



RUTHANNE FULLER  
MAYOR

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Office of the Mayor

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September 14, 2022

Honorable City Council  
Newton City Hall  
1000 Commonwealth Avenue  
Newton Centre, MA 02459

Councilors:

I respectfully submit a docket item to your Honorable Council requesting changes to City Ordinances regarding trash and recycling (Chapter 11 and Chapter 17) to allow the City to create a mattress recycling program needed to comply with a significant upcoming change in MassDEP regulations for mattresses.

MassDEP has enacted regulations banning mattresses (and box springs) from disposal and requiring recycling effective November 1, 2022. The City has developed a new mattress recycling program to comply with the State regulations. This program will require ordinance changes to set a fee for curbside collection of mattresses and box springs and for drop-off at the City's Resource Recovery Center on Rumford Avenue.

Under the new program, residents can drop off mattresses and box springs for recycling at the Resources Recovery Center for \$35 per piece. Residents can also request curbside collection for \$50 per piece. A mattress recycling vendor that the City will contract with will perform weekly curbside collection and also pick up those stored at the Resources Recovery Center in a 20' shipping container. The mattresses and box springs will be transported to a recycling center.

A memo from Director of Sustainable Materials Management Waneta Trabert is attached detailing the current program, the new state requirements, the proposed new city program, and additional considerations.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Ruthanne Fuller  
Mayor

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
DIVISION OF SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS MANAGEMENT  
1000 Commonwealth Avenue  
Newton Centre, MA 02459-1449



To: Shawna Sullivan, DPW Deputy Commissioner  
From: Waneta Trabert, Sustainable Materials Management Director  
Subject: **Proposed Mattress Recycling Program**  
Date: 8/31/22

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- Mattresses are banned from disposal effective November 1, 2022 per MassDEP regulations and therefore must be recycled at end of life.
- The development of a new mattress recycling program is needed to comply with state regulations.
- An ordinance change is required to set the fee for mattress recycling. The cost of transporting mattresses is high because they are bulky and laborious to maneuver.

**Current program:**

- Mattresses are collected curbside upon request by residents for a fee of \$20 per piece
- Mattresses are sent for disposal at the Millbury waste-to-energy facility

**What's Included in the Ban:**

- All sizes of mattresses including California king, king, queen, full, twin XL, twin, and crib mattresses
- All memory foam mattresses and "mattresses in a box"
- All box springs

**Not included in the Ban:**

- Futon mattresses and fold-out sofa beds
- Mattress pads and toppers
- Any mattress that is excessively torn, punctured, soiled, or moldy
- Any mattress that is wet or infested with bed bugs or other pests

**Proposed program:**

- Residents can drop-off mattresses for recycling at a cost of \$35 per piece to the Resource Recovery Center
- Residents can request curbside collection of mattresses for \$50 per piece
- Mattresses will be stored at the Resource Recovery Center in a 20ft. shipping container
  - Resource Recovery Center staff will need to stack mattresses to make efficient use of space
- Curbside collection will be performed weekly by the mattress recycling vendor; they will also pick up mattresses from the storage container at the Resource Recovery Center each week

**Anticipated additional program considerations:**

- Illegal dumping of mattresses currently occurs with the bulky waste fee-based collection model. A slight increase in illegally dumped mattresses is likely. Illegally dumped mattresses will need to be picked up by city staff and brought to the storage container at the Resource Recovery Center.
- Mattresses that are deemed to be in unrecyclable condition (wet, moldy, otherwise contaminated) will need to be documented and put into the trash compactors at the Resource Recovery Center by DPW staff
- Communication to all city departments and NPS should be sent out by mid-October to prevent any mattresses from being disposed of at any sites with roll-off containers
- All public communications about the bulky waste collection program will be updated to remove mattresses; new public communications will be published with information about the new mattress program by the starting date of the program

**Sec. 11-1. Definitions.**

*Bulky waste items:* Bulky waste items are large items that are burnable, such as discarded or broken furniture, large toys, ~~mattresses~~, rugs, and other large or unwieldy refuse that cannot be placed in the assigned receptacle. Hard plastic and metal items are not bulky items.

Mattress: Any resilient material or combination of materials that is enclosed by ticking, used alone or in combination with other products, and that is intended for sleeping upon, including, but not limited to any foundation or box spring. Mattresses do not include any mattress pad, mattress topper, and futons and sofa beds.

**Sec. 11-14. Bulky waste items and mattresses.**

(a) Bulky waste items and mattresses may be removed from the curb and ~~disposed properly managed~~ by the department of public works upon application to the commissioner of public works by the owner or occupant of a building or premises who shall pay a fee of twenty dollars (\$20.00) per bulky waste item and fifty dollars (\$50.00) per mattress. All materials set out for curbside removal shall be of such form and so prepared and placed as the commissioner of public works may specify or accept, otherwise they shall not be removed by the city.

(b) The commissioner of public works in his/her sole discretion may remove and ~~dispose properly manage~~ of bulky waste items and/or mattresses that have been set out for collection without application and in accordance with section 16. Failure to apply for removal of bulky waste items and/or mattresses shall be subject to penalties provided in section 9(a).

(c) Mattresses will be accepted at the Newton Resource Recovery Center upon application to the commissioner of public works by the owner or occupant of a building or premises in Newton who shall pay a fee of thirty-five dollars (\$35.00) per item.

**Sec. 17-16. Fees to be paid to the Department of Public Works**

- (a) Recycling and Trash – Non-profits ..... See Sec. 11-6
- (b) White Goods (large appliances, scrap metal, including electronics) curbside recycling Pickup (Sec. 11-15)  
per item, ..... \$25.00
- (c) TV and computer monitor recycling drop off at Newton Resource Recovery Center per item, \$25.00
- (d) Residential curbside pickup of bulky waste items for disposal (Sec. 11-14) .....per item, \$20.00
- (e) Residential curbside pickup of mattresses recycling (Sec. 11-14).....per item, \$50.00
- (f) Mattress recycling drop off at Newton Resource Recovery Center (Sec. 11-14).....per item, \$35.00
- (ge) Awning, shades and marquee permit (Sec. 26-2)..... \$1.00