



# Net Zero

Energy



Water



Waste



## Fort Carson Not Lying Around on Net Zero Goals – Recycling All Mattresses

The Army has long recognized the challenges related to reducing mattress waste. The challenges include: large volumes and cost to ship to a landfill; re-use is fraught with liability issues; and other purposes for mattress waste have not been found. Mattress waste also has a significant impact on landfills. Mattresses are less compact than other landfill materials and on average only weigh about 80 pounds, but take up 1.5 cubic yards of space.

Fort Carson typically disposes of 400 to 450 mattresses each year. Working with a local recycler, Fort Carson no longer sends any of its mattresses to a landfill. All mattresses are taken to the recycler at no cost, and the recycler ensures all materials are recycled, re-used, and or re-purposed.\*



Photo courtesy of Universal Green Recycling, LLC

Quilt Bales in Covered Storage Area

The recycler transports the mattresses to the local recycling facility where the springs are removed and sold to another local recycler for the metal content. The remaining materials are shredded, compressed, baled, and placed in a covered accumulation area. Once 40,000 pounds are accumulated, the bales are shipped to a manufacturer for use as a raw material. Typical end uses include carpeting and insulation.

The local recycler has also placed bins around the installation for placement of individual mattresses.

*\*Some companies may claim they “recycle” mattresses, when in fact all they do is “reduce”; i.e., they shred and compact part or all of the mattress before sending to the landfill. The local recycler Fort Carson works with sends almost nothing to the landfill - less than 10% by weight.*

### Contribution to Net Zero



***Diversion of Fort Caron mattresses frees up approximately 600 to 675 cubic yards of landfill space annually. If you were to lay them all flat and line them up head to foot – they would cover almost six football fields!***