

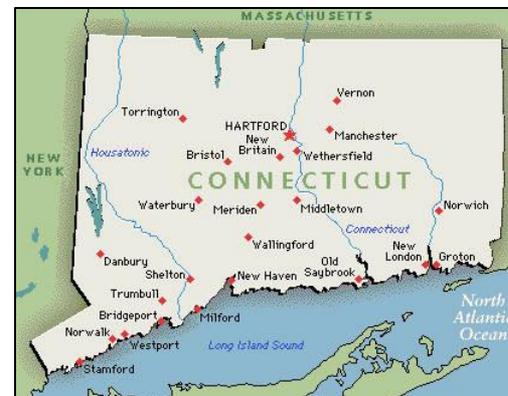
Survey for Used Mattress Management in Connecticut

Preliminary Results & Findings

Katie Dagon & Diane Lambert
SWAC Meeting
April 26, 2011

Survey Responses

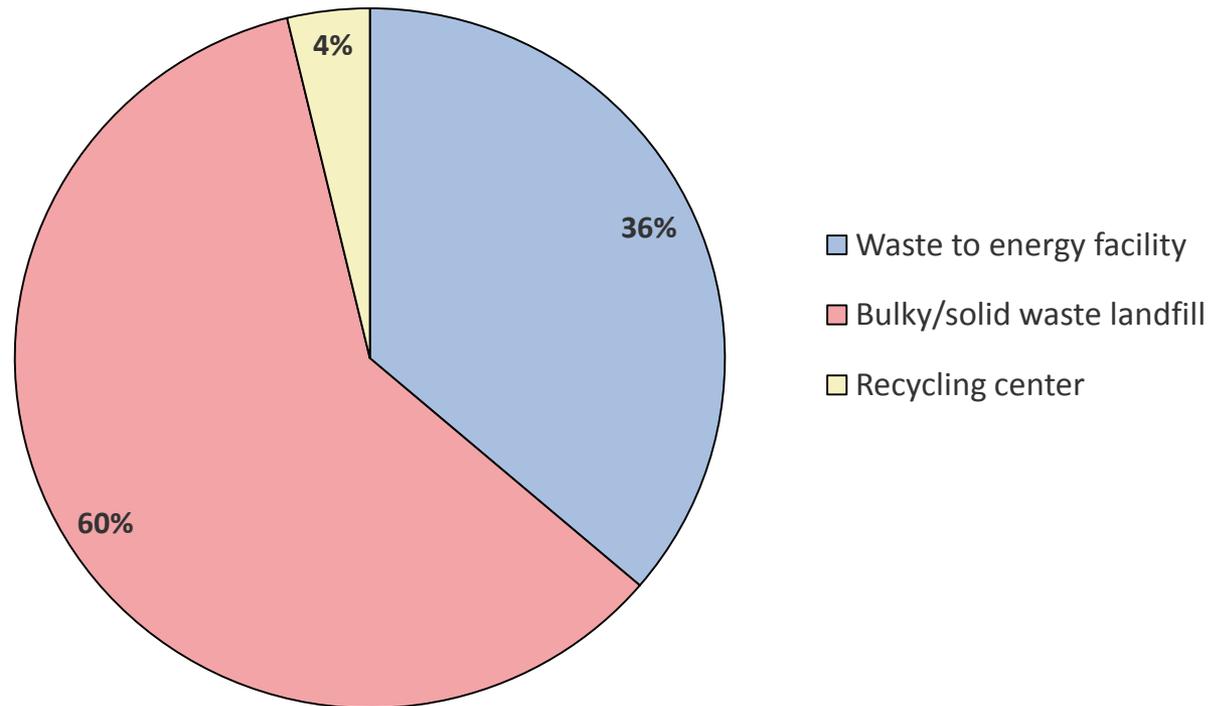
- ▶ Target audience – municipal officials/employees
 - How does your community manage disposal of used mattresses?
- ▶ Preliminary data compiled from responses submitted March 23, 2011 to April 6, 2011
- ▶ 90 CT municipalities responded so far
 - 53% of the state
 - Good cross-section of small towns, suburban communities and larger cities



Destination of Used Mattresses

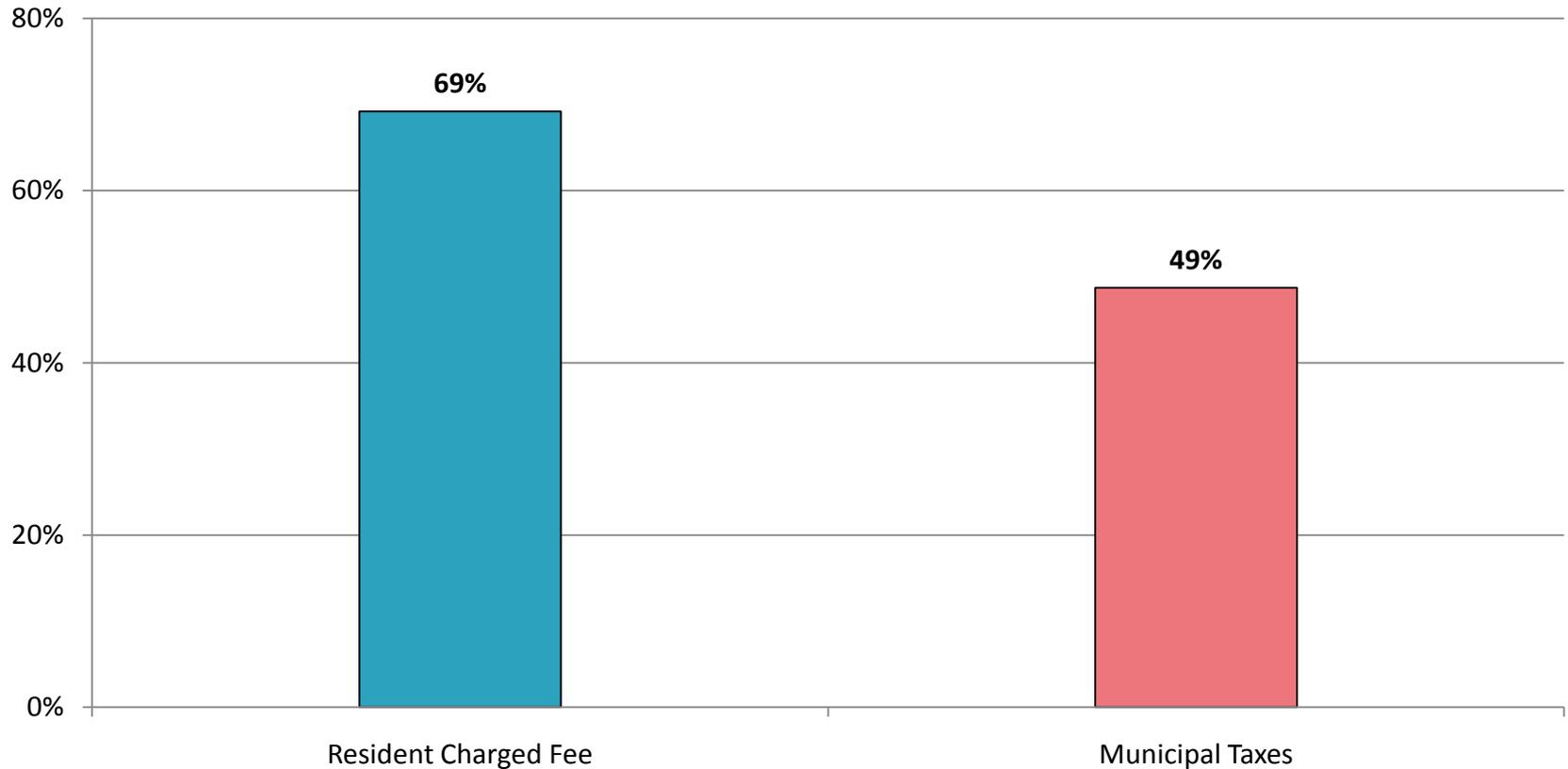
Question: Where does your municipality send disposed mattresses?

Very little, if any, residential recycling of mattresses (those that come through municipal facilities).



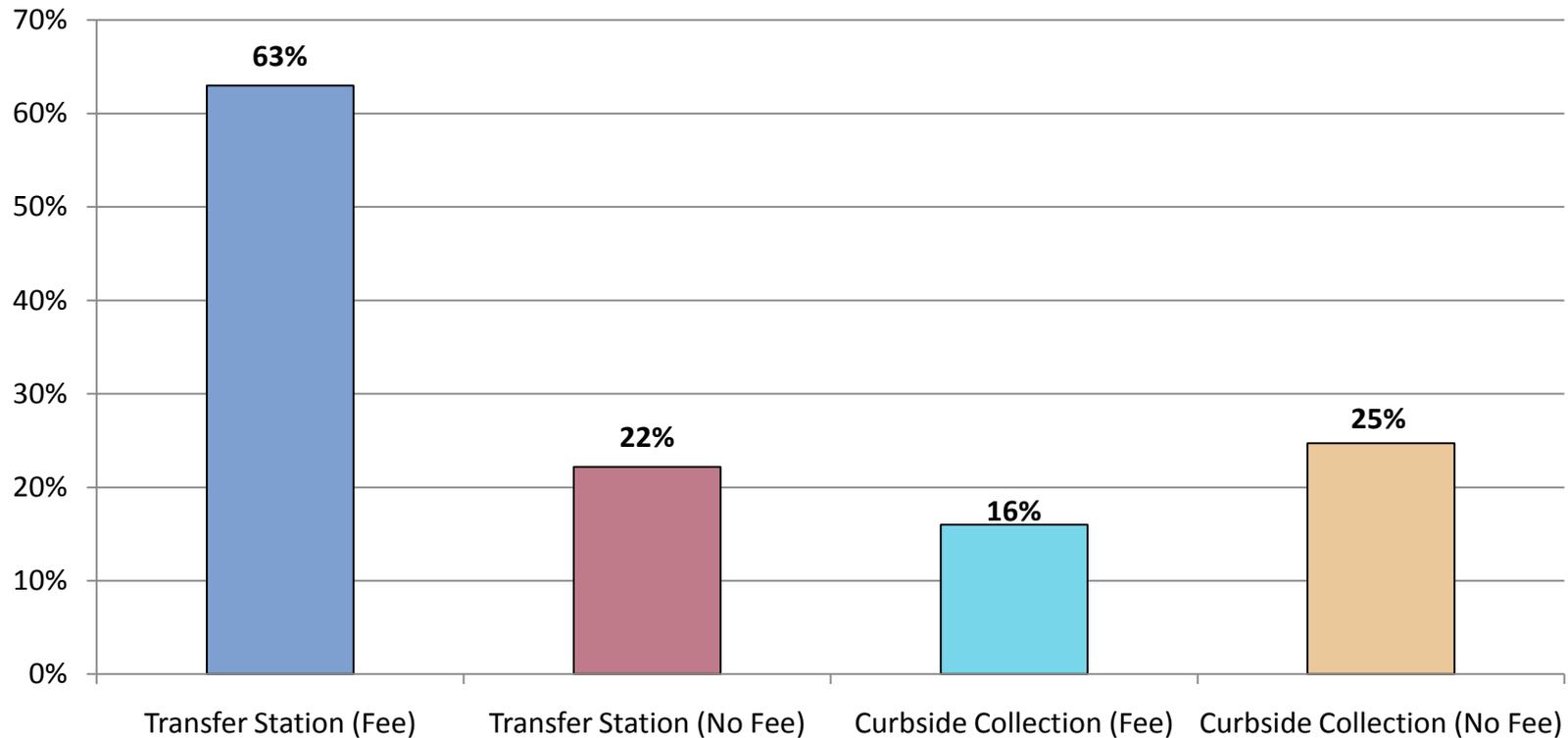
Source of Funding for Municipalities

Question: How does your municipality cover the cost for mattress disposal?



Municipal Collection Method

Question: How does your municipality provide for mattress disposal?



Total Mattresses Managed by CT Municipalities

- ▶ **Survey Question: Give an estimate, or known number, of mattresses disposed every year at:**
 - a) Transfer Station**
 - b) Curbside**
- ▶ Analyzed by matching yearly totals with town population to generate per capita collection rates.
- ▶ Preliminary data indicates the following:

Average Per Capita Rate (mattresses/person/year)	0.025
State Population (July 2009)	3,518,288
Total Collected Per Year Statewide (residential and through municipality)	88,050*

* Does not include all curbside collections

Illegal Dumping Comments

- ▶ “Cost of time & equipment to pick up illegally dumped materials and dispose of properly, not to mention lost dumping fees.”
- ▶ “It causes blight, once residents see a mattress lying on the side of the road they start dumping other bulky items there.”
- ▶ “It requires staff from public works to collect them and then transfer them to our transfer station. This time erodes into other projects.”
- ▶ “As the economy flounders and disposal costs to individuals rise I fully expect that illegal dumping will escalate.”



Photo: The Macarthur Chronicle

Additional Comments

▶ Product Stewardship

- “It would be nice if the manufacturers had a system of recycling the old ones.”
- “Our town would like to see a mattress take back program in place by all appropriate retailers/ manufacturers, without undue expense placed upon the resident.”

▶ Other Concerns

- “[Mattresses] are problematic when processing them with landfill equipment, so we would prefer there to be alternative options.”
- “During evictions in our city, workers do not want to unload mattresses for health concerns and recent bed bug infestations.”
- “Residents are not happy about paying a separate fee for the disposal of mattresses & box springs.”