



Mattress & Textile Recycling Spotlight

Ecos Properties, Lee, MA

Worleybeds, New Bedford, MA

Many businesses encounter unwanted textiles and mattresses in their operations. For example, hotels change their mattresses every three to five years and replace linens even more frequently. In 2020, MassDEP estimated that more than 230,000 tons of textiles and 16,000 tons of mattresses and box springs were disposed of in Massachusetts. In response, MassDEP expanded its waste disposal ban regulations in November 2022 to include these materials. Most textile material, including apparel, linens, and other fabrics, and mattress components, such as wood, scrap metal, and foam can be recovered for reuse, repurposing, or recycling. Read on to learn how two businesses are keeping these valuable materials out of our disposal facilities.



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RecyclingWorks in Massachusetts is a recycling assistance program funded by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and delivered under contract by the Center for EcoTechnology that helps businesses and institutions reduce waste and maximize recycling, reuse, and food recovery opportunities.

Ecos Properties:

Hospitality Renovation, Reuse, & Recycling



When diving into a motel-to-residential-apartment renovation project, the Great Barrington-based commercial real estate company, [Ecos Properties](#) knew there would be opportunities for reuse and recycling. Thinking about building materials, they contacted EcoBuilding Bargains, a reclaimed building materials store in Springfield, MA for assistance. After further evaluation of the materials, the reuse store knew that Ecos would find even more donation opportunities connected with the RecyclingWorks team. Ecos had an opportunity to not only recycle building materials, but mattresses, linens, and more. A Waste Reduction Consultant from RecyclingWorks held a virtual meeting with Ecos Properties Principal, Sam Nickerson, to learn more about the reusable materials that could be recovered and the expected timeline for the project.

RecyclingWorks developed a list of reuse and recycling service providers and charitable organizations that would accept mattresses, linens, e-waste, and other hospitality-related materials. Because many of these providers offer hauling, Ecos not only diverted materials from landfills, but saved on both time and cost. Materials were reused by organizations outside of the hospitality industry. It's a great example of how the circular economy has reverberating community and economic impact.

Ecos Properties netted multiple benefits by prioritizing reuse and recycling throughout this renovation process, including the environmental impact, cost savings, positive public recognition, and a streamlined approach for future cleanout and renovation projects. In total, well-over 12 tons of materials were diverted from disposal and given a second chance for reuse.

Organization	Materials Accepted and/or Processed
EcoBuilding Bargains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flooring Materials • Interior and Exterior Lighting Fixtures • Plumbing Materials • Roofing Materials • Tile
LRP Recycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mattresses and Box Springs: 96 units (7,138 pounds or 3.6 tons)
Perlman Recycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scrap Metal: 1.5 40-yard dumpster (13,500 pounds or 6.75 tons)
Staples Recycling Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computers • E-Waste
Catholic Charities Construct Inc. Eliot Community Human Services Goodwill Industries Hartsprings Foundation LUK Inc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appliances • Cleaning Supplies • Full-Length Mirrors • Furniture • Laundry Supplies • Light Fixtures • Linens • Office Furniture • Televisions • Toiletries • Wall Art



RecyclingWorks Resources

[Business and Institutional Furniture and Office Equipment Reuse Guidance](#)

[Construction and Building Materials Guidance and Best Management Practices](#)

[Electronics Recycling and Reuse Guidance](#)

Worleybeds Factory Outlet: Mattress Reuse & Recycling



[Worleybeds Factory Outlet](#), a mattress manufacturer and retailer in New Bedford, has been in the Worley family for generations. The company is focused on reducing waste and increasing efficiency as they look towards the future of mattress production and consumer priorities.

Patrick Worley, Vice President, says he is trying to align the business with his grandfather and Worleybeds founder's (John Worley, Sr.) values. The founder was known for saying "Give your customers the very best products at a fair price and service them well." Understanding that sustainable waste management is part of excellent service, Worleybeds sought to minimize mattress and box spring material entering the waste stream and to operate in compliance with the MassDEP waste disposal ban on mattresses. Worley began a collaboration with Co-founder and CEO, Erik Dyson of [HandUp Mattress Recycling & Upcycling](#) in May 2022. HandUp reuses and recycles the mattresses and box springs that Worleybeds collects as a service when delivering new mattresses to customers. According to HandUp's annual impact report, the two businesses have recovered nearly 500 mattresses and box springs, equivalent to 24,461 pounds or 12.2 tons in just one year.



Worleybeds Factory Outlet and HandUp Mattress Recycling and Upcycling saw a need for an efficient mattress recycling system and created it through successful collaboration that not only benefited them financially but built upon their shared values of sustainability and environmental stewardship.

Worley says, "Business and consumer culture is changing. People care and consumers notice. We need to take a hard look at what the future is going to be."

Worleybeds purchased a 20-foot storage container that ensures mattresses and box springs remain clean and dry while awaiting pick-up. HandUp provides pickup and recycling or reuse services for a per-unit fee. Worleybeds coordinates with HandUp to schedule pickups every two to three weeks when the container reaches 75% or 80% capacity (about 25 mattresses). HandUp also leverages other trips in the area to empty the container at Worleybeds even when pickup is not yet scheduled.

Erik Dyson emphasizes the importance of clean, efficient systems for the employees handling the mattresses: “[Businesses need to] make it easy for trained employees to get things right the first time and prevent contamination” explained Dyson. “Diverting [them] from landfills is commendable and also a great way to control cost.” Clear routines for storing and moving mattresses maximize the amount of material saved and minimizes time and labor costs for his company.

This ongoing program nets multiple benefits for Worleybeds through a streamlined approach to divert as many mattresses as possible from disposal.

In addition to collecting mattresses for recycling, Worleybeds also collects polyurethane foam offcuts and shoddy generated during the manufacturing process. This material is bailed, shredded, and reprocessed into carpet underlayment. Looking to the future, Worleybeds plans to purchase a shredder to turn other pre-consumer byproducts from the manufacturing process into reusable materials, such as pillow fill.

HandUp Mattress Recycling and Upcycling continue to find solutions for reducing waste and maximizing recycled materials within the mattress industry. In 2022 alone, HandUp successfully recycled 17,351 mattresses and box springs, diverting nearly 1,000,000 pounds or 500 tons from disposal.



Property managers, hospitality managers, university facilities staff, residents, and many more have called the RecyclingWorks hotline for assistance with mattresses in need of recycling after residential moves, new purchases, and commercial inventory changes.

RecyclingWorks Resources

[Mattresses](#) and [Textiles](#) Materials Pages
[MassDEP Textile Recovery Guidance](#)

Connect With RecyclingWorks:

Get free technical assistance for recycling textiles and mattresses today! Contact RecyclingWorks MA:

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