

*Eco-Tip of the Week for 2-12-17*

## **Million Mattress Milestone**

By David Goldstein, Ventura County IWMD

Illegally dumped items attract more dumping, especially with items like mattresses. To make mattress recycling easier, last year California joined Connecticut and Rhode Island in implementing an initiative. Consumers who buy a new mattress now pay a fee of \$11 per mattress or box spring to fund recycling.

There are two local effects of this program. First, mattress retailers must accept old, uncontaminated mattresses at no additional charge when delivering a new mattress. Second, Gold Coast Recycling in Ventura, Del Norte Recycling in Oxnard, and the Simi Valley Landfill and Recycling Center now accept mattresses free in segregated loads from residents, and they send the mattresses to recyclers, even though the value of metal springs, polyurethane foam, and wood is less than the cost to move, store, and disassemble mattresses.

The Mattress Recycling Council, a mattress industry-led non-profit implementing the program under the direction of state agencies, reported last month they surpassed the landmark of one million mattresses recycled nationally.

*On the net:*

[www.ByeByeMattress.com](http://www.ByeByeMattress.com)

[http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/13-14/bill/sen/sb\\_0251-0300/sb\\_254\\_bill\\_20130927\\_chaptered.pdf](http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/13-14/bill/sen/sb_0251-0300/sb_254_bill_20130927_chaptered.pdf)

<http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/mattresses/>

<http://mattressrecyclingcouncil.org/>

<http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/Listservs/> (see "mattress")