

Reducing Hotel Furniture in Solid Waste

through reuse & recycling



Furnishing our Landfills



- According to the EPA, construction and demo waste accounts for 40% of landfill substance
- It is estimated that Corporate Furniture makes up over 3 million tons of that waste
- In Massachusetts that translates to roughly 310,000 TONS of corporate furniture going into our waste stream every year
- That's "only" about 6% of waste in our state, but that's still 310,000 tons of material that doesn't need to hit the waste stream to begin with

Running the Numbers

310,000 TONS of furniture

Equal to:

almost 1 million workstations

Or

nearly 20,000 tractor trailer loads



X 1000

Generating Waste

Every year hundreds of businesses in and around greater Boston undergo some type of capital improvement project.

- Relocation
- Renovation

Excess furniture and supplies are the unfortunate by-product of these activities. While seating and files are sometimes relocated or reused, private office, workstation and ancillary furniture rarely is.



Why?

- Change in brand/design aesthetic
- Change in corporate culture
- Change in the structure, layout and how people work
- Fully depreciated furniture is more expensive to move than new furniture is to purchase

For all of these reasons and more, the sad reality is that millions of square feet of still usable furniture enters our waste stream every year.

There must be something we can do...



Putting the Pieces Together

- Most people want to do the right thing with their unwanted furniture
- And many do, but on a small scale
 - One of the reasons for this is that no systems were in place to handle large scale furniture disposition projects in a socially and environmentally friendly way

Tired of seeing truckloads of still usable furniture carted off to landfills, sent overseas, or sent to languish in warehouses, like-minded industry professionals decided it was time to do something about it. In 2008, The Furniture Trust was born.

The Furniture Trust

As a nonprofit organization, The Furniture Trust strives to provide socially and environmentally responsible solutions for the disposition of office furniture through donations and recycling. Our goal is to keep furniture out of landfills while also giving back to the local community.





Why Donate?

Value Proposition: Support your Triple Bottom Line

- **Socially Responsible**

Excess office furnishings are converted into direct furniture and cash donations to local nonprofits and schools –

REINVEST IN YOUR COMMUNITY

- **Environmentally Responsible**

Unwanted furnishings and supplies will not end up in a landfill

- **Financially Responsible**

Streamlined, turnkey approach saves money – single source accountability maximizes efficiency; dumpsters are not engaged; AND there is a potential tax write-off

Why Donate?

- Socially Responsible
- Environmentally Responsible
- Financially Responsible



Positive PR for your hotel –

market your donation on the Sustainability page of your website, engage local trade publications, media outlets and industry groups to let them know how you are actively contributing to your triple bottom line, and demonstrating your commitment to sustainability as well as your local community.

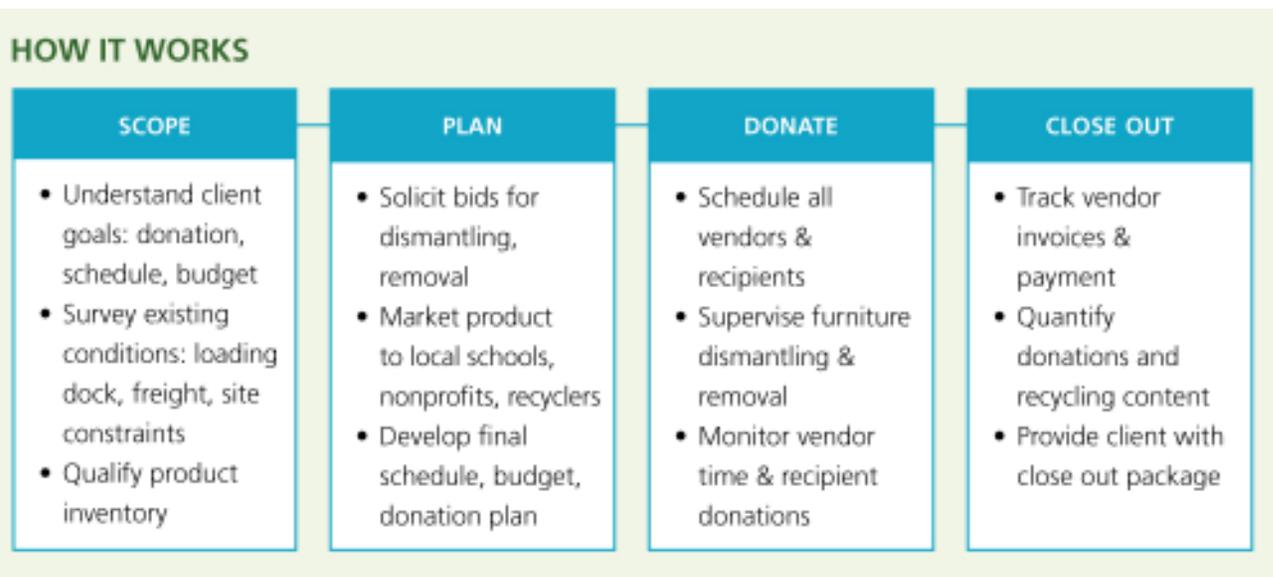
The Nitty Gritty....

How Does it Work?



Sustainability Made Easy

The Furniture Trust offers a turnkey solution for furniture disposition:



Why The Furniture Trust?

- Skilled project managers and administrative team handle your project on time and on budget
- Single source accountability – The Furniture Trust will manage all aspects of your furniture disposition
- Your furniture won't end up in a landfill
- You will help deserving organization in your own backyard
- Potential tax incentives
- 97 cents of every dollar goes toward our mission!

Fee for service: The fees are those associated with the physical labor to remove the donated items from your space, trucking & recycling fees that may be incurred, as well as a small fee for project administrative services (managing labor, matching donations to nonprofits, coordinating deliveries of donations to nonprofits). We never charge nonprofits for the furniture.

Make an Impact

Success Stories

It doesn't have to end with a landfill... extend the lifecycle of unwanted, but still usable furniture.

By using donated goods, a nonprofits capital expenditures are reduced, which increases the available funds to advance their missions.

Who We Help

At The Furniture Trust, we strive to keep donations local and give back to deserving organizations right in our own backyard.

Medford Public Schools
Brocton Public Schools
City on a Hill
Codman Health Center
Boston Green Academy
Chelsea Shore Collaborative
BUILD
Kit Clark Senior Day Center
Boston Harbor Association
Cradles to Crayons
Boys and Girls Clubs (various)
Globe Santa
Veritas Charter School
South Boston Neighborhood
House
New England Shelter for
Homeless Veterans
Lawrence Community Works
AIDS Action Committee
Career Collaborative
Chelsea Collaborative Schools
Boston Fire Department

Boston Public Schools
Mass Challenge
Cambridge Fire Department
CCTV Cambridge
Heading Home
Roxbury Youthworks
Jumpstart
Women's Lunchplace
Women's Bar Association



Sponsoring Innovation and Creativity

With furniture donated by corporate clients, The Furniture Trust created and sponsors an annual Eco-carpentry contest which challenges local High Schools to create new products using desks, bookcases and chairs as their raw materials.

Four schools are awarded cash prizes; last year the winners were:

Medford: Best in Class - \$2500

Taunton: Most Unique, Creative Product Produced - \$1000

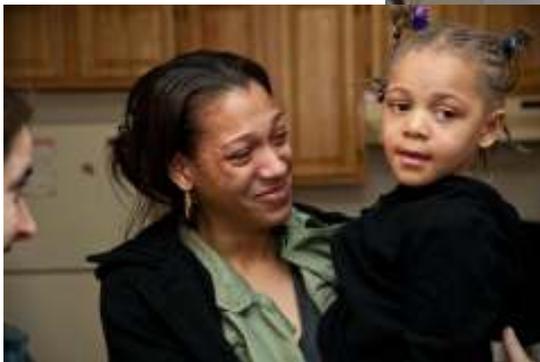
Marshfield: Best Commercial Application - \$1000

Brockton: Maximum and Best Reuse of Raw Materials - \$1000



headinghome

When Brightcove outgrew their space in Cambridge they relocated to Boston, leaving behind the furniture they had also outgrown. Working with The Furniture Trust to donate their no longer needed items, they were able to help many local nonprofits, including Cambridge Cable Television, American Public Television, Heading Home, Brockton Public Schools, Veritas Charter School, The Citizens School and The Boston Fire Department.



Hurricane Sandy Relief

In the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, The Furniture Trust mobilized local partners to send a trailer of furniture and supplies to a Boys and Girls Club and the Hoboken Dual Language Charter School in Hoboken New Jersey. The building that housed both organizations had been devastated by the storm.





www.thefurnituretrust.org

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