



Transforming Mattresses in The Netherlands and Beyond: From Waste to Circular Resource

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

RetourMatras transforms mattresses from waste to resource by dismantling and liberating over 80% of the materials out of a mattress. These materials are primarily polyurethane foam, metal, latex foam and textile.

Next to several mechanical recycling facilities for end-of-life mattresses, RetourMatras also operates a production facility for rebond foam. The company recycles discarded mattresses in the Netherlands, Belgium and England, turning them into circular resource.

Now they went a step further. In their new facility in Lelystad (NL), RetourMatras is using an advanced depolymerisation recycling technology to produce recycled polyol (repolyol) from polyurethane foam (PU) from end-of-life mattresses. Polyol is one of the key building blocks of polyurethane foam - the main cushioning material in mattresses - which is a significant step to closing the circle. Thanks to Ikano Industry, RetourMatras was able to accelerate this process.

Ingka Group, with its core business IKEA Retail, is partnering up with RetourMatras, of which is also a shareholder via Ingka Investments. A pillar of IKEA's sustainability strategy is to convert its products so they are made from either recyclable or renewable materials. This ambition extends to mattresses, as IKEA Retail's volumes comes with a responsibility to find circular solutions for the end-of-life of a mattress. With RetourMatras, the parties work towards a future-proof footprint mattress.

The company is actively seeking opportunities to expand its recycling capacity. In addition to the Netherlands, Belgium and England, RetourMatras is actively establishing recycling plants in France and Scandinavia.

PROJECT IMPACT

The RetourMatras-method has a major impact in Europe and the United Kingdom. An estimation of the market shows that over 40 million mattresses are disposed annually in geographical Europe.

Compared to incineration, recycling one mattress saves 76 kgs of CO2 eq emissions. A theoretical calculation shows that if we recycle (all estimated) 40 million mattresses disposed in Europe, an equivalent of over 3 billion kgs of CO2 eq emissions could be saved.

In 2022, RetourMatras recycled nearly 1.5 million mattresses, saving 114 million kgs of CO2 eq and providing the market with nearly 20 million kgs of recycled material. Recycled material that can be used as a circular raw material by mattress manufacturers through high-quality developments.

1.5 million mattresses recycled	1 year
114 million kgs of CO2 eq saved	20 million kgs of materials reused

RetourMatras' ambition is bold: to secure that no mattress goes to waste but is reused, again, and again, and again. Being 100% circular is the company's primary goal. In addition to the fact that already now a new mattress can be made from discarded mattresses, there is a significant saving in CO2 eq emissions.

ABOUT RETOUR MATRAS

RetourMatras dismantles mattresses and prepares the materials for reuse. A self-developed, state-of-the-art automated process makes mattress recycling feasible and enables RetourMatras to substantially contribute to recycling targets. The ambition is bold, to secure no mattress goes to waste but is reused, again, and again, and again.

CONTACT

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LEARN MORE

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