meetings
- Consumer survey
- End market research on shoddy cloth, cotton, foam



2010-2012 mattress interest

- Product Stewardship Institute (PSI) mattress stewardship dialog
- Metro Vancouver 2011 disposal ban
- Furniture EPR in France
- King County 1st mattress recycling Summit

Mattress EPR

“Bye Bye Mattress” / Mattress Recycling Council
(MRC) statewide stewardship programs in

- **Connecticut** (May 2015) \$9 each
- **California** (Dec. 2015) \$10.50
- **Rhode Island** (July 2016) \$11

Eco-Mobilier & Valdelia: nationwide *furniture*
program in **France** (2013) ~\$3-6 each

Connecticut's law

- 2010 \$45 disposal fee on each
- 2010-11: PSI dialog with gov & industry
- 2012 stewardship bill fails (in RI & CA too)
- 2013 laws pass (CT in May, RI in July, & CA in Sept.)
- May 2015 MRC / Bye Bye Mattress start

California's law

- Illegal dumping task force
- Failed 2012, passed 2013, Bye Bye / MRC start Dec. 2015
- Supported by
 - Chamber of Commerce
 - California Retail Association
 - Republic, Waste Management, Recology (haulers)
 - Recycling orgs + cities and counties

Mattress Stewardship in Washington

- King County: transfer station mattress recycling is **an interim step towards a statewide mattress stewardship system**
- Statewide **product stewardship needs a coalition** of retailers, recyclers, haulers, nonprofits, local govs in support to convince legislators

LinkUp mattress market development

- Mattress Recycling **Summits** 2011, '14, '17
- 2012 Take it Back Network new locations
- 2015 Request for Information (RFI)
- 2017 RFP & Pilot



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LinkUp Mattress Recycling Summit 2011

- “Mattress recycling is more expensive than disposal. Until there is a higher mattress disposal fee at transfer stations, mattresses will continue to be taken there.”
- “Mattress recycling needs to be more accessible, convenient and affordable: if people can’t get it to a recycler, they will look to dump it.”



LinkUp Mattress Recycling Summit 2011

- “My customers wouldn’t have a problem paying a small fee, 90% want their mattress to be recycled or reused by someone who needs it; customers are asking about where mattresses go...”
- “Why are states hesitant to legislate this issue and ban mattress disposal? The ban was an incentive to get our act together in BC. We had to learn fast and now it’s a system that works. The ban increased recyclers [from 1 to 3] in the area.”

LinkUp Mattress Recycling Summit 2014

- “Transfer stations must increase the disposal fee for mattresses.”
- “Government must take action.”
- “If we [retailers] want to see something happen in this state, we need to get together and ask if we’re okay with a fee going on every mattress we sell. Or are we okay with a disposal ban?”

Mattress Collection and Processing

- 2011: 1 processor (state prison), 1-2 collection locations
- 2013: 3 processors, 6 locations
- 2015-18: 4 processors, >6 locations
- Some: Retailers, Curbside, Transfer stations

Public transfer stations

- City of Tacoma since 2014 with NW Furniture Bank (Spring Back)
- *Pilot*: City of Seattle transfer station 2015-16
- *Pilot*: King County Bow Lake transfer station since June 2017

Where will be next?

- Oregon stewardship bill in 2019
- Maine, Maryland, Minnesota
- Canada-wide Action Plan for EPR: furniture

Circular, not linear

Think of it as a bike



▶ Ouroboros AS

A better way forward - circular economy

May 10-11, 2017

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KingCounty.gov/LinkUp
ProductStewardship.net/Join



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