



ONE INDUSTRY'S WASTE STREAM IS ANOTHER'S PRIMARY RESOURCE

What do spent steel shot, mattress box springs, and acetone distillation have in common? These are all one company's waste and another's resource. By-Product Synergy Northwest, a public-private partnership, encourages businesses to recover materials and find others who can use them instead of sending them to the landfill. By working in partnership, businesses in the Pacific Northwest are collaborating to save materials, reduce disposal costs and create business value.

BY-PRODUCT SYNERGY RESULTS:

One synergy provided steel shot from an industrial painting operation that could be used by a steelmaking operation to make new steel products. Prior to the company's involvement with the partnership, the material previously had been going to the landfill for disposal.



Washington State Correctional Industries (CI), a provider of offender work training programs, is training its labor force in dismantling and separating mattresses and box springs for recycling. Each year, more than 48,000 mattresses are diverted from the landfill, saving \$100,000 in disposal costs and 7,000 metric tons of greenhouse gases. [CI Mattress Recycling Program](#)

A cabinet company in Monroe, Washington reduced the use of virgin acetone in its production process. The company purchased a still and developed an innovative process to distill dirty acetone so that it can be reused a number of times before disposal. As a result, the company went from disposing 250 drums a year to 4 drums a year, saving more than \$100,000 in the first year.



For more information contact Network for Business Innovation and Sustainability (NBIS): maryr@nbis.org. For additional program information: <http://nbis.org/programs/by-product-synergy-nw/>.