

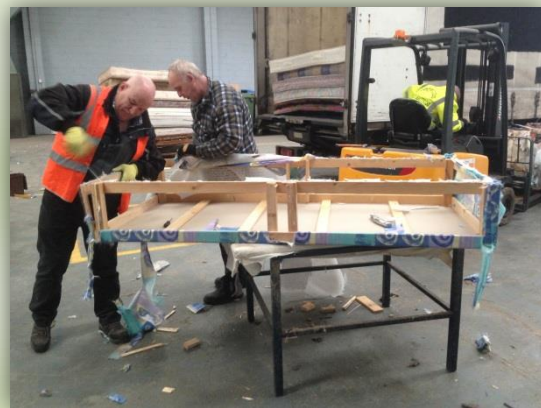
The Eco Mattress Project

Sunflower Recycling are delighted to launch their new Eco Mattress project which provides a completely traceable, sustainable, dismantling and recycling of mattresses. Agreements with IKEA and BargainTown are already in place to take all of their old mattresses and it is estimated that they will recycle 400 mattresses a week. The process is labour intensive but the meticulous dismantling process means that all of the separate materials are eligible for recycling. Eco Mattress is also a social enterprise, employing 7 people through community employment schemes and providing



complete training on machinery operation, forklift operation certification and dismantling and sorting.

The process begins with receiving mattresses at the plant door all elements of the process are recorded including quantities, weights and types of mattresses. Eco Mattress is supported by Dublin City Council, The Department of Environment, Community and Local



Government and the Environmental Protection Agency and as such complies with all applicable legislation and licensing requirements. Eco Mattress also accepts bed bases and separates the wood and textile for recycling.

Once the mattresses are assessed and recorded, the dismantling process begins. The external fabric is removed for baling and each bale contains between 30 - 40 mattresses. The fabric is then recycled. The metal springs are carefully removed from the mattress stuffing and are neatly stacked in spe



cialised crates. As the contents of the mattress stuffing vary, it has been a painstaking process for Sunflower Recycling to secure a suitable recycler for each of them.

Once the process is completed the segregated materials are stored in a secure, dry area on the plant, ready for collection.

