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MATTRESS RECYCLING SKYROCKETS IN METRO VANCOUVER

Mattress recycling has skyrocketed in Metro Vancouver since mattresses were prohibited from the garbage at the start of 2011.

Data from the three mattress recyclers in the region shows that over 47,000 mattresses or box springs were recycled so far this year.

Stacked on top of one another, all those mattresses would reach a height more than one and half times taller than Mount Everest.

Mattresses and box springs are composed of multiple materials including wood, metal, fabric and plastic, all of which are recyclable once separated. Recycling operations disassemble mattress by hand and are typically able to divert over 95% of the materials in each mattress from disposal.

Residents pay a \$20 per unit recycling fee at Metro Vancouver transfer stations and can take advantage of lower fees by dealing directly with mattress recyclers.

Three mattress recycling companies have established themselves in the region and employ over 45 people.

“This is a great example of the kind of initiatives in our recently-approved Integrated Solid Waste and Resource Management Plan,” said Metro Vancouver Chair Lois Jackson. “Public policy and private business are working together to maximize reuse, recycling and resource recovery.”

“Mattresses used to do nothing except take up room in landfills, and now they’re a recycling success story,” said Metro Vancouver Waste Committee Chair Greg Moore. “Now we’re recovering useful resources and helping support the local economy.”

To find the nearest mattress recycler, visit MetroVancouverRecycles.org.

For more information on weekdays, please contact the Metro Vancouver Information Centre, at 604-432-6200.

