

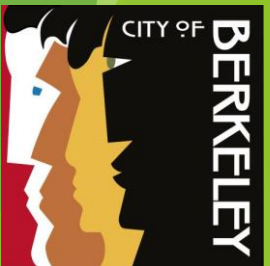
City of Berkeley 2021 Curbside Mattress Collection Illegal Dumping Pilot Program



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Illegal Dumping Conference Presentation
April 19, 2022



Mattress Curbside Collection Pilot Program

Purpose & Background

► Problem:

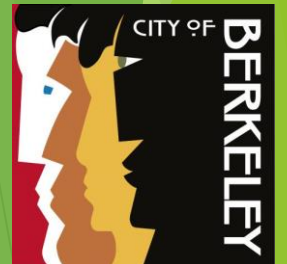
- Illegal dumping of mattresses is a problem in Berkeley, especially during Cal Student Move Out in the spring

Illegally
dumped
mattresses
in Berkeley
during Cal
Move Out



► Pilot Program Goals:

- Reduce illegal dumping
- Reduce landfilling/increase recycling of mattresses

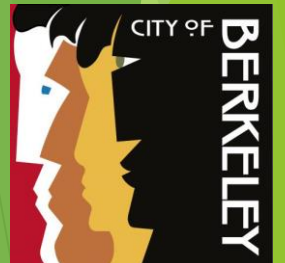


Pilot Program Funding

- ▶ Berkeley received a \$100,000 grant from the Mattress Recycling Council to fund:
- ▶ Staff time to pilot a curbside collection program
- ▶ Two educational mailers to promote the program and other available options

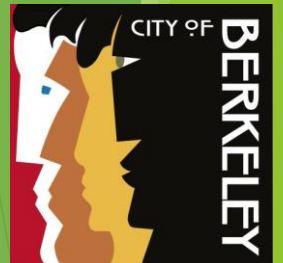


Photo credit: screenshot of MRC's main webpage



Pilot Program Overview

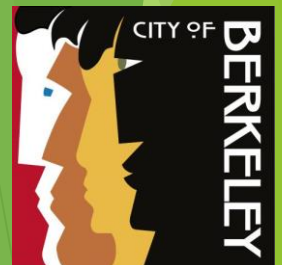
- ▶ Piloted a dedicated curbside collection program for mattresses:
 - ▶ Stopped allowing mattresses in regular refuse bulky item collection for 1-4 unit properties
 - ▶ Expanded eligibility to 5-9 unit properties
 - ▶ Established quantity limits:
 - ▶ Single-family:
 - ▶ Limit 2 mattresses per pickup, 2 pickups/year
 - ▶ Multi-family:
 - ▶ Limit 4 mattresses per pickup, 2 pickups/year
 - ▶ Residents call 311 Customer Service to request pickup
 - ▶ Residents told to place mattresses curbside for pickup
 - ▶ Ideally in parking strip, not blocking sidewalk!
 - ▶ Advise residents to place a sign on the mattresses so their neighbors know they scheduled a collection
 - ▶ Public Works crews pick up mattresses curbside
 - ▶ Pickup within 5 days (max)



Outreach/Education Overview

- ▶ Added a dedicated mattress recycling webpage on city of Berkeley website
- ▶ Sent two educational mailers to 33,708 residents living in 1-9 unit properties
- ▶ Targeted outreach during Cal Student Move Out:
 - ▶ First postcard sent in April
 - ▶ Berkeley website news release
 - ▶ Coordinated messaging with UC Berkeley and Berkeley Property Owners Association

Postcard sent to residents in April



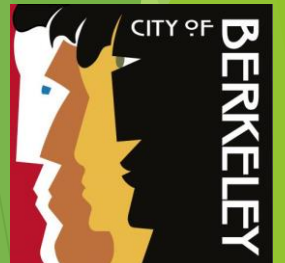
Program Results

- ▶ 1,041 curbside appointments completed
- ▶ 1,334 mattresses collected and recycled



Collected mattresses staged under a weather cover at the Berkeley Transfer Station waiting to be loaded into the trailer and recycled.

Weather cover was funded through a separate MRC micro-grant



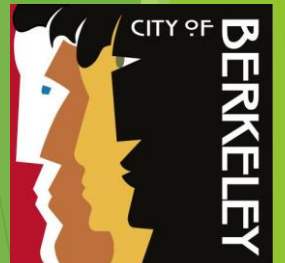
Program Costs

- ▶ Total number of staff hours:
 - ▶ Collection: 791 hours (average 15 hours/week)
 - ▶ Customer Service: 107 hours (average 5 min/call)
 - ▶ Implementation/admin/management: 236 hours
- ▶ Approximate program cost per mattress:
 - ▶ Collection costs only: \$57/unit
 - ▶ Collection + Customer Service: \$63/unit
 - ▶ Total pilot program costs* : \$97/unit

*Includes program implementation, labor, management, reporting, outreach material production, mailing postage, etc.



City of Berkeley two-man crew picking up mattresses curbside



Illegal Dumping Annual Comparison:

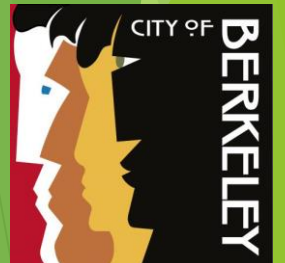
- ▶ 32% decrease of illegally dumped mattresses picked up by city crews during pilot year compared to prior year

Annual Comparison	Illegally dumped mattresses picked up by City crews	Mattresses picked up by CalTrans at Berkeley encampments/along highways
March 2017- March 2018	1,730	339
March 2018- March 2019	1,470	399
March 2019- March 2020*	1,270	244
March 2020- March 2021	1,372	122
March 2021- March 2022 (Pilot Year Data Collection Timeframe)	940	58

*Effective July 1, 2019, a new onsite MRC collection program allowed residents to drop off mattresses at the City's Transfer Station at no charge. Previously they paid \$14/mattress. This may have contributed to the 2019-2021 decrease in illegally dumped mattresses.



Illegally dumped mattress during Cal Move Out.
Photo credit: Berkeleyside/Jasper Burget



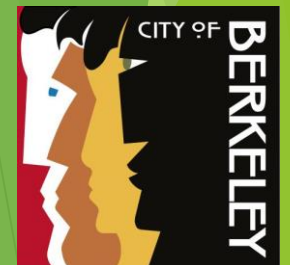
Illegal Dumping Annual Comparison during Cal Student Move Out:

- ▶ 55% decrease of illegally dumped mattresses picked up by city crews during Cal Move Out in pilot year compared to prior year

Annual Comparison Cal Student Move Out Timeframe	# illegally dumped mattresses picked up by City Crews
May 1, 2017- June 30, 2017	434
May 1, 2018- June 30, 2018	449
May 1, 2019- June 30, 2019	370
May 1, 2020- June 30, 2020	457
May 1, 2021- June 30, 2021 (Pilot Year)	208



Photo credits:
Cal Students Moving/Houston Chronical
Mattresses dumped in Berkeley during
Cal Move Out/SF Chronical

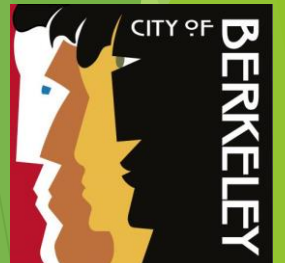


Lessons Learned

- ▶ 5 day pickup window leads to blight, customer complaints, sidewalk hazards
 - ▶ We switched to one designated mattress pickup day per week
- ▶ Mattresses too heavy if set out on rainy days
 - ▶ Added info to website to reschedule if heavy rain is in the forecast
- ▶ Initial staff concerns about residents requesting too many pickups was not a problem
 - ▶ Most properties only requested 1 pickup during the year
 - ▶ 50 properties requested two pickups
 - ▶ Only one property exceeded limit with three pickups requested
 - ▶ Majority of residents placed out 1 or 2 mattresses
 - ▶ 23 residents set out three mattresses
 - ▶ 25 residents set out four mattresses
 - ▶ 7 properties set out more than four mattresses



City of Berkeley crew picking up mattresses curbside after a heavy rain



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