



HAWAII STATE  
DEPARTMENT  
OF HEALTH



TETRA TECH

# Mattress Recycling Council

Mike O'Donnell  
Chief Operating Officer



# Mattress Recycling Council

## Who We Are



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



**Mattress Recycling Council**  
Nonprofit created in 2013 to develop and implement recycling programs in states with mattress recycling laws: Connecticut, Rhode Island, California. (Oregon, 2022)



**Bye Bye Mattress**  
The consumer-facing brand for the program



# Mattress Recycling Council

## MRC At-A-Glance



**2015 – First state, Connecticut**

**Visible consumer fee:** CA \$10.50 / CT \$11.75 / RI \$20.50

**Collection Networks:** More than 300 locations

**Transportation:** 15,000 loads annually

**Recyclers:** 14 facilities

**Education:** consumers and industry audiences

**Research:** \$1 million annually



# Mattress Recycling Council

## Program Basics: Industry Obligations



### **We are program administrators**

- Internal ops and logistics staffing
- Program plans and annual reports
- Marketing
- Accounting
- Audits
- Research team

**Collection, transportation and recycling functions – all outsourced**



# Mattress Recycling Council

## Where to Recycle



**Retailer take-back programs** – Varies by state and retailer

**Commercial Volume Program** – Direct service to retailers, hotels, colleges, military and healthcare

**Curbside pick-up** – Varies by solid waste contract

**No-cost drop-off sites** – Transfer stations, landfills, non-profits

**Collection events** – Rural, underserved, environmental justice areas

**Direct recycling facility drop off** – No volume limits



# Mattress Recycling Council

## ByeByeMattress.com

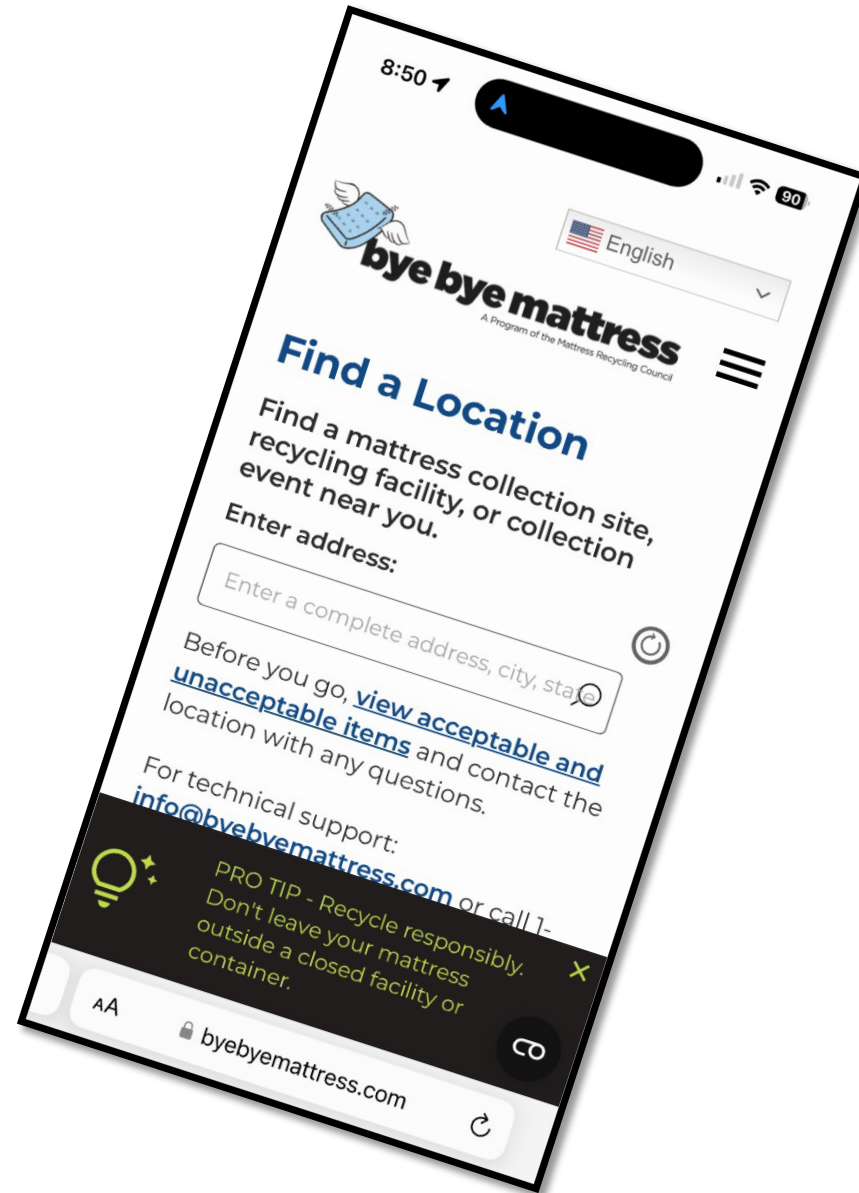
Recycling Locator

Mobile-friendly design

State Program information

Bulky Item Directory

Commercial Volume Program



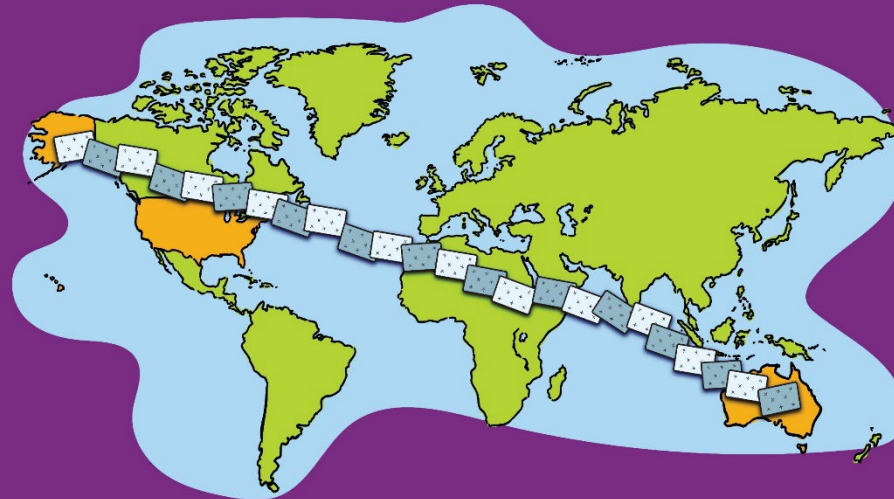


# Mattress Recycling Council

## Our Program's Impact



**13 MILLION** mattresses laid end-to-end would span two-thirds of the way around the world!



# Mattress Recycling Council Research Projects



## Over 30 completed projects

- **Collection** – Improve unit quality and decrease handling times
- **Transportation** – Units per trailer, alternative containers, decrease carbon impacts
- **Deconstruction** – Lean manufacturing, fire safety assessments, automation
- **End market development** – New and alternative uses
- **LCA** – Life Cycle Analysis





# Mattress Recycling Council

## Life Cycle Analysis



### Why?

- Mature California program:
  - 76% recovery rate by recyclers
  - 80% statewide landfill diversion, 1.6M units recycled
  - Reliable data across the program
- Scope: CA collection, transport, recycling, end markets, disposal

### Results?

- Favorable!
- Foam and steel reuse/recycling driving environmental benefits
- Widely distributed in environmental press



# Mattress Recycling Council

## Life Cycle Analysis



# RECYCLING 1 MATTRESS

**SAVES:**

**500**  
gallons of water

Enough **energy** to  
**power** an average  
household for **3** days



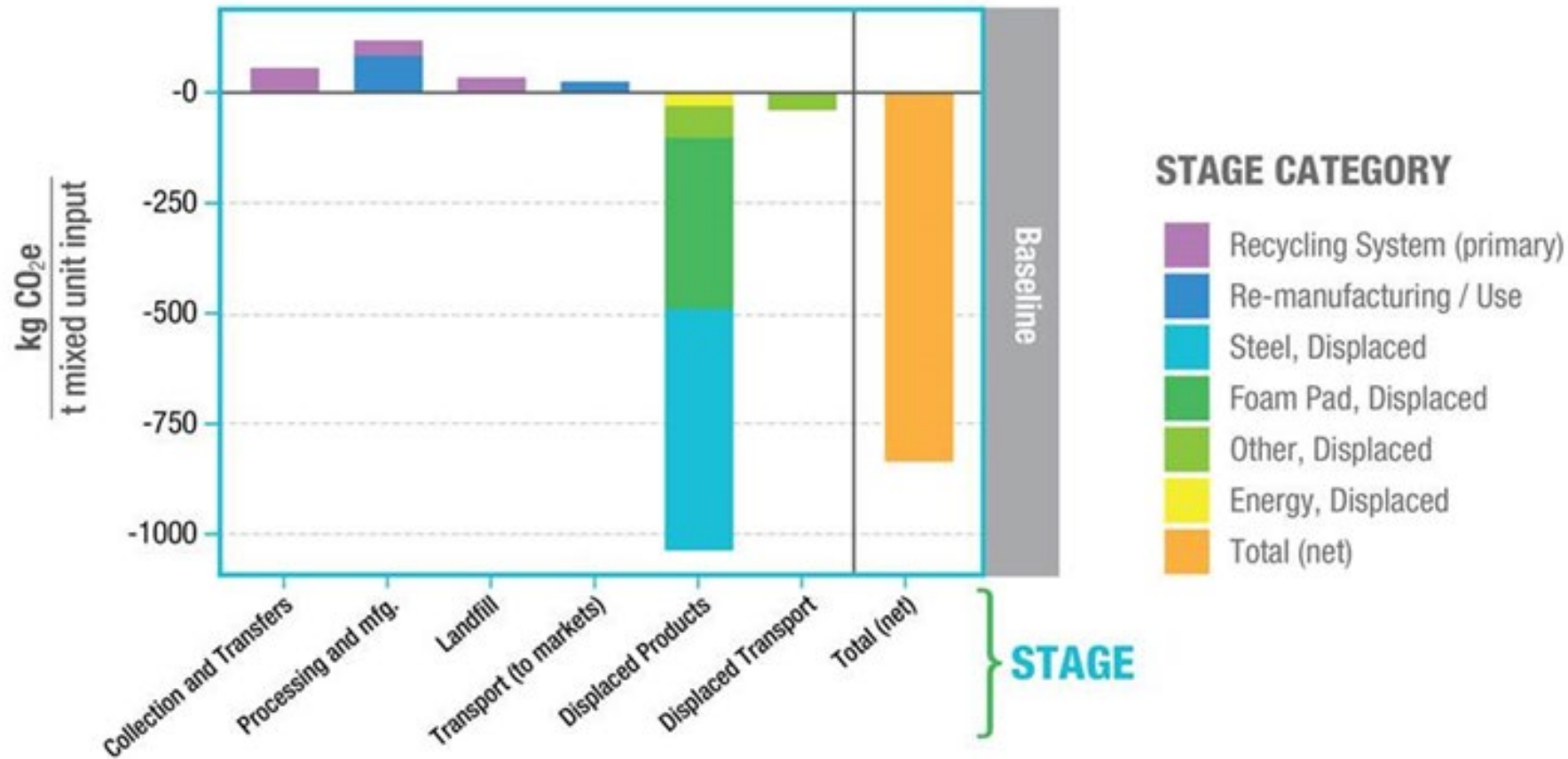
Greenhouse gas  
emissions savings  
similar to driving  
**60** fewer miles.

*These calculations are based on the life cycle analysis of MRC 2021 California operations. The full report is available: [www.mattressrecyclingcouncil.org/research](http://www.mattressrecyclingcouncil.org/research)*



# Mattress Recycling Council

## Life Cycle Analysis: Incurred and Displaced Impacts

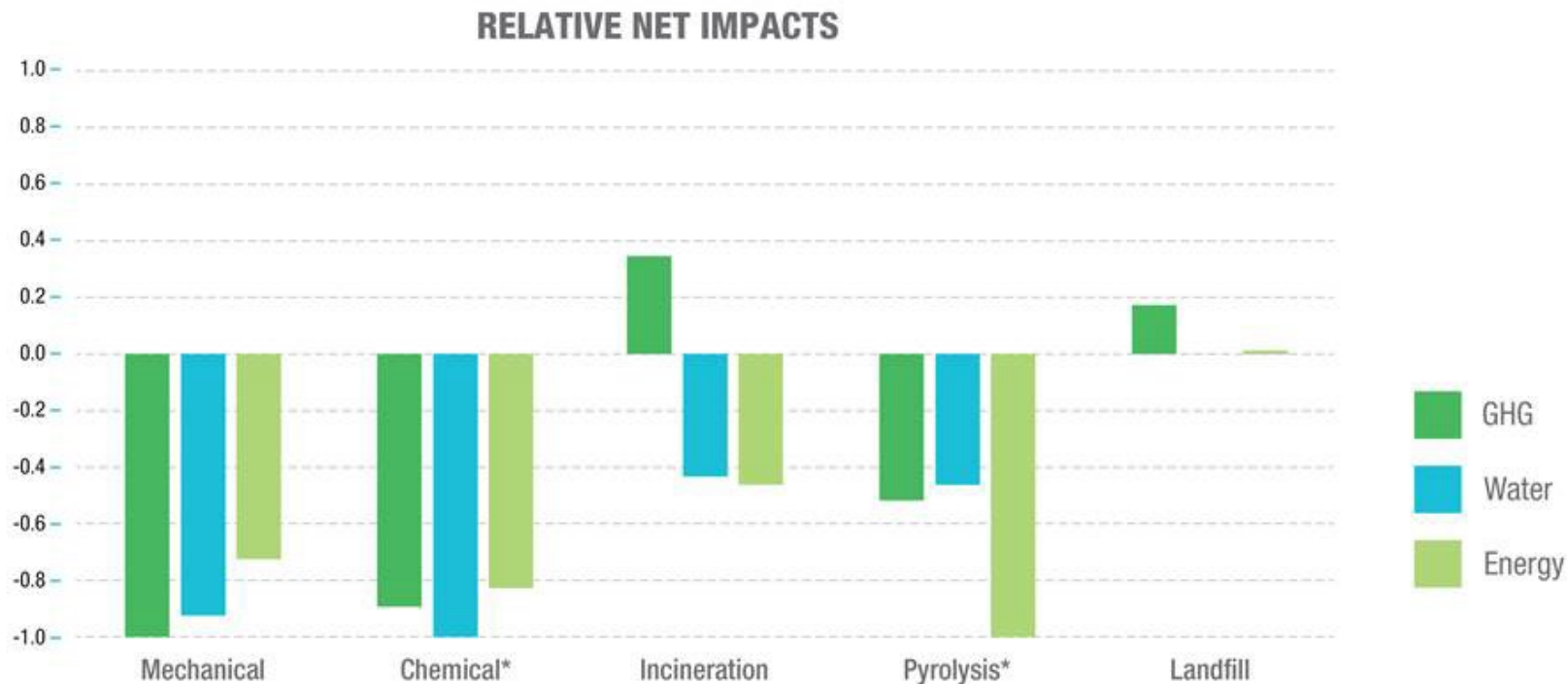


t CO<sub>2</sub>e = metric tonnes carbon dioxide emissions equivalents

# Mattress Recycling Council

## Life Cycle Analysis: Alternative Process Scenarios

Alternative management scenarios were evaluated. All were found favorable to landfilling.



\* Preliminary assessment based on LCA data reported for pilot facilities in other regions.

# Mattress Recycling Council

## Mattress Industry Sustainability Moves



**2024 ISPA Sustainability Conference** – Sept. 25-26, Charlotte, NC

**Sustainability Committee** – Broad industry representation, focused on industry education and promoting environmentally responsible practices and advocacy

### **Circularity Workgroup**

- Facilitate discussions with suppliers, product designers and manufacturers on how to improve mattress circularity
- Lessons learned from mattress deconstruction and recycling operations to explain design impacts and end-of-life management





**Thank You!**

 **Mattress Recycling Council<sup>®</sup>**

**Mike O'Donnell, Chief Operating Officer**

**[mikeo@mrc-us.org](mailto:mikeo@mrc-us.org)**

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