Evaluating End of Life Strategies for Mattresses, Sofas and Appliances

Barriers, Risks and Opportunities in the United States

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LANDSCAPE

Organizations and Resources

Infrastructure

• The recycling infrastructure in the United States for sofas and mattresses is highly fragmented
• Two major appliance recyclers serve the US market - JACO Environmental and Appliance Recycling Centers of America (ARCA)
• Local and national organizations provide options for resale and donation

Regulation

• A high degree of uncertainty, particularly around extended producer responsibility, makes it challenging to develop end of life strategies
• Regulation varies significantly across jurisdictions
• Stringent federal regulation for appliances, particularly refrigerators and freezers
• Mattress recycling bills have been introduced in California and Connecticut

SELECT CASE STUDIES

IKEA UK: Fee-based takeback for charity

Swap meets: IKEA Sweden & Amsterdam

Seconde vie: IKEA France

• For £15, customers can have their old furniture picked up and donated
• IKEA Amsterdam donated £12,000 of furniture to at-store swap
• Takeback of certain types of furniture to be resold “as-is”

IKEA Family Online Resale

University move-out furniture collection

Local and national charity collection

Refurbishing and Repurposing

ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORKS

Ranking Criteria

EPA Solid Waste Management Hierarchy