**Furniture Consumption and Recycling: A Comparative Study of Circular Economy Implementation in Israel (2014–2024)**

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**Introduction:** Over the past decade, Israel’s furniture sector has seen significant changes in consumption patterns, waste generation, and nascent efforts toward circularity. This report examines five key areas: **(1)** the volume and dynamics of furniture consumption in 2014–2024, **(2)** current practices in furniture waste disposal and recycling (and the challenges therein), **(3)** initiatives promoting repair, reuse, and upcycling of furniture, **(4)** the national policy and regulatory framework (including gaps such as the absence of EPR for furniture), and **(5)** a comparative analysis with international best practices (France, Scandinavia, the US) and how these could inform Israel’s path forward. The translation retains the original structure, tone, and clarity, presenting the findings in professional English with supporting data and examples.

**Volume and Dynamics of Furniture Consumption in Israel (2014–2024)**

Over 2014–2024, furniture consumption in Israel has **grown both in scale and diversity**, reflecting population growth, rising living standards, and evolving consumer preferences. **Annual expenditure on furniture** (including related items like lighting and flooring) reached roughly **₪12.1 billion** (≈$3.3 billion) in recent years[statista.com](https://www.statista.com/statistics/1548767/israel-annual-consumption-expenditure-furniture-lighting/#:~:text=Private%20consumption%20expenditure%20on%20furniture%2C,3). The market’s **segment breakdown** shows that *residential furniture* dominates: for example, the living room furniture segment alone is projected to reach **~$935 million** by 2025, making it the largest category[statista.com](https://www.statista.com/outlook/cmo/furniture/israel#:~:text=The%20largest%20segment%20within%20the,66m%20in%202025). Other major categories include bedroom furniture, kitchen and dining furniture, and office furniture, each with substantial shares of the market. Local manufacturing exists (especially for high-end or custom furnishings), but **imports supply a large portion** of consumer demand – as evidenced by significant import volumes from Europe and Asia (notably China). This has led to a wide range of styles and price points available in Israel, but also to competition that challenges domestic producers.

**Growth dynamics:** The furniture market experienced steady growth through most of the decade, with a notable surge around **2020–2021**. During the COVID-19 pandemic, homebound consumers invested in home improvements, causing a spike in furniture sales. One analysis shows that **2021 saw an exceptional ~31% jump in furniture demand** (in certain segments) compared to 2020[indexbox.io](https://www.indexbox.io/store/israel-metal-complete-and-assembled-domestic-furniture-market-analysis-forecast-size-trends-and-insights/#:~:text=Israel%27s%20Metal%20Domestic%20Furniture%20Market,). This post-lockdown boom followed a slight dip in early 2020 and was followed by a moderation in 2022–2024 as the market stabilized at a higher base. Overall, from 2012 to 2024 the market’s volume grew at an average rate of around **1–2% per year**, with the sharp 2021 uptick being an outlier[indexbox.io](https://www.indexbox.io/store/israel-metal-complete-and-assembled-domestic-furniture-market-analysis-forecast-size-trends-and-insights/#:~:text=Israel%27s%20Metal%20Domestic%20Furniture%20Market,). By 2024, annual furniture retail revenues in Israel are on the order of **$3.5–4 billion**[statista.com](https://www.statista.com/outlook/cmo/furniture/israel#:~:text=In%202025%2C%20the%20Furniture%20market,%28CAGR), reflecting both organic growth and inflation.

**Sales channels:** Traditionally, Israelis bought furniture through brick-and-mortar **showrooms and retailers**, ranging from large chains to small family-run stores. **E-commerce**, however, has grown quickly in the last decade. In the mid-2010s, online furniture sales were only about **5%** of the market[cdn-media.web-view.net](https://cdn-media.web-view.net/i/wdtxacphsu/20160608_TASC_2016_ecommerce_newsletter.compressed_n_0.pdf?utm_source=activetrail&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=%D7%90%D7%99%D7%9A%20%D7%A6%D7%9E%D7%99%D7%97%D7%AA%20%D7%A9%D7%95%D7%A7%20%D7%94-e-commerce%20%D7%9E%D7%A9%D7%A0%D7%94%20%D7%90%D7%AA%20%D7%A4%D7%A0%D7%99%20%D7%A9%D7%95%D7%A7%20%D7%94%D7%A7%D7%9E%D7%A2%D7%95%D7%A0%D7%90%D7%95%D7%AA%20%D7%91%D7%99%D7%A9%D7%A8%D7%90%D7%9C#:~:text=%D7%94%D7%9E%D7%A7%D7%95%D7%95%D7%9F%20%D7%9E%D7%A1%D7%9A%20%D7%A9%D7%95%D7%A7%20%D7%94%D7%A8%D7%99%D7%94%D7%95%D7%98%20%292015,%D7%9E%D7%94%D7%A9%D7%95%D7%A7), but this share has expanded (especially after 2020 when online shopping accelerated). By 2016 the online home-furniture market was valued around ₪0.55–0.6 billion (approx $150 million) and growing ~10% annually[cdn-media.web-view.net](https://cdn-media.web-view.net/i/wdtxacphsu/20160608_TASC_2016_ecommerce_newsletter.compressed_n_0.pdf?utm_source=activetrail&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=%D7%90%D7%99%D7%9A%20%D7%A6%D7%9E%D7%99%D7%97%D7%AA%20%D7%A9%D7%95%D7%A7%20%D7%94-e-commerce%20%D7%9E%D7%A9%D7%A0%D7%94%20%D7%90%D7%AA%20%D7%A4%D7%A0%D7%99%20%D7%A9%D7%95%D7%A7%20%D7%94%D7%A7%D7%9E%D7%A2%D7%95%D7%A0%D7%90%D7%95%D7%AA%20%D7%91%D7%99%D7%A9%D7%A8%D7%90%D7%9C#:~:text=%D7%A9%D7%95%D7%A7%20%D7%94%D7%A8%D7%99%D7%94%D7%95%D7%98%20%D7%95%D7%94%D7%90%D7%91%D7%96%D7%95%D7%A8%20%D7%9C%D7%91%D7%99%D7%AA%20%D7%94%D7%9E%D7%A7%D7%95%D7%95%D7%9F,6%20%D7%9E%D7%99%D7%9C%D7%99%D7%90%D7%A8%D7%93%20%E2%82%AA%20%D7%91%D7%A9%D7%A0%D7%94). While still a minority of total sales (under 10% in the late 2010s[cdn-media.web-view.net](https://cdn-media.web-view.net/i/wdtxacphsu/20160608_TASC_2016_ecommerce_newsletter.compressed_n_0.pdf?utm_source=activetrail&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=%D7%90%D7%99%D7%9A%20%D7%A6%D7%9E%D7%99%D7%97%D7%AA%20%D7%A9%D7%95%D7%A7%20%D7%94-e-commerce%20%D7%9E%D7%A9%D7%A0%D7%94%20%D7%90%D7%AA%20%D7%A4%D7%A0%D7%99%20%D7%A9%D7%95%D7%A7%20%D7%94%D7%A7%D7%9E%D7%A2%D7%95%D7%A0%D7%90%D7%95%D7%AA%20%D7%91%D7%99%D7%A9%D7%A8%D7%90%D7%9C#:~:text=%D7%94%D7%9E%D7%A7%D7%95%D7%95%D7%9F%20%D7%9E%D7%A1%D7%9A%20%D7%A9%D7%95%D7%A7%20%D7%94%D7%A8%D7%99%D7%94%D7%95%D7%98%20%292015,%D7%9E%D7%94%D7%A9%D7%95%D7%A7)), online channels have continued to gain traction; global players and local websites (including second-hand marketplaces) now play a significant role. Consumers increasingly research and even purchase big items online, although many still prefer in-person inspection for quality and comfort. Going forward, the furniture market is expected to grow modestly (projected ~2.5% CAGR in coming years)[statista.com](https://www.statista.com/outlook/cmo/furniture/israel#:~:text=In%202025%2C%20the%20Furniture%20market,%28CAGR), with **sustainability and durability** becoming more prominent factors influencing consumer choice.

**Furniture Waste and Recycling Practices in Israel**

Disposal of bulky furniture waste has become a **significant environmental and logistical challenge** in Israel. Each year, tens of thousands of tonnes of old furniture are discarded by households and businesses, adding to the municipal solid waste stream. **Nationwide statistics** are not comprehensively tracked for furniture waste alone; however, data from metropolitan services provide insight. In the Tel Aviv–Dan region, for example, the Hiriya Recycling Park receives about **400 tonnes *per day*** of combined **“bulky waste”** (furniture, mattresses, appliances) and yard trimmings collected by municipal crews[hiriya.co.il](https://www.hiriya.co.il/%D7%A4%D7%A1%D7%95%D7%9C%D7%AA_%D7%92%D7%96%D7%9D#:~:text=%D7%A4%D7%A1%D7%95%D7%9C%D7%AA%20%D7%94%D7%92%D7%96%D7%9D%20%D7%91%D7%A7%D7%95%D7%95%D7%99%20%D7%90%D7%99%D7%A1%D7%95%D7%A3%20%D7%99%D7%99%D7%A2%D7%95%D7%93%D7%99%D7%99%D7%9D,%D7%92%D7%95%D7%A9%D7%99%D7%AA%20%D7%91%D7%90%D7%9E%D7%A6%D7%A2%D7%95%D7%AA%20%D7%9E%D7%A9%D7%90%D7%99%D7%95%D7%AA%20%D7%9E%D7%A0%D7%95%D7%A3%20%D7%94%D7%90%D7%95%D7%A1%D7%A4%D7%95%D7%AA). This suggests on the order of **~146,000 tonnes per year** of bulky waste in that region alone. Extrapolating nationally (with proper caution) indicates that Israel likely generates several hundred thousand tonnes of furniture and other large-item waste annually.

**Current disposal and recycling:** At present, the **vast majority of discarded furniture in Israel ends up in landfills**. Furniture is often composed of mixed materials – wood, metals, plastics, foams, fabrics – which complicates recycling. There are *no dedicated nationwide facilities* for furniture recycling, so most municipalities collect unwanted furniture as part of bulky waste and haul it to disposal sites. Some materials are recovered: wood pieces from bulky waste may be separated and sent for **wood recycling or energy recovery** (e.g. chipped for use as RDF fuel), and metal parts (hinges, frames) are sometimes salvaged as scrap. But **overall recycling rates are very low**. By comparison, in the United States about **12 million tons of furniture waste** were generated in 2017 (double the 1990 amount), yet only **20%** of it was recycled or used for energy, with the remaining **~9.8 million tons landfilled**[zavit.org.il](https://www.zavit.org.il/%D7%94%D7%9E%D7%99%D7%93%D7%A2-%D7%A9%D7%9C%D7%90-%D7%9E%D7%95%D7%A4%D7%99%D7%A2-%D7%91%D7%A7%D7%98%D7%9C%D7%95%D7%92-%D7%94%D7%A8%D7%94%D7%99%D7%98%D7%99%D7%9D/#:~:text=%D7%A0%D7%AA%D7%97%D7%99%D7%9C%20%D7%9E%D7%94%D7%A1%D7%95%D7%A3.%20%D7%91,%D7%A0%D7%95%D7%A1%D7%A4%D7%99%D7%9D%20%D7%9E%D7%A2%D7%91%D7%A8%20%D7%9C%D7%90%D7%A9%D7%A4%D7%94%20%D7%91%D7%99%D7%AA%D7%99%D7%AA%20%D7%A8%D7%92%D7%99%D7%9C%D7%94). Israel’s recycling of furniture is similarly limited – likely well under 20%. One reason is material complexity (many furniture components are hard to separate and recycle), and another is the lack of an extended producer responsibility scheme (see Section 4) to fund take-back or recycling programs.

**Collection practices and street dumping:** Municipalities typically offer periodic **curbside collection for bulky items** such as furniture. However, practices vary by city. In many locales, residents must wait for a scheduled pickup day (often once a week or a few times a month) or call the city to arrange collection. If residents put old sofas, beds, or cabinets out on the street on unsanctioned days, these items can linger as an eyesore or obstruct sidewalks. **Illegal dumping of furniture on streets** has become an issue in some cities, forcing municipalities to perform unscheduled pickups. Because **no national law specifically governs furniture disposal** (unlike for electronic waste)[midrag.co.il](https://www.midrag.co.il/Content/Tip/12162#:~:text=%D7%9E%D7%99%D7%93%D7%A8%D7%92%20www,%D7%9E%D7%A7%D7%95%D7%9E%D7%99%D7%95%D7%AA%20%D7%9C%D7%97%D7%95%D7%A7%D7%A7%20%D7%97%D7%95%D7%A7%D7%99%20%D7%A2%D7%96%D7%A8), each local authority sets its own rules and penalties. For example, **Tel Aviv** city bylaws allow placing furniture and large trimmings outside only on designated days; dumping at the wrong time or place can incur fines of **₪750–3,000**[pinoidirot.co.il](https://pinoidirot.co.il/%D7%A4%D7%99%D7%A0%D7%95%D7%99-%D7%A8%D7%94%D7%99%D7%98%D7%99%D7%9D/#:~:text=%D7%A1%D7%95%D7%92%D7%99%D7%9D%20%D7%A9%D7%9C%20%D7%A8%D7%99%D7%94%D7%95%D7%98%20%D7%99%D7%A9%D7%9F%20%D7%90%D7%A0%D7%95,%D7%A6%D7%A8%D7%99%D7%9A%20%D7%9E%D7%A0%D7%95%D7%A3%20%D7%95%D7%9E%D7%94%20%D7%94%D7%9E%D7%97%D7%99%D7%A8%20%D7%93%D7%A8%D7%9B%D7%A0%D7%95). Despite these rules, it’s common to see used mattresses or broken shelves left curbside. Municipal sanitation departments must then deploy special trucks (often crane-equipped) to collect these heavy items, straining city budgets.

**Logistical and financial challenges:** Handling bulky waste is **costly and labor-intensive** for Israeli municipalities. Collection often requires two-person crews and heavy vehicles, and items must be hauled to transfer stations or directly to landfills. Municipalities bear disposal fees as well – notably the **landfill levy** (a tax per ton of waste landfilled). Israel’s landfill levy has risen sharply over the past decade (an increase of over 1000% from 2007 to 2022)[mdpi.com](https://www.mdpi.com/2071-1050/16/7/2791#:~:text=The%20research%20findings%20indicate%20that,Nonetheless%2C%20the%20gradual), now exceeding ₪100/ton for mixed waste. Cities pay this levy on *all* collected waste, then get a rebate for any portion diverted to recycling[mdpi.com](https://www.mdpi.com/2071-1050/16/7/2791#:~:text=charge%20the%20landfill%20levy%20and,to%20the%20Cleanliness%20Maintenance%20Fund). In practice, because furniture waste currently has few recycling options, municipalities pay as if it were all landfilled. The **Cleanliness Maintenance Fund**, which accumulates levy fees, is meant to finance recycling infrastructure and waste reduction programs[mdpi.com](https://www.mdpi.com/2071-1050/16/7/2791#:~:text=match%20at%20L731%20shall%20pay,landfilling%20and%20are%20less%20environmentally), but the slow development of furniture recycling means cities still incur high net costs. Some municipalities have tried to mitigate costs by integrating furniture collection with yard waste (since both often require crane trucks)[hiriya.co.il](https://www.hiriya.co.il/%D7%A4%D7%A1%D7%95%D7%9C%D7%AA_%D7%92%D7%96%D7%9D#:~:text=%D7%A4%D7%A1%D7%95%D7%9C%D7%AA%20%D7%94%D7%92%D7%96%D7%9D%20%D7%91%D7%A7%D7%95%D7%95%D7%99%20%D7%90%D7%99%D7%A1%D7%95%D7%A3%20%D7%99%D7%99%D7%A2%D7%95%D7%93%D7%99%D7%99%D7%9D,%D7%92%D7%95%D7%A9%D7%99%D7%AA%20%D7%91%D7%90%D7%9E%D7%A6%D7%A2%D7%95%D7%AA%20%D7%9E%D7%A9%D7%90%D7%99%D7%95%D7%AA%20%D7%9E%D7%A0%D7%95%D7%A3%20%D7%94%D7%90%D7%95%D7%A1%D7%A4%D7%95%D7%AA), or by encouraging residents to donate usable items instead of discarding. Nonetheless, **unscheduled pickups** due to illegal dumping and the sheer volume of bulky waste continue to present **financial burdens** (fuel, labor, landfill fees) and **environmental issues** (overflowing landfills, littered streets). These challenges underscore the need for more circular approaches to keep furniture in use longer and to shift end-of-life responsibility away from local governments.

**Initiatives for Repair, Reuse, and Upcycling of Furniture**

Despite the challenges, a range of **initiatives across Israel** – government-led, non-governmental, commercial, and grassroots – are aiming to extend the life of furniture and promote a circular economy in this sector. These initiatives encourage **repair**, **reuse**, **refurbishment**, and **upcycling** of furniture, keeping items out of landfills and in use within the community. Below are notable examples:

* **Community Furniture Reuse Programs:** *Volunteer-run and charitable organizations* play a major role in furniture reuse. For instance, the **Lev Chash Furniture Center in Haifa** accepts donations of used furniture and household items, then offers them to low-income individuals at symbolic prices[levchash.co.il](https://levchash.co.il/%D7%9E%D7%A8%D7%9B%D7%96-%D7%A8%D7%99%D7%94%D7%95%D7%98/#:~:text=,%D7%9E%D7%91%D7%9C%D7%99%20%D7%9C%D7%94%D7%99%D7%A9%D7%90%D7%9C%20%E2%80%93%20%D7%9E%D7%AA%D7%95%D7%9A%20%D7%94%D7%91%D7%A0%D7%94). Volunteers staff the center, ensuring that donated tables, beds, appliances, etc., in good condition find new homes rather than becoming waste. Many other charities (e.g. *Meir Panim*, *Chasdei Naomi*) likewise collect serviceable second-hand furniture to distribute to families in need[meir-panim.org.il](https://www.meir-panim.org.il/%D7%AA%D7%A8%D7%95%D7%9E%D7%95%D7%AA-%D7%A8%D7%94%D7%99%D7%98%D7%99%D7%9D-%D7%9C%D7%9B%D7%9C-%D7%9E%D7%98%D7%A8%D7%94-%D7%A2%D7%9D-%D7%A2%D7%9E%D7%95%D7%AA%D7%AA-%D7%9E%D7%90%D7%99%D7%A8-%D7%A4%D7%A0/#:~:text=%D7%AA%D7%A8%D7%95%D7%9E%D7%95%D7%AA%20%D7%A8%D7%94%D7%99%D7%98%D7%99%D7%9D%20%D7%9C%D7%9B%D7%9C%20%D7%9E%D7%98%D7%A8%D7%94%20%D7%A2%D7%9D,%D7%90%D7%99%D7%9B%D7%95%D7%AA%20%D7%97%D7%99%D7%99%D7%94%D7%9D%20%D7%A9%D7%9C%20%D7%94%D7%9E%D7%A7%D7%91%D7%9C%D7%99%D7%9D%2C)[yosefus.com](https://www.yosefus.com/page68.asp#:~:text=%D7%A4%D7%99%D7%A0%D7%95%D7%99%20%D7%A8%D7%94%D7%99%D7%98%D7%99%D7%9D%20%D7%9C%D7%AA%D7%A8%D7%95%D7%9E%D7%94%20,7777). A network of **furniture banks** and nonprofit warehouses has emerged, effectively creating a secondary market for free or affordable furniture while supporting social causes.
* **Online Platforms for Second-Hand Exchange:** Grassroots online communities have made giving away or selling used furniture easier than ever. The **“Agora” project** (Project Agorah) is a national free exchange network where people can post items they no longer need and others can claim them for free[agora.co.il](https://www.agora.co.il/#:~:text=,%D7%9B%D7%9C%20%D7%97%D7%A4%D7%A5%20%D7%99%D7%93%20%D7%A9%D7%A0%D7%99%D7%94). Through Agorah’s website and app, thousands of items – from sofas and chairs to wardrobes – are passed directly from owner to new owner at no cost, exemplifying a peer-to-peer reuse ethos. Similarly, Israel’s popular **Yad2** classifieds website (and various Facebook groups) facilitate **second-hand sales** of furniture, enabling owners to recoup some value and buyers to get affordable items, all while extending the furniture’s lifespan. These online platforms significantly **reduce waste** by redirecting usable goods away from the trash.
* **Repair and Upcycling Workshops:** There is a growing culture of **DIY furniture repair** and creative upcycling. Some municipalities and NGOs have hosted “repair café” events where volunteers help residents fix broken furniture (e.g. re-glue a wobbly chair, reupholster a torn seat). On the upcycling front, a noteworthy example was a project at the **Hiriya Recycling Park**: carpenters and a designer teamed up to turn discarded wood and pallets into new furniture pieces like tables and benches[ynet.co.il](https://www.ynet.co.il/articles/0,7340,L-2874067,00.html#:~:text=%D7%94%D7%A8,%D7%94%D7%9E%D7%9B%D7%99%D7%A8%D7%94%20%D7%9C%D7%A6%D7%99%D7%91%D7%95%D7%A8%20%D7%94%D7%A8%D7%97%D7%91%20%D7%AA%D7%AA%D7%A7%D7%99%D7%99%D7%9D%20%D7%91%D7%A4%D7%A1%D7%97). The finished products were then sold to the public, demonstrating how “trash” can be transformed into attractive, functional items. Such initiatives not only divert waste but also educate the public on the value of craftsmanship and creative reuse.
* **Corporate Responsibility and Take-Back Programs:** Forward-thinking companies are starting to embrace circular principles. **Keter Plastics**, a major Israeli plastic furniture manufacturer, launched a pilot take-back scheme for plastic furniture. In 2020–2021 in Kiryat Ono, Keter, in partnership with the local municipality, **collected residents’ broken or unwanted plastic chairs, tables, sheds, and toys** instead of letting them go to landfill[makorrishon.co.il](https://www.makorrishon.co.il/news/339119/#:~:text=%D7%A2%D7%9C%20%D7%A4%D7%99%20%D7%9E%D7%AA%D7%95%D7%95%D7%94%20%D7%94%D7%A4%D7%99%D7%99%D7%9C%D7%95%D7%98%20%D7%A9%D7%94%D7%95%D7%9B%D7%AA%D7%A8,%D7%94%D7%AA%D7%95%D7%A9%D7%91%D7%99%D7%9D%20%D7%90%D7%99%D7%A0%D7%9D%20%D7%9E%D7%A9%D7%9C%D7%9E%D7%99%D7%9D%20%D7%A2%D7%9C). The plastic waste (about **7 tonnes** in a half-year pilot) was sent to Keter’s facilities to be **recycled into new products** – notably, the company produced **4,670 new plastic chairs** entirely from the recycled material[makorrishon.co.il](https://www.makorrishon.co.il/news/339119/#:~:text=4%2C670%20%D7%9B%D7%99%D7%A1%D7%90%D7%95%D7%AA%20%D7%A4%D7%9C%D7%A1%D7%98%D7%99%D7%A7%20%D7%A9%D7%9C%20,%D7%9C%D7%9E%D7%97%D7%96%D7%95%D7%A8%20%D7%95%D7%9E%D7%A9%D7%9D%20%D7%9C%D7%99%D7%99%D7%A6%D7%95%D7%A8%20%D7%9E%D7%95%D7%A6%D7%A8%D7%99%D7%9D%20%D7%97%D7%93%D7%A9%D7%99%D7%9D). The pilot – the first of its kind in Israel – was offered free to residents (a special recycling truck would come upon request), funded by Keter as part of its environmental responsibility[makorrishon.co.il](https://www.makorrishon.co.il/news/339119/#:~:text=%D7%A2%D7%9C%20%D7%A4%D7%99%20%D7%9E%D7%AA%D7%95%D7%95%D7%94%20%D7%94%D7%A4%D7%99%D7%99%D7%9C%D7%95%D7%98%20%D7%A9%D7%94%D7%95%D7%9B%D7%AA%D7%A8,%D7%94%D7%AA%D7%95%D7%A9%D7%91%D7%99%D7%9D%20%D7%90%D7%99%D7%A0%D7%9D%20%D7%9E%D7%A9%D7%9C%D7%9E%D7%99%D7%9D%20%D7%A2%D7%9C). After its success, the model is poised to expand to more cities, showing how a **voluntary EPR-style approach** by industry can significantly increase furniture recycling. Likewise, global retailers with Israeli presence, like IKEA, have begun exploring take-back and resale of used furniture. While IKEA Israel has not fully implemented the “Buyback & Resell” program yet, internationally IKEA has opened second-hand furniture pop-up stores (e.g. in Sweden’s ReTuna center)[ikea.com](https://www.ikea.com/global/en/newsroom/sustainability/the-worlds-first-secondhand-ikea-popup-store-opens-in-sweden-201104/#:~:text=The%20world%27s%20first%20IKEA%20secondhand,sold%20are%20reused%20or%20recycled) and may bring similar concepts to Israel, signaling a shift in commercial strategy toward circular services.

Overall, these initiatives – from **charity reuse centers** to **corporate pilots** – indicate a growing momentum in Israel toward furniture circularity. They remain somewhat fragmented and small-scale relative to the total market, but they serve as **proof of concept** that repair and reuse can flourish. With greater support (public awareness campaigns, incentives, and possibly regulatory backing), such efforts could substantially reduce furniture waste and build a thriving second-life economy for furnishings.

**National Policy and Legal Framework**

Israel’s national policies on waste and circular economy have evolved in the past decade, but **specific regulations for furniture** are still lacking. This section reviews the government’s overarching circular economy strategy, existing laws impacting furniture waste, and the regulatory gaps – notably the **absence of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)** for furniture.

**Circular economy strategy:** At the strategic level, Israel has shown commitment to sustainable consumption and production. The government formulated a **Sustainable Consumption and Production National Action Plan (SCP-NAP)** in line with UN Sustainable Development Goal 12[switchmed.eu](https://switchmed.eu/country-hub/israel/#:~:text=At%20policy%20level%2C%20Israel%20has,the%20Israel%20national%20policy%20hub). This plan (currently being implemented) includes broad measures to reduce waste generation, encourage reuse and recycling, and promote product longevity across various sectors. While not furniture-specific, the SCP-NAP signals the government’s intent to transition to a circular economy. Additionally, Israel’s Ministry of Environmental Protection has supported pilot projects (often with international partners like SwitchMed/UNIDO) focusing on circular practices – though these have mainly targeted plastics and packaging so far[switchmed.eu](https://switchmed.eu/country-hub/israel/#:~:text=On%20the%20industry%20side%2C%20the,Israel%E2%80%99s%20plastic%20packaging%20value%20chain). **To date, there is no dedicated national program for circular furniture**, but the topic is gaining visibility as part of the wider zero-waste and resource-efficiency discourse.

**Laws and regulations on waste management:** Israel employs several regulatory tools that indirectly affect furniture disposal. One key instrument is the **Landfill Levy**, introduced in 2007 and gradually increased to make landfilling more expensive and less attractive[mdpi.com](https://www.mdpi.com/2071-1050/16/7/2791#:~:text=The%20research%20findings%20indicate%20that,Nonetheless%2C%20the%20gradual). As noted, the levy revenue goes into the Cleanliness Maintenance Fund to finance recycling facilities and waste reduction initiatives[mdpi.com](https://www.mdpi.com/2071-1050/16/7/2791#:~:text=match%20at%20L731%20shall%20pay,landfilling%20and%20are%20less%20environmentally). By raising the cost of dumping waste (including bulky items), the levy creates an economic incentive to seek alternatives (recycling, reuse). However, in practice, alternative treatment options for furniture are limited, so the levy has functioned mainly as a revenue mechanism and a general discouragement. Israel also has waste separation regulations (e.g. requiring separation of yard waste, electronic waste, etc.), but *furniture is not a regulated category*. In contrast to appliances and electronics, which are covered by an **E-Waste law (2012)** mandating producers to fund collection/recycling, **no such law exists for furniture**[midrag.co.il](https://www.midrag.co.il/Content/Tip/12162#:~:text=%D7%9E%D7%99%D7%93%D7%A8%D7%92%20www,%D7%9E%D7%A7%D7%95%D7%9E%D7%99%D7%95%D7%AA%20%D7%9C%D7%97%D7%95%D7%A7%D7%A7%20%D7%97%D7%95%D7%A7%D7%99%20%D7%A2%D7%96%D7%A8). This means **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)** – the principle that manufacturers/importers must take responsibility for end-of-life product management – does not currently apply to furniture in Israel. Producers are not obliged to organize or finance the collection of old furniture, leaving the task entirely to municipalities and consumers.

**Municipal bylaws for bulky waste:** In absence of national furniture-waste legislation, local authorities use municipal bylaws (“hazlei עזר”) to manage bulky waste. Every city or town can set its own rules on how residents should dispose of large items. Common elements include: requiring scheduling of pickups or limiting placement of items to certain days, and imposing fines for illegal dumping (as discussed earlier)[pinoidirot.co.il](https://pinoidirot.co.il/%D7%A4%D7%99%D7%A0%D7%95%D7%99-%D7%A8%D7%94%D7%99%D7%98%D7%99%D7%9D/#:~:text=%D7%A1%D7%95%D7%92%D7%99%D7%9D%20%D7%A9%D7%9C%20%D7%A8%D7%99%D7%94%D7%95%D7%98%20%D7%99%D7%A9%D7%9F%20%D7%90%D7%A0%D7%95,%D7%A6%D7%A8%D7%99%D7%9A%20%D7%9E%D7%A0%D7%95%D7%A3%20%D7%95%D7%9E%D7%94%20%D7%94%D7%9E%D7%97%D7%99%D7%A8%20%D7%93%D7%A8%D7%9B%D7%A0%D7%95). Some municipalities provide **designated drop-off centers** or free collection services up to a certain volume, while others might charge fees for extra pickups. For example, a city might allow each household one free large-item pickup per month, and charge for additional service. These bylaws have had mixed success in controlling street dumping; enforcement varies, and public awareness is not always high. Moreover, municipal rules don’t address what happens *after* collection – typically, everything collected goes to landfill except what ad-hoc scavengers might salvage. There is **no requirement that furniture be recycled or reused** – any such efforts (like diverting wood to recycling) are voluntary and depend on local initiative.

**Current absence of EPR for furniture:** The lack of an EPR scheme for furniture is a notable gap in Israel’s circular economy policy. Sectors like packaging, tires, electronics, and batteries in Israel all have producer responsibility frameworks where importers/producers pay into collective organizations that handle waste recovery. Furniture, however, has none. This means **manufacturers and retailers are not responsible for the post-consumer phase** of furniture products – neither physically nor financially. Consequently, municipalities shoulder the costs of furniture waste management, and there’s little incentive for producers to design products for longevity or recyclability. The government has recognized this gap; discussions have been held on expanding EPR to additional waste streams (furniture and textiles often cited together), learning from European models. As of 2024, **no legislation has been passed to establish furniture EPR**, but growing pressure (and success stories abroad) may eventually drive policy change. In the meantime, any producer-led take-back initiatives (like Keter’s pilot) remain voluntary and rare.

**Related policies:** It’s worth noting Israel does have **landfill diversion targets** and recycling goals for municipal waste as a whole. The national recycling rate goal has been around 50% (which is ambitious compared to the current ~20% actual recycling rate of municipal waste). To achieve this, the government in recent years pushed for building more recycling infrastructure, including facilities for organic waste, packaging sorting, etc. Furniture waste could potentially be impacted by policies on **construction & demolition (C&D) waste** as well – sometimes wood furniture is mixed into C&D debris or vice versa. In 2021, a first large-scale C&D waste recycling plant opened at Hiriya, which can handle wood and metal components of debris[ynet.co.il](https://www.ynet.co.il/articles/0,7340,L-2874067,00.html#:~:text=%D7%91%D7%97%D7%95%D7%93%D7%A9%20%D7%90%D7%95%D7%92%D7%95%D7%A1%D7%98%20%D7%94%D7%A9%D7%A0%D7%94%20%D7%99%D7%99%D7%97%D7%A0%D7%9A%20%D7%91%D7%97%D7%99%D7%A8%D7%99%D7%94,%D7%9C%D7%94%D7%9B%D7%A0%D7%AA%20%D7%9E%D7%A8%D7%A6%D7%A4%D7%95%D7%AA%2C%20%D7%90%D7%A1%D7%A4%D7%9C%D7%98%20%D7%95%D7%97%D7%95%D7%9E%D7%A8%20%D7%9E%D7%99%D7%9C%D7%95%D7%99). As these systems expand, they might start capturing some furniture material (e.g. wood from discarded furniture recycled alongside wood from construction). Finally, some municipalities have begun piloting **“re-use centers”** at local recycling stations, where citizens can drop off usable items (including furniture) for others to take. While these are local initiatives, they often tie into municipal sustainability plans, which align with the broader national waste reduction strategy.

In summary, **Israel’s policy framework for furniture circularity is still nascent**. The country has the building blocks of a circular economy approach – a high landfill tax, a national plan for sustainable production/consumption, and successful EPR models in other sectors – but it has yet to apply these systematically to furniture. Strengthening the legal framework (for example, introducing EPR for furniture, setting recycling targets for bulky waste, or funding reuse programs via the landfill levy fund) could significantly accelerate progress toward a more circular furniture lifecycle.

**Comparative Analysis: International Best Practices and Adaptation to Israel**

To chart a path forward, it is instructive to compare Israel’s situation with other countries that have advanced policies or practices for furniture circularity. This section looks at examples from **France**, **Scandinavian countries (especially Sweden)**, and the **United States**, highlighting best practices and how they might be adapted to Israel’s context.

* **France – National EPR Scheme (Eco-Mobilier):** France is often cited as a leading example of furniture circularity due to its **Extended Producer Responsibility program for furniture**, established in 2012. Under French law, companies that produce or import furniture must finance the collection and recycling of discarded furnishings. They do so through a non-profit “eco-organization” called **Eco-Mobilier**, approved by the government[veolia.com](https://www.veolia.com/en/our-customers/achievements/industries/circular-economy/france-eco-mobilier#:~:text=COLLECTION%2C%20MATERIALS%20RECOVERY%20AND%20WASTE,SOLUTIONS). **Eco-Mobilier** sets up nationwide collection points (at waste centers, retail stores, etc.), ensures furniture waste is picked up and transported, and contracts recyclers to process the materials. The results have been impressive: by 2014, Eco-Mobilier (with partners like Veolia) was processing about **250,000 tons of used furniture annually**, separating wood, metal, plastics for recycling and using the rest for energy recovery[veolia.com](https://www.veolia.com/en/our-customers/achievements/industries/circular-economy/france-eco-mobilier#:~:text=1,LIFE%20FURNITURE). France’s total end-of-life furniture waste was estimated at **1.7 million tons per year**, so this system dramatically improved diversion from landfill. Ambitious targets were set – **45% reuse/recycle by 2015**, **80% recovery (including energy)** by 2017[veolia.com](https://www.veolia.com/en/our-customers/achievements/industries/circular-economy/france-eco-mobilier#:~:text=Veolia%20aims%20to%20process%20260%2C000,organization%20achieve%20these%20two%20goals). Indeed, by 2017 France achieved roughly **80% of waste furniture being reused, recycled or used as fuel**[veolia.com](https://www.veolia.com/en/our-customers/achievements/industries/circular-economy/france-eco-mobilier#:~:text=Key%20figures). *Key lessons for Israel:* The French model shows that a well-designed EPR scheme can provide the funding and infrastructure to handle furniture waste at scale. Producers internalize disposal costs via an eco-fee, easing the burden on municipalities. Adapting this to Israel would mean passing legislation to make furniture producers responsible for end-of-life management, possibly creating a local eco-organization (akin to Israel’s existing frameworks for electronics and tires). Given Israel’s smaller market, a single national organization could cover all of Israel, coordinating with municipalities for collection. The French example also demonstrates the importance of setting clear **targets** and investing in **sorting and recycling facilities** specialized for furniture (France built high-tech sorting centers for furniture waste[veolia.com](https://www.veolia.com/en/our-customers/achievements/industries/circular-economy/france-eco-mobilier#:~:text=Veolia%20will%20process%20nearly%20250%2C000,SRF%29%20and%20energy)). Israel could collaborate with experienced entities like Eco-Mobilier for knowledge transfer when developing its own system.
* **Scandinavian Countries – Reuse and Circular Design:** Scandinavian nations are known for their environmental consciousness and innovative approaches. **Sweden**, for instance, has taken notable steps in circular procurement and reuse of furniture. The city of **Malmö, Sweden** piloted a pioneering project to use **circular public procurement** for furniture[ellenmacarthurfoundation.org](https://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/articles/making-a-city-circular#:~:text=The%20city%20of%20Malm%C3%B6%20began,intended%20purpose%20without%20significant%20modification). Instead of buying new furniture for city offices, Malmö set up a framework contract emphasizing **reuse and refurbishment** – city departments must first check if needed items are available second-hand internally or can be remanufactured, before ordering new ones[ellenmacarthurfoundation.org](https://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/articles/making-a-city-circular#:~:text=Emma%20Borjesson%2C%20Environmental%20Management%20Department,to%20the%20new%20supplier%20and). This has normalized the reuse of office furniture in the public sector and spurred local companies to offer refurbishment services. Sweden has also encouraged repair by implementing **tax incentives for repairs** (on certain goods) and supporting “repair cafés.” Additionally, Sweden is home to **ReTuna**, the world’s first shopping mall entirely dedicated to reused goods, where an IKEA second-hand store operates[ikea.com](https://www.ikea.com/global/en/newsroom/sustainability/the-worlds-first-secondhand-ikea-popup-store-opens-in-sweden-201104/#:~:text=The%20world%27s%20first%20IKEA%20secondhand,sold%20are%20reused%20or%20recycled). On a policy level, **Sweden and Norway have introduced EPR specifically for furniture textiles** (upholstery fabrics), meaning manufacturers must ensure those materials are recycled[fabraa.com](https://www.fabraa.com/news/expected-regulations-for-sustainable-furniture-epr/#:~:text=Producers%20taking%20responsibility%20for%20textile,recycling). They also push producers to design furniture that is easy to dismantle and recycle. *Adaptation to Israel:* Scandinavian practices highlight the importance of **cultural and systemic support for reuse**. Israeli public institutions could adopt procurement policies like Sweden’s – for example, municipalities furnishing offices or schools could be required to source a percentage of furniture as refurbished or second-hand. This would create a stable demand for local refurbishing enterprises and set an example for the private sector. The concept of a **reuse mall or center** (like ReTuna) could be piloted in Israel – perhaps converting a section of an existing municipal recycling center into a thrift showroom for furniture and home goods. This aligns with Israeli grassroots initiatives (many Israelis already exchange items via online groups), but institutionalizing it in a physical hub could reach a wider audience. On design, Israel can encourage importers to bring in furniture that is modular and repairable, and encourage local designers to prioritize sustainable materials. While Sweden’s incineration infrastructure (waste-to-energy plants) helps minimize landfilling, Israel might focus first on **expanding reuse** (since Israel’s waste-to-energy capacity is limited and incineration is controversial). In summary, Scandinavia teaches that combining **policy (regulations, incentives)** with **innovation (new business models, public awareness)** creates a culture where furniture is reused extensively – something Israel could nurture through education and pilot programs.
* **United States – Charity Networks and Consumer Initiatives:** The U.S. does not have a national EPR law for furniture; as a result, a lot of furniture waste is landfilled (over 9 million tons/year as noted, with ~80% landfilled in 2017)[zavit.org.il](https://www.zavit.org.il/%D7%94%D7%9E%D7%99%D7%93%D7%A2-%D7%A9%D7%9C%D7%90-%D7%9E%D7%95%D7%A4%D7%99%D7%A2-%D7%91%D7%A7%D7%98%D7%9C%D7%95%D7%92-%D7%94%D7%A8%D7%94%D7%99%D7%98%D7%99%D7%9D/#:~:text=%D7%A0%D7%AA%D7%97%D7%99%D7%9C%20%D7%9E%D7%94%D7%A1%D7%95%D7%A3.%20%D7%91,%D7%A0%D7%95%D7%A1%D7%A4%D7%99%D7%9D%20%D7%9E%D7%A2%D7%91%D7%A8%20%D7%9C%D7%90%D7%A9%D7%A4%D7%94%20%D7%91%D7%99%D7%AA%D7%99%D7%AA%20%D7%A8%D7%92%D7%99%D7%9C%D7%94). However, there are notable **bottom-up solutions** and some local regulations that showcase best practices. One is the extensive network of **non-profit “furniture banks” and donation centers** across the country. Organizations like The Furniture Bank Network and Goodwill Industries collect used furniture to donate or resell at thrift stores. According to the International Reuse Network, collectively over **100 million pounds** of furniture (≈45,000 tons) have been diverted from U.S. landfills by such non-profits, providing over **1.8 million pieces** to families in need[irnsurplus.com](https://www.irnsurplus.com/#:~:text=can%20benefit%20from%20them.). These groups often partner with cities to pick up bulky items or accept drop-offs, demonstrating a scalable model of *social reuse*. Additionally, some U.S. cities manage bulky waste through scheduled curbside programs – for example, offering residents a limited number of free large-item pickups or organizing citywide “swap days.” California and a few states implemented **EPR for mattresses**, which, while not covering all furniture, has improved recycling of a bulky item similar to furniture. *Applicability to Israel:* The U.S. experience suggests that even without national mandates, building **strong charitable reuse channels** can significantly reduce waste and help communities. Israel already has many charitable organizations engaged in furniture collection; these could be expanded or coordinated into a more formal network (possibly supported by government grants or the landfill levy fund). Encouraging a culture of donating furniture (instead of trashing it) can be done through public campaigns, much like American charities advertise that donated furniture benefits the less fortunate and the environment. Furthermore, Israel could look at specific product take-back programs (e.g., a **mattress recycling program** could be a good start, since mattresses are a big part of bulky waste; the U.S. mattress EPR model – charging a small fee on each new mattress to fund recycling – could be piloted). Lastly, the prevalence of **junk removal services** and **resale marketplaces** in the U.S. shows the role of private sector: Israeli entrepreneurs might develop services to collect, refurbish, and resell furniture (for profit or social enterprise), if given the right incentives. Simple measures like requiring large retailers to offer old-furniture removal when delivering new items (common in some U.S. states) could also ensure more systematic collection in Israel.

**Adapting best practices to Israel:** Each country’s success has come from a mix of regulation, industry initiative, and cultural attitude. For Israel, a feasible roadmap is to **gradually implement EPR** (learning from France), bolster the **reuse infrastructure** (as in Scandinavia and the U.S. nonprofit sector), and promote **design for circularity** among producers. Key actionable ideas include:

* *Establish a Furniture EPR Scheme:* Develop legislation to make furniture producers/importers finance an Eco-Mobilier-like system in Israel. Start with easily recyclable items (wood furniture, mattresses) and set incremental targets for recycling and reuse[veolia.com](https://www.veolia.com/en/our-customers/achievements/industries/circular-economy/france-eco-mobilier#:~:text=Veolia%20aims%20to%20process%20260%2C000,organization%20achieve%20these%20two%20goals).
* *Support Repair and Reuse Businesses:* Provide grants or tax incentives for refurbishing companies and social enterprises, inspired by the thriving repair/upcycling culture in Scandinavia. Municipalities can integrate these services (e.g., repair cafés, second-hand shops) into their waste management strategy.
* *Public Procurement and Leading by Example:* Government agencies and municipalities should incorporate reused furniture in their operations (like Malmö’s policy[ellenmacarthurfoundation.org](https://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/articles/making-a-city-circular#:~:text=The%20city%20of%20Malm%C3%B6%20began,intended%20purpose%20without%20significant%20modification)). This creates demand and legitimacy for second-hand goods in broader society.
* *Education and Outreach:* Following the U.S.’s community-driven approach, launch public awareness campaigns: “Don’t dump – donate!” to encourage residents to use existing channels (charities, online platforms) before resorting to disposal. Highlight success stories, such as how furniture donations have helped families (mirroring the narratives from U.S. furniture banks[irnsurplus.com](https://www.irnsurplus.com/#:~:text=can%20benefit%20from%20them.)).
* *Infrastructure for Collection:* Improve the convenience of bulky item collection – possibly using a hybrid of French and U.S. approaches: e.g., set up easily accessible drop-off centers and scheduled curbside pickups in every city, perhaps funded by producer fees or the national fund.

In conclusion, **Israel stands to gain immensely by adopting international best practices** in furniture circularity. France’s producer responsibility scheme provides a financing and organizational model, Scandinavia offers insight into fostering a reuse-centric culture and circular design, and the U.S. demonstrates the power of community and charitable action. By blending these approaches and tailoring them to local conditions, Israel can significantly reduce furniture waste, relieve its municipalities, and move toward a sustainable, circular furniture economy over the coming decade.