City of Berkeley
2021 Curbside Mattress Collection
Illegal Dumping Pilot Program

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Department of Public Works
Division of Zero Waste
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

Pilot Program Goals:
- Reduce illegal dumping
- Reduce landfilling/increase recycling of mattresses
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
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
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

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

*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.
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

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

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.
Contact info:

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