

# Mattress Recycling



## Recycling Household Mattresses

Amgen Cymru have taken the initiative and launched a mattress recycling at Bryn Pica Landfill site, with the aim of converting a problem waste into recyclable materials.

We receive approximately 100 mattresses per week from the 5 Community Recycling Centres in Rhondda Cynon Taf.

Over 300 mattresses a week are landfilled in Rhondda Cynon Taf. Mattresses do not biodegrade in landfill; they can create dangerous voids and can cause accidents for site operatives. Damage to vehicles is also common. A typical double mattress takes up approximately 23 cubic feet of landfill space.

Cardiff University was interested in carrying out a research project. Other Local Authorities are experiencing similar problems as Rhondda Cynon Taf, with their residents disposing of high numbers of mattresses and they may join the project in the future.

The process used is very simple. The mattresses will be placed on a trestle table and then the outer material cover is sliced with a knife and removed. The felt is then cut away from the springs, leaving the springs, ending up with clean separated materials.

If our neighbouring Local Authorities utilise this service then the following facts are obtainable.

The process is completely self sustaining

There is no impact on landfill

It will help Local Authorities to stay within Landfill Allowance Scheme tonnages

It could reduce landfill by 1300 tonnes per year and increase recycling

Saving 120,000 cubic meters of landfill space

It will produce separate materials with greater potential for reuse or recycling

The below image shows the material being removed from around the springs, which will then be recycled.

