

LOOP-it takes stock: Austria's first mattress recycler reduces 87% of CO₂ emissions

- **In 2025, the circular economy pioneer, BRANTNER green solutions, and the foam specialist, NEVEON, founded the joint venture LOOP-it with the aim of recycling End-of-Life mattresses.**
- **When the company was founded, the goal was to find a sustainable way to recycle old foam that had previously been incinerated. The company is now taking stock of its operations to date.**

Vienna/Krems, July 08, 2026. LOOP-it, Austria's first mattress recycling company, now processes up to 500 mattresses – equivalent to around seven tonnes per working day – at its facility in Oberwölbling (St. Pölten District/Austria). On an annual basis, this amounts to a capacity of 110,000 mattresses, including several metric tons of valuable secondary raw materials. Roughly 80 percent of the material is now reused instead of being incinerated. While burning a 14-kg mattress produces an average of 26.47 kg of CO₂, the recycling process emits only 3.42 kg of CO₂. This corresponds to a reduction of 23.05 kg of CO₂ – or approximately 87 percent of CO₂ emissions – per mattress. The CO₂ footprint was calculated in collaboration with ClimatePartner.

LOOP-it is thus filling an important gap in the circular economy: more than one million mattresses are disposed of in Austria each year. Most of this number still ends up being incinerated, even though mattresses contain valuable materials such as polyurethane foam, latex, and metals. At the same time, thermal recovery generates significant CO₂ emissions. This is exactly where LOOP-it comes in, transforming a linear waste stream into a new raw material cycle.

“With LOOP-it, we’re demonstrating that a circular economy is technologically feasible, even for complex products like mattresses. From the very beginning, our goal was to tap into an entirely new stream of materials for recycling, and we have now finally succeeded in doing so on an industrial scale. “This also helps us bolster Lower Austria as an industrial hub,” explains

Jernej Hren, Managing Director of LOOP-it GmbH and Group Innovation Officer at BRANTNER.

“The goal of LOOP-it is to keep valuable raw materials in circulation, and to actively help shape the future of our industry. We want to show that a circular economy is not only environmentally sound, but can also be economically successful. However, this can only be achieved if all stakeholders along the value chain work together. “That’s exactly why we’re laying the groundwork with LOOP-it,” adds Michael Bednarek, Managing Director of LOOP-it GmbH and Transformation Manager at NEVEON.

AI supports the recycling process

The facility relies on modern technologies and automation. Artificial intelligence is used to optimize operational processes and analyze materials with precision. On average, a mattress weighs 14 kg. The recycled materials recovered in this process form the basis for both mechanical and chemical recycling and, in future, can help reduce the consumption of (and dependence on) fossil raw materials in production. The compressed bales of material weigh approximately 350 kg for polyurethane and 460 kg for latex.

A pioneering role without a legal obligation

One particularly noteworthy detail: Austria currently does not have a mandatory Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR system) in the form of a fee for manufacturers placing mattresses on the market, i.e., a levy through which manufacturers finance the subsequent collection and recycling of mattresses. Nevertheless, BRANTNER green solutions and NEVEON have already established and put their own recycling infrastructure into operation. This makes LOOP-it a pioneer in the Austrian market.

With the successful launch of this facility, LOOP-it is combining innovative technology, the circular economy, and industrial partnerships to create new solutions for previously unsolved environmental problems.

Images



Jernej Hren, Managing Director at LOOP-it and Group Innovation Officer at BRANTNER green solutions
Credit: BRANTNER green solutions



Michael Bednarek, Managing Director of LOOP-it and Transformation Manager at NEVEON
Credit: Johannes Bitter Photography

About LOOP-it

LOOP-it is Austria's first mattress recycling company. The joint venture between Austrian foam specialist NEVEON and circular economy company BRANTNER green solutions is headquartered in Krems an der Donau and is committed to conserving natural resources and promoting circular material flows sustainably. In cooperation with waste collection centers and other partners, LOOP-it accepts used mattresses, dismantles them, and mechanically recycles the materials. The recovered raw materials are then used to produce new products, such as carpet underlays or sound insulation elements, making a valuable contribution to a functioning circular economy. www.loop-it.at

About BRANTNER green solutions:

BRANTNER (www.brantner.com/) is rethinking waste disposal and has, therefore, fully committed itself to the circular economy. Today's waste is tomorrow's resource: as many recyclable materials as possible are given a new purpose through recycling and upcycling. Constant communication with customers and partners – along with continuous improvements in efficiency – make BRANTNER green solutions a driver of innovation and a leading company in the waste management industry. BRANTNER green solutions operates 11 sorting facilities, a biogas plant, 13 landfills, and 11 composting facilities in Europe, including Austria's most modern composting facility, "Erdenreich" in Gneixendorf (Lower Austria). BRANTNER now

serves approximately 1,300 municipalities and approximately 27,500 customers in Germany and abroad. This makes BRANTNER green solutions an important municipal service provider and regional employer.

About NEVEON:

NEVEON is a leading integrated foam company for flexible and composite polyurethane foams. Its core business is the production of around 300 different standard and specialty foams and processing them to make semi-finished or finished products for your everyday comfort, the mobility sector and a wide range of specialist applications.

NEVEON is a part of the Greiner Group, and its goal is to help enhance the quality of life around the world with its products. In fiscal 2025, NEVEON generated revenue of EUR 408 million and employed around 2,400 people at 34 locations across Europe, Asia, and North America. www.neveon.com