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Creative Circular Cities | Gdynia 2026

BIG THINGS in Gdynia

A new life for bulky waste

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The publication was created in partnership with PPNT Gdynia | Design Centre

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Residents of Gdynia!

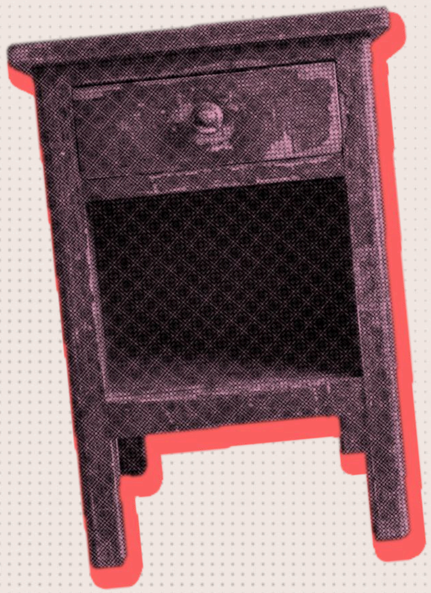
Have you seen any BIG THINGS lately?



Perhaps you pass them every day – by the rubbish bins, in backyards or by the pavement. An old armchair, a wardrobe that's been through several house moves, a cracked mirror, a washbasin left over from a renovation, a rickety bike… Or perhaps a dusty 'gem' of design, just waiting for someone to recognise its potential. This is what we call bulky waste.

We invite you to look at these 'big things' from a different perspective. Together with local artists, curators and residents, we intent to discover the hidden potential in recycled items, explore creative ways to recycle waste, and find out where in Gdynia you can give them a new lease of life.

We also take a look behind the scenes of the city's waste management system. With the help of experts and data, we explore the challenges associated with the disposal of bulky waste. And above all – we find out what each and every one of us can do to ensure that **the story of big things doesn't end too soon.**



Step outside, take a look around your neighbourhood, and have a look at the rubbish shed. There's probably an old chair or a worn-out armchair standing there. Is it rubbish, or perhaps a raw material waiting for a new lease of life?

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Chapter 1

Stories of people and items in circulation



The stories of bulky items often intertwine with the stories of the people who find them, transform them, give them new functions and put them back into circulation. This chapter includes a look inside the studios and workshops of people connected to Gdynia's design, artistic and social communities. We learn about **personal stories, sources of inspiration and practical tips on how to handle second-hand items responsibly.**

The material collected in this chapter comes from two sources. The first consists of individual interviews conducted by the authors with experts from the creative sector who agreed to be published under their names. The second comprises conversations held with older women from Gdynia as part of a discussion group – their comments are quoted anonymously. All interviews took place in June and July 2026.

photo: Angelika Rychert

Story 1/6

Monika Gradzik

studio Mozi, tuBaza

'Every time, we wonder what sort of rubbish this will turn out to be. And we try to make sure it’s rubbish that can still be put to good use'.



photo: Michalina Czepukojć



What does Monika say?

- For Monika thinking about what will happen to her works is one of her priorities right from the initial design stage. Her works include **100% biodegradable furniture and tiles containing 50% ceramic waste.**
- Monika co-organises open workshops at tuBaza, where participants can learn skills needed for **furniture restoration and joinery**.
- She believes that restoration is time-consuming and demanding, but that is precisely why it is worthwhile and rewarding. It is work that brings people together and gives a piece of furniture a value it did not have before.

Inspiration for you

Check out local workshops and events on websites – they can help you gain practical skills useful for recycling bulky waste, and at the same time meet people who share your values and way of thinking. Stay up to date, because there's plenty going on at tuBaza and there's more to come!



photo: Michalina Czepukojć

'I took some chairs from my grandmother's house that have been with me for as long as I can remember. [...] My friend Oliwia replaced the upholstery for me, and I'm really pleased that I was able to bring something like this from my family home into my new flat'.

‘Lekcja techniki’, Mozi Studio — an innovative educational tool: kits for learning about plastics

photo: Michalina Czepukojć

Story 2/6

Megi Malinowsky

designer and co-founder of the Tabanda brand,
lecturer at the School of Form at the SWPS
University of Social Sciences and Humanities

> *‘Every piece of rubbish is a resource, and I have no doubt about that.’*



photo: Maciej Czarnecki

What does Megi say?

- The designer and co-founder of the Tricity-based furniture brand Tabanda emphasises that the company places great importance on the durability and longevity of its furniture. The products are designed to allow individual components to be replaced rather than the entire piece. In the event of wear and tear or damage, the company offers support, repairs and replacement parts, so that the furniture can last for many years.
- As a lecturer at the School of Form at the SWPS University of Social Sciences and Humanities, Megi notes that knowledge about the challenges associated with waste production continues to grow. Awareness of waste's potential is also on the rise. For many designers, including students, waste is becoming a resource for creating new products and solutions that meet the needs of local communities.
- An example is the **LABA** project by Milena Bednarczyk, a graduate of the School of Form at the SWPS University of Social Sciences. She used worn-out tyres to design a modular system of playground equipment – seats, a games table and a multifunctional pole that allows residents to organise a shared space.



photo: Milena Bednarczyk

Inspiration for you

Look at the objects around you with tenderness. Just as we show it to people or animals, we can also show it to things around us. Before you throw something away, consider whether it really is rubbish yet.

'Tyres can be used for a completely new and unifying purpose'.



‘LABA’ project, Milena Bednarczyk

photo: Milena Bednarczyk

Story 3/6

Filip Kozarski

architect, curator of the Layup Gallery

'Items often become rubbish because of where they are, not because of their value. If something is theoretically good but ends up in the bin, it's waste; but in reality, if it were put to use in some way, it would be a resource'.



photo: Michalina Czepukojć



Photo: Michalina Gębarowska

What does Filip say?

- As the designer of the interior of Hall 31B at the Gdańsk shipyard, Filip has created **a collection of furniture designs** that anyone can make from recycled materials. It includes **a coat rack, table, sofa, bench and lamp** – all available free of charge, complete with dimensions and a list of materials required.
- In places steeped in history, Filip looks for connections and approaches change with care, considering what is worth preserving. In Hall 31B this idea is evident in the reuse of materials: old glazing has been turned into **studio windows**, plastic waste from 100cznia has been turned into **worktops and handles**, stone offcuts **have been turned into terrazzo**, **and wooden floor covering from Cetniewo** has been laid on the first floor.
- Filip is a proponent of the idea of a shared city and believes that residents can shape it from the ground up, using the resources available to them. It is worth taking a closer look at places we often overlook – allotments, backyards or abandoned buildings – and starting to 'furnish' them together.

Inspiration for you

Create your own furniture from waste according to the designs available at www.gridarthub.pl:

'Through small, independent actions, people can feel at home in the city'.

Grid Arthub at 100cznia

photo: Michalina Czepukojć

Story 4/6

Kamila Szatanowska

Lead architect at the FALA architektura studio and lecturer at the Faculty of Architecture at the Academy of Fine Arts in Gdańsk



> *'The boundary from which we begin to define an object as ‘waste’ is in our minds'.*

photo: Angelika Rychert

What does Kamila say?

- As an architect and lecturer, Kamila strives to design in line with the principles of circular architecture and to make the most of what already exists. She believes that design does not always require building – sometimes it is about conscious ‘non-building’ and the process itself.
- Kamila sees beauty in the natural ageing of materials and how, over the years, they adapt to their changing surroundings. She encourages us to slow down and argues that time and the way we treat items is key to forming a relationship with them.
- Kamila’s architectural studio is home to a multitude of ‘rescued’ plants, refurbished black armchairs found in a rubbish bin, and armchairs on castors that were sold off by an office that was closing down.

'Sometimes the outcome of a project is to prove that we shouldn’t build'.



Inspiration for you

Try the ‘conscious throwing away’ experiment: before you instinctively throw something away, try to do so intentionally. Slow down, take a deep breath and give yourself a moment to think. Let this act be fully conscious.

photo: Michalina Czepukojć

'We age and go through certain phases in life. The same applies to the materials we use – and they bear the marks of the passing of time. It is important to look after them'.

The 'Bliżej śmieci' exhibition by Kamila Szatanowska and Ewa Kierklo at Gdynia Design Days

photo: Michalina Czepukojć

Story 5/6

Michalina Jasińska

She runs HUBA and previously co-founded PLONY City Garden. Co-founder of the Plony Foundation. A mycophile – fascinated by the world of mushrooms and their potential in shaping the future.

> *'The fact that something has already had a life of its own is not a flaw, but an advantage'.*



photo: Jakub Knera

What does Michalina say?

- Michalina co-founded and runs HUBA: a local circularity centre on the 100cznia site in Gdańsk. It is a place for grassroots, community-led R&D (Research & Development), which tests solutions related to closing cycles and making the city function more sustainably. HUBA combines practical activities with education through workshops, meetings and open events for people of all levels of experience.
- Projects are developed at HUBA that demonstrate how materials considered to be waste can become a valuable resource – including coffee, cardboard and other locally available material streams. Examples include a greenhouse built from second-hand deckchairs and plastic bottles, and mushroom cultivation in second-hand buckets – used instead of new, single-use packaging.



Inspiration for you

If you’re making things from reclaimed wood, make sure you maintain it properly. Secure the surface with natural products, such as oil or linseed varnish – this ensures that, once the wood has completely worn out, it can decompose naturally and return to the natural cycle.

- Michalina emphasises that a budget can boost creativity rather than limit it. She turned a bed frame into folding benches for her friends, attached to the railings on the terrace, and made a desk out of an old door. Each of these projects stemmed from a real need and the resources at hand.

Members of the Senior Citizens' Club in Gdynia

Participants in the restoration workshops organised by the 'Pomorskie Province in the European Union' Association

> *'We must give things a new lease of life — especially now, for the sake of the Earth*'.



photo: Jakub Żywuszko

What do the Senior Citizens' Club members say?

- Members of the Gdynia Senior Citizens' Club regard reusing items as something natural – in the past, people always tried to make do with what was available.
- For them worn-out materials are a resource that can be used not only for themselves, but also for others.
- Recycled waste, such as flower stands made from stools, an old chair repurposed as a flower stand, a pallet upholstered to make a footstool, and a refurbished table – these items, found on balconies, in gardens and on the street, inspire neighbours and spark interest in the potential of waste.

Inspiration for you

Gdynia has a network of neighbourhood centres. These are places where residents can develop their interests and bring their ideas to life. Find out where the nearest one is and get involved! https://przystan.gdynia.pl/

'There were times when there was nothing; ever since we were children, we've been mending and sewing – and that's stayed with us'.

'Ela says that help is needed somewhere — and we help. A hundred beds for dogs and cats to mark Gdynia's centenary'.

'We find it impossible to walk past a rubbish bin indifferently'.



Photo: Rafał Rolka, Małgorzata Matkowska

'Before you throw something away, think about whether it might be useful, whether it can be reused, or given to someone else'.

Restoration workshops

photo: Rafał Rolka, Małgorzata Matkowska

2

Chapter 2

A guide to the world of bulky waste

Not every large item is waste, but every one requires a conscious decision. The key to effectively extending the life of bulky items and ensuring they are processed responsibly lies in understanding the rules for handling this type of waste and in residents working together with units that make up the municipal waste management system.

In this chapter we look at **what bulky waste is in a local context,** what its journey through **the municipal system looks like, what options residents of Gdynia** have before they decide to throw something away, and **what support they can receive**.





Chapter 2

What bulky waste do we throw away in Gdynia?

Bulky waste is classified in the waste catalogue under code 20 03 07. Generally speaking, this refers to items that, due to their size or weight, do not fit into standard rubbish bins.

Fact or myth?

× MYTH

'Just type 'bulky waste' into a search engine. The rules are the same across entire Poland'.

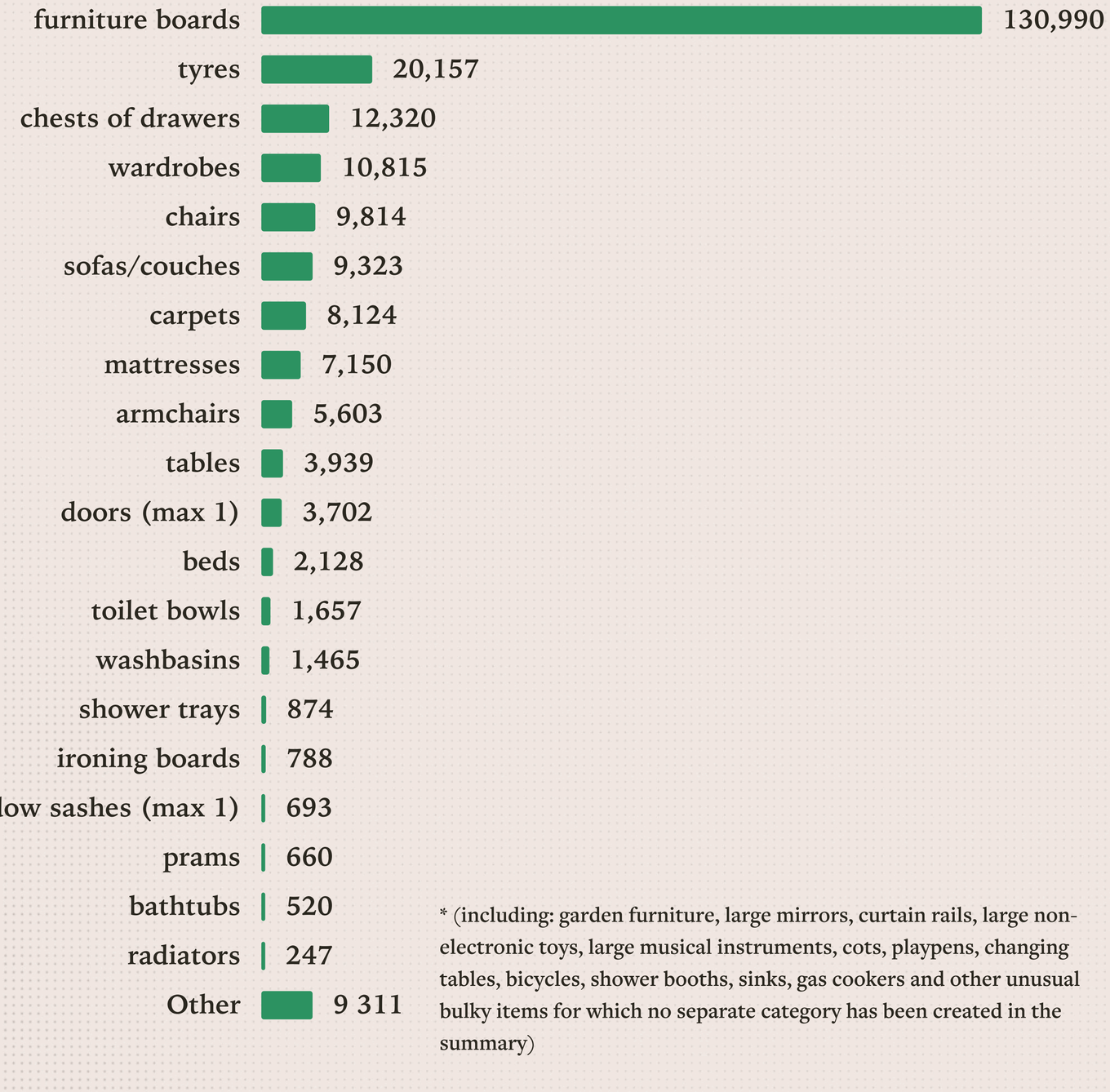
✓ FACT

Each municipality has its own rules for the collection of bulky waste, based on the local system and its disposal capacity. That's why the regulations in Gdynia may differ from those in other towns. Always check the local guidelines applicable at the place where you live.[1]

Are you unsure whether your item is bulky waste? Before putting out your waste, always **check the latest catalogue on the Wyrzucamto.pl website** or **call the Waste Management Department in Gdynia**. The rules regarding what is considered bulky waste may change over time depending on the capabilities of the city and its systems.

[1] Source: Waste Management Department, Environment Division, Gdynia, expert responses

The most commonly reported bulky waste items in Gdynia in 2025 [2]



* (including: garden furniture, large mirrors, curtain rails, large non-electronic toys, large musical instruments, cots, playpens, changing tables, bicycles, shower booths, sinks, gas cookers and other unusual bulky items for which no separate category has been created in the summary)



[2] Source: wyrzucamto.pl – CMS system operational data

What is not bulky waste in Gdynia?

Although it may seem that any large item qualifies as bulky waste, in practical terms this is not always the case. Use these specific examples to check which of the selected items can be reported as bulky waste in Gdynia, and which require a different recycling method.



Sofa

BULKY WASTE

A large piece of furniture that does not have built-in electronics.

Bicycle

BULKY WASTE

Sports equipment that does not contain an electric motor or electronics.

Rocking horse

BULKY WASTE

Large toys may be classified as bulky waste provided they do not contain built-in electronics.

Wardrobe with LED lighting

NOT YET BULKY WASTE

An item that, in its current form, is bulky waste, but contains additional electrical components that must first be dismantled.*

Chest of drawers with books

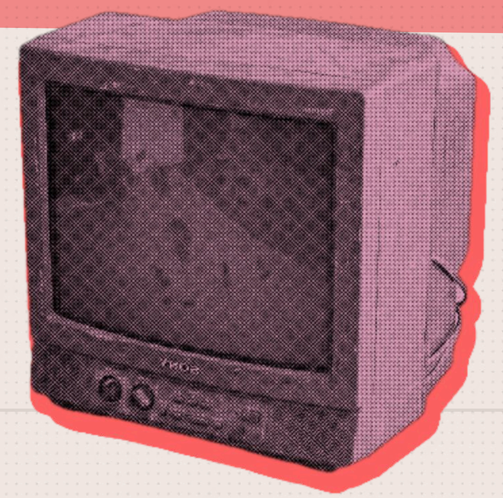
NOT YET BULKY WASTE

An item that can be collected as bulky waste, but must first be emptied of its contents.

Washing machine

LARGE ELECTRICAL WASTE

If the device has integrated electronics – a permanently built-in motor, advanced controls or a mechanism – it is electronic waste.



Bathtub

BULKY WASTE

Certain items of bathroom fittings may also be collected as bulky waste.

Tyre

BULKY WASTE

Although it comes from a vehicle, it can be disposed of as part of the annual limit of up to 8 items per household.

Car bumper

AUTOMOTIVE WASTE

Vehicle parts, such as bumpers, are not collected as bulky waste. They must be handed over to private entities. Tyres are an exception.

A large plastic bag of clothes

CLOTHING AND TEXTILES

METALS AND PLASTICS

The bulky waste is the item itself, not a bag full of various types of waste.

A pile of floor panels

CONSTRUCTION OR DEMOLITION WASTE

We take any left-over materials from renovation or construction work to Eko Dolina in Łężyce ourselves.

Dog kennel

CONSTRUCTION OR DEMOLITION WASTE

Due to its construction and the materials used (e.g. insulation, bituminous roofing), it is not collected as bulky waste. It must be taken to a PSZOK.

Fact or myth?

× MYTH

MYTH: 'It doesn't matter if a battery is left inside a piece of furniture. The bin lorry crushes everything anyway'.

✓ FACT

Crushing is actually the worst-case scenario! Lithium-ion batteries and rechargeable batteries pose a particular threat. If damaged, they can cause a fire both during transport and at the plant.[3]



[3] Source: Marcin Paszkiewicz, Eko Dolina Sp. z o.o., expert responses



So how do you get rid of them?

- You can take your electronic waste to one of the five PZON collection points in Gdynia or to the PSZOK in Łężyce, or you can order a free pickup from your home. You can also hand them over when purchasing new equipment of the same type—if you order it for delivery, the store is required to pick up the old device from your home for free.
- You must deliver construction waste to the PSZOK on your own.[6]

Fact or myth?

× MYTH

MYTH: 'If something is big, it's automatically considered bulky waste, and the municipality picks it up'.

✓ FACT

Refrigerators, TVs and debris from renovations are examples of waste that are not considered bulky items. If you leave them under a carport or in front of your house, city services simply do not pick them up, and you could face a hefty fine.

[4] PZON – Hazardous Waste Collection Point [5] PSZOK – Selective Municipal Waste Collection Point

[6] More information: wyrzucamto.pl

How does the bulky waste recycling system work in Gdynia?

This allows the city to know where and how much waste needs to be collected, which facilitates route planning and helps reduce the accumulation of bulky waste at bin shelters.[7]

1

Notification of pickup

If the item is indeed bulky waste, you should:

- Report a collection via the wyrzucamto.pl website or
- Contact the Waste Management Department directly (phone number: 58 527 32 90) or
- Deliver the waste yourself to the PSZOK at Eko Dolina in Łężyce (address: al. Parku Krajobrazowego 99).

2

Putting bulky waste out for pickup

Bulky waste is collected following a notification in accordance with the schedule:

- In detached houses – every 4 weeks,
- In multi-family housing – once a week.

3

Collection by a bin lorry

For residents, the process is simple – furniture and other bulky waste can be reported and put out for collection at the same time. It is worth following a few good practices, which we discuss in detail on page 41.

4

Recycling and processing of raw materials

Most of the bulky waste collected ends up at Eko Dolina in Łężyce, and some of it (e.g. planks or tyres) goes directly to plants specialising in recycling this type of waste. Raw materials are recovered there, and the profits from their sale help the city to partially fund the system. This means that bulky waste does not end up in landfill, and the recovered materials and energy remain in circulation.

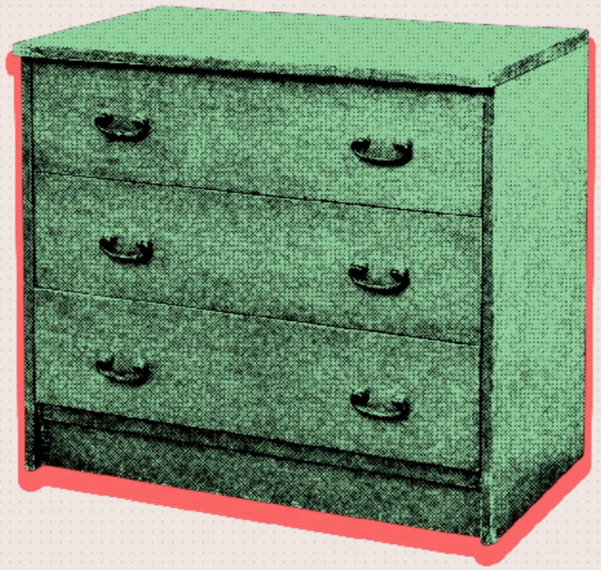




Photo: Eko Dolina

[7] Source: Waste Management Department, Environment Division, Gdynia

Fact or myth?

× MYTH

If I put my bulky waste all in one pile, a single bin lorry picks it all up anyway and it all ends up in a rubbish tip.

✓ FACT

Your bulky waste is collected by different bin lorries, which sort it right from the start! A separate vehicle takes away, for example, clean planks (from which over 90% of the raw material is recovered!) and tyres. The rest of the bulky waste goes to Eko Dolina, where mainly wood and wood-like materials (30%) as well as metals are recovered. And whatever cannot be recycled is turned into fuel (RDF) for cement works, for example. Nothing ends up in rubbish tip![8]



[8] Source: Marcin Paszkiewicz, Eko Dolina Sp. z o.o., expert responses for the project;

Chapter 2

Why is bulky waste our shared concern?

Bulky waste is one of the fastest-growing streams of municipal waste. Today we collect almost four times as much of it per capita in Poland as we did a decade ago. More and more furniture and other bulky items end up in the recycling system not because they are no longer fit for use, but due to renovations, house moves, changes in taste or lifestyle. At the same time, some items are replaced out of necessity – due to their poor quality and limited durability.

Did you know that…

Poland is the world's third-largest furniture exporter, after China and Germany, and nearly 20% of all furniture sold by IKEA globally is manufactured in Poland.[10]

As a powerhouse in this industry, we drive the global 'fast furniture' trend, in which valuable resources are consumed by short-lived products that ultimately end up in the waste stream on a massive scale.



Photo: Wiktor Dembs

[9] Source: Statistics Poland (GUS), Environmental Protection in 2024

[10] Sources: PFR (Polish Development Fund), Polish Furniture Compendium, April 2026; IKEA, Designed by IKEA – made in Poland.

How much do we actually throw away?

EUROPE

10 million

tonnes of furniture per year

This is the estimated amount of furniture discarded annually by companies and individual consumers in the European Union. That's the weight of 4,000 'Dar Pomorza' sailing ships. Imagine the Gulf of Gdańsk filled with these enormous ships all the way to the horizon![11]

4,000 × DAR POMORZA



POLAND

20.1 kg

per capita in 2024

That was the average amount of bulky waste per capita in Poland in 2024.[12] It's as if around 37.5 million Poles had each packed one full 20-kg suitcase of checked luggage for a flight.

37.5 MILLION SUITCASES



GDYNIA

5,265.59

tonnes in 2025

This is the amount of bulky waste collected from residential areas in Gdynia in 2025. That's almost 30% more than just two years earlier (4,055 tonnes in 2023)! This tonnage is equivalent to the weight of 42 classic, three-carriage SKM trains (EN57 model).

42 × SKM TRAIN



[11] Source: EEB, Circular Economy Opportunity in the Furniture Sector, 2017

[12] Source: Statistics Poland (GUS), Environmental Protection in 2024; Housing and Municipal Infrastructure in 2024

[13] Source: Analysis of municipal waste management in the Gdynia municipality for 2025

Big challenges, big potential

Bulky waste poses a significant challenge for cities and their residents, but it holds enormous potential for reuse. It can remain in circulation for a long time thanks to, for example, garage sales, swap shops and repair workshops. Cities more and more often support these initiatives by transitioning to a circular economy – because giving bulky items a new lease of life brings real benefits for everyone!

What is often a challenge?

Transport and logistics Removing large pieces of furniture from a flat and transporting them is often a problem – especially for senior citizens, residents of buildings without a lift, or people without a car.

Lack of knowledge and preconceptions Many people do not know where they can sell, donate, repair or refurbish a large item, and are also concerned about the hygiene of second-hand items.

Multi-material composition Contemporary furniture and other bulky items are often made up of multiple materials. This makes separating them into clean recyclable raw materials extremely difficult and costly.

WORTH KNOWING · WATCH OUT FOR SCAMS!

There are dishonest service providers who, after collecting bulky items from your home, do not dispose of them properly but instead dump them illegally, for example in a forest. Always check the service provider's credibility. And if you spot waste left in this way, it is worth reporting it via the mObywatel app.[14]

What do you change with your actions?

Less waste in the system By extending the lifespan of bulky items, we reduce the pressure on the waste management system.

Protection of resources and the environment Reducing production cuts down on deforestation, water and raw material consumption, and emissions of harmful gases and pollutants.

Cleaner cities and green spaces Fewer discarded items mean more attractive neighbourhoods and streets, as well as natural areas free from fly-tipping.

Savings for your wallet Reusing bulky items takes the financial strain off the municipal waste management system – and your household budget too!

Development of the local labour market Repair and upcycling create jobs for craftsmen.

Real help Functional furniture and appliances can help people in need.

Building relationships Grassroots aid initiatives and collective waste processing bring neighbours together.[15]

Sentimental and historical value Older items are often repositories of history and unique design.

[14] Report as 'Environmental violation'. More information at: info.mobywatel.gov.pl

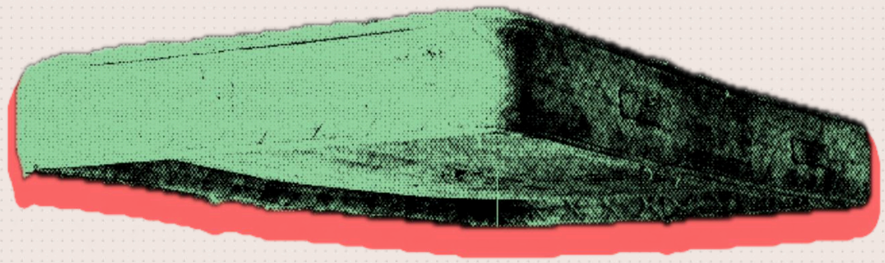
[15] Source: Actions to prevent the effects of climate change, City of Gdynia, Service Sandbox and PRESENT/FUTURE, 2020.



What's hidden in one piece of furniture?

Contemporary furniture is a veritable engineering puzzle, often beyond the capabilities of recycling systems.

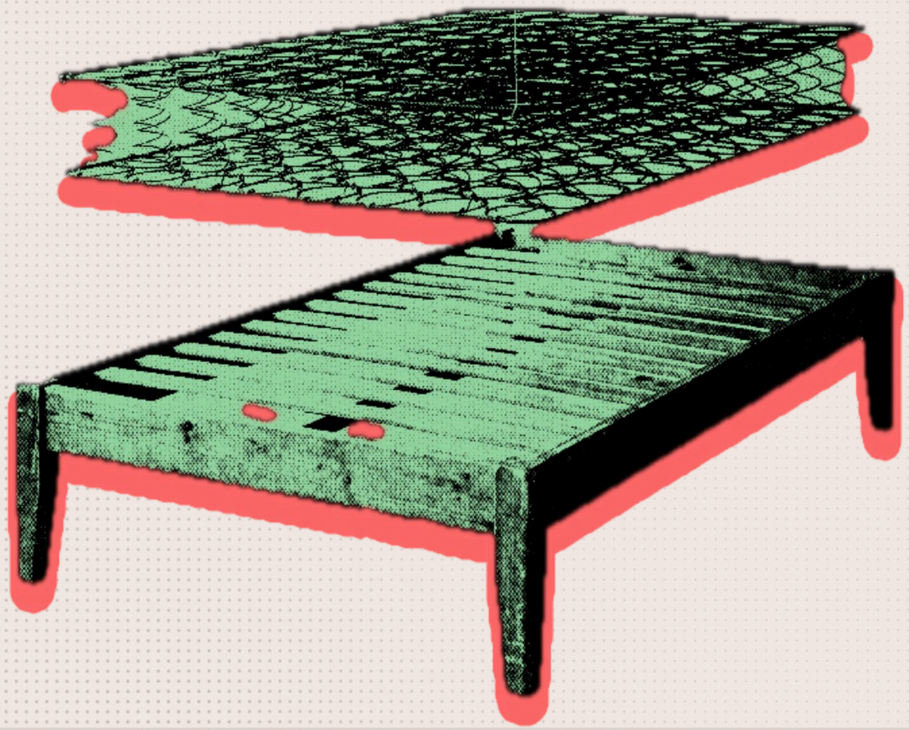
'The greatest challenge is the complex construction of contemporary furniture. A single product often combines various materials – wood, wood-based panels, polyurethane foam, textiles, plastics, glass and metal components. Adhesives, laminates and veneers are also used, which make it difficult to effectively separate the individual materials and recycle them further'.



fabric
a weave of various fibres



PUR foam
plastics



springs
metal components

frame
wood and wood-based panels

Added to this are glues, laminates and veneers, which make separating the materials and recycling them further more difficult.

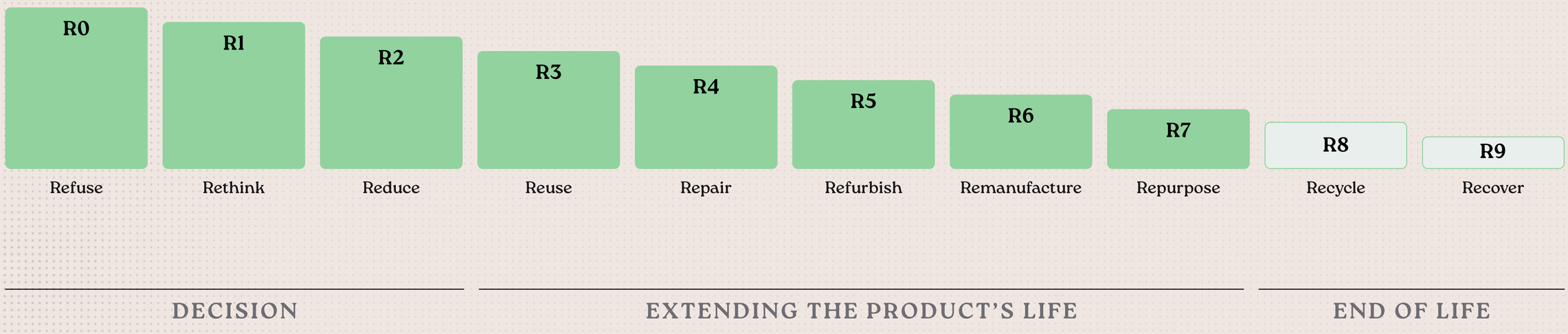
[16]Source: Marcin Paszkiewicz, Eko Dolina sp. z o.o. , expert responses for the Creative Circular Cities project, 2025.

What can I do? – a practical guide



The decision to dispose of a bulky item is the moment when it is entirely up to us whether it will be given a new lease of life or end up as waste.

It shows that recycling should be a last resort. Measures that extend the life of products bring far greater environmental benefits. Here is a list of questions and tips that can serve as your guide when dealing with unwanted bulky items or when making future purchases.



The higher up the ladder, the greater the benefit for the environment. Source: circularise.com/blogs/r-strategies-for-a-circular-economy



Decision

This is the most important moment in the whole process. Before you buy a new bulky item or get rid of your current one, ask yourself a few questions.

R0 Refuse

QUESTION

Do I really have to get rid of something I already own just because a new trend or sale has come along?

TIP

The best waste is the one that was never created. Try to avoid purchases based solely on fads or impulse. By choosing durable, good-quality items, you reduce waste and save resources.

R1 Rethink

QUESTION

Can this item, in its current state, be used in another room or for another purpose?

TIP

A TV cabinet can be turned into a shoe bench, a bookcase works well in the basement, and a table can be put to new use in the garden or garage. Sometimes all it takes is looking at an item from a different perspective.

R2 Reduce

QUESTIONS

How can I reduce the number of such items? Do I choose things with the resources used in mind?

TIP

When buying a new piece of furniture or other large item, opt for durability and reparability. Sturdy materials and construction mean there is a better chance that the item can be refurbished rather than thrown away.



If your bulky item is still in good working order, it’s worth exploring all the options for extending its lifespan.

R3

Reuse or pass on

QUESTION

Could this large item/piece of furniture still be of use to someone else?

TIP

Never throw away items that are still in working order. Take photos of them and look for new owners.

→ Sell

Sell on websites such as OLX, Allegro Lokalnie, Facebook Marketplace or Vinted, or on local sales forums (e.g. Facebook groups, Trójmiasto.pl – the ‘Classifieds’ tab). Put the item up for sale at a flea market (such as the Flea Market in the Abrahama street) or a garage sale (e.g. the Tricity initiative WYGAT).

→ Give away for free

use local Facebook groups (e.g. 'Giving Away for Free', neighbourhood or housing estate groups, or the Tricity and Gdynia branches of the nationwide network 'Uwaga, the garbage truck is coming' (i.e. 'Watch out, the bin lorry’s coming'), post an advert on OLX’s 'Giving Away for Free' section or Facebook Marketplace, put up a notice on the noticeboard in your block of flats, housing estate or at work, and ask your neighbours, family and friends directly.

→ Donate to community or charitable organisations, e.g. the ‘Wejherowskie Klamoty’ initiative.

Note: check what items the organisation is currently accepting and whether it provides its own transport. Never leave bulky items next to the grey containers for second-hand clothing and textiles!

→ Initiate change

organise a neighbourhood sale or swap, or talk to your housing co-operative representatives about setting up a space for swapping furniture or appliances.

R4

Repair

QUESTION

Is this item really worn out, or could it still be repaired?

TIP

You can fix many faults yourself or with the help of a specialist

→ Don't have the right tools?

Residents of Gdynia who hold a library card, a Metropolitan Culture Card or a Gdynia Resident Card can borrow light DIY equipment (e.g. a drill/screwdriver, a sander or a pressure washer) free of charge from the hire centre at the Cisowa Library and at Przystań Lipowa 15.

→ Do you need more specialised equipment, or are you unsure how to go about a repair?

Make use of commercial hire shops, guidebooks, free tutorials on YouTube, and local workshops, such as TuBaza in Gdynia.



Extending the product's life

R5

Refurbish

QUESTION

Can I restore this item to its former glory?

TIP

Tasks such as painting, reupholstering, refreshing surfaces or minor carpentry work can restore the item's function and appearance for years to come.

→ Refurbish responsibly

choose safe, tried-and-tested products and use them as intended. With older furniture, it's worth checking the condition of existing finishes and avoiding materials containing harmful substances.

→ Consult a specialist

Look for local upholsterers, joiners and restorers via:

— Google Maps (search terms: 'furniture restoration', 'upholstery', 'antique restoration'),
— OLX, Oferteo and Fixly,
— local interest groups on Facebook,
— the Trójmiasto.pl portal.



R6

Remanufacture

QUESTION

Can the manufacturer recover this item or its components and reuse them?

TIP

Before throwing away a piece of furniture, check whether the manufacturer runs a return or buy-back scheme for used private label products.

> Examples include IKEA's 'Buy Back & Resell' service and Decathlon's 'Second Life Decathlon' scheme, through which used products can be returned to circulation instead of becoming waste.

R7

Repurpose (upcycling)

QUESTION

How can I creatively transform this item or its parts so that it takes on a completely new function and better suits my current needs?

TIP

This question lies at the heart of the concept of – giving old items a new purpose rather than throwing them away. Even if a piece of furniture no longer serves its original purpose, that does not mean it has lost all its value. An old door can become a table top, drawers can become bookshelves, and an uncomfortable armchair – after changing the upholstery – can become a comfortable seat.



Once all the options described above have been exhausted, the item becomes waste. However, it is still possible to ensure that as much of the material it contains as possible is recovered.

R8

Recycle

QUESTION

How can you pass on the waste to ensure that as many raw materials as possible are recovered?

TIP

Even at this stage, you can influence what happens to the waste. Preparing and handing over the item correctly increases the chances that it is properly managed.

→ Start by reporting the item or take it to a Selective Waste Collection Point (PSZOK). Bulky items are collected only after prior notification via Wyrzucamto.pl. You can also avoid waiting for a collection date and deliver them yourself to Eko Dolina in Łężyce. Always check the current limits and rules on Wyrzucamto.pl.

→ **Put your bulky waste out exactly on time.** Bulky waste is collected according to the schedule on designated days. Putting it out too early encourages others to dump unreported waste and can sometimes cause furniture and appliances to be dismantled or broken up.

→ **Put it in the right place**. If you live in a block of flats, put large items of waste next to the municipal bin shelter; if you live in a detached house, place them just outside your property. PLEASE NOTE: The collection of bulky waste from places not designated for this purpose is not included in the basic waste collection fee, meaning that the costs of additional collection are ultimately borne by all residents!

→ **Bear in mind the impact of the weather.** In rainy or snowy conditions some bulky items become soaked and heavier, which makes them harder to load.

→ **Ensure safety.** Stack bulky items securely so they do not tip over, and make sure you are not blocking the pavement or the exit from the car park.



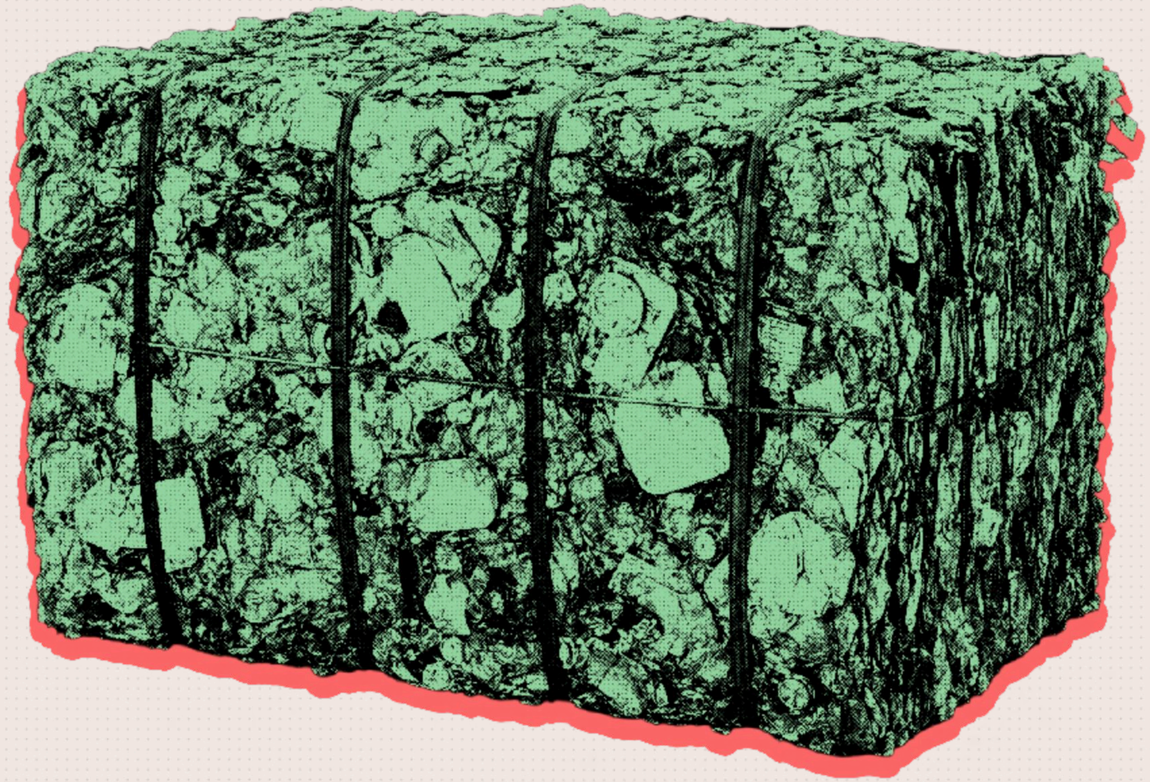
Photo: Eko Dolina

End of life

R9

Recover

When your bulky waste reaches a processing plant (Eko Doliny) or a recycling company, it is dismantled or shredded. The raw materials recovered in this way are returned to the economic cycle, and the remaining waste – which cannot be further processed as raw material – is used to generate energy in the form of RDF. This closes the loop, and prevents your waste from ending up in a rubbish tip.



Contacts in a nutshell

You are not alone!

Find out what local initiatives, organisations and circular economy programmes can help you manage bulky waste properly. It’s our shared responsibility!

The ‘Uwaga, śmieciarka jedzie’ Foundation. An umbrella organisation supporting a nationwide network of hundreds of local Facebook groups (including those bringing together residents of Gdynia and the entire Tricity) dedicated to saving and exchanging second-hand items free of charge. uwagasmieciarkajedzie.org

The Neighbourhood Hubs Network in Gdynia / Social Innovation Laboratory: initiatives for neighbourhood exchanges and resource sharing (https://przystan.gdynia.pl).

Gdynia Library and Gdynia Citizens’ Budget. A free lending service for renovation equipment for residents (Cisowa Branch). bibliotekagdynia.pl

TuBaza (Gdynia, Kolibki Park): a workshop and educational space (including woodworking and upholstery workshops).

IKEA Poland. The ‘Buy Back & Resell’ circular programme. ikea.com/pl

Decathlon Poland. The ‘Second Life’ circular programme. decathlon.pl

Classifieds, social media platforms and service platforms (mentioned in the text as tools supporting the second-hand market and the search for specialists) include: Facebook (local groups, Facebook Marketplace), OLX, Fixly, Oferteo, Vinted, Trójmiasto.pl.



photo: Rafał Rolka, Małgorzata Matkowska



photo: Rafał Rolka, Małgorzata Matkowska

Contacts in a nutshell

You are not alone!

an initiative supporting neighbourhood yard sales throughout the Tricity twice a year (spring and autumn). Ideal for selling or swapping household appliances and small items of furniture. (Facebook page: WYprzedaż GArażowa [i.e. GARAGE SALE]; contact: mlodaoliwa@gmail.com)

Flea Market in the Abrahama street 'WOONERF' (Gdynia): a regular open-air market in the city centre where you can sell unwanted items or hunt for vintage gems. The schedule is available at gck.gdynia.pl

Neighbourhood Garage Sales (Gdynia and the entire Tricity): local events organised by, for example, neighbourhood councils (e.g. Dąbrowa, Chwarzno-Wiczlino, Orłowo). Follow the District Councils' profiles on Facebook.

one of the region's most popular regular second-hand events, with a wide range of household goods and knick-knacks on offer. (the 'Pchli Targ Oliwa' [i.e. Oliwa Flea Market] Facebook page)

an area dedicated to antiques and second-hand goods, offering traditional market stalls as well as small interior design items, to name but a few. (sopockiryneknonstop.pl)

Ekofabryka Wejherowo. The 'Wejherowskie Klamoty' initiative. ekofabrykawejherowo.pl

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photo: Milena Bednarczyk

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LEGAL ACTS

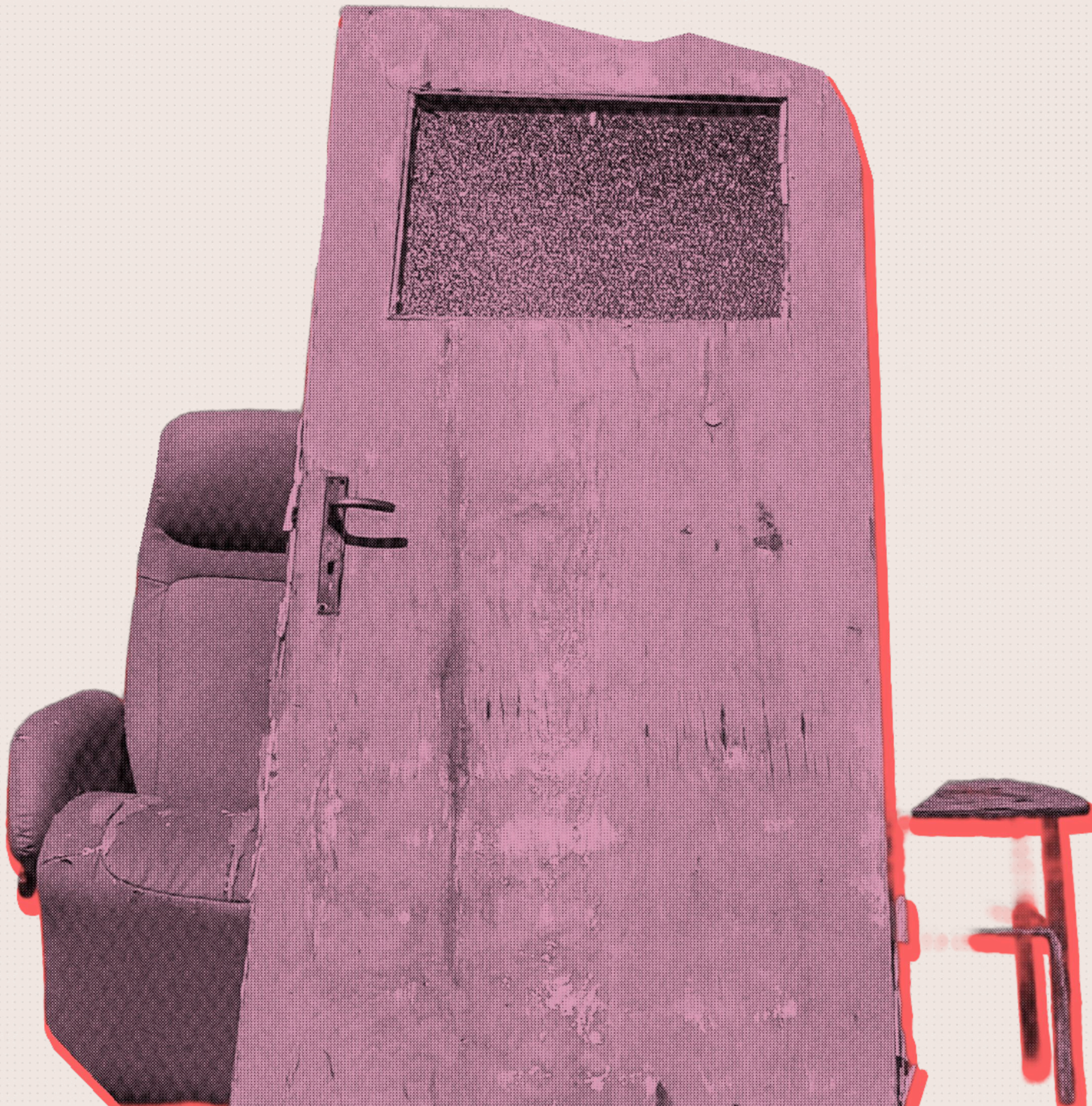
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BIG THINGS in Gdynia

A new life for bulky waste



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GDYNIA moje miasto

ppnt gdynia
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CIRCULAR ECONOMY
Creative Circular Cities

Photo: Wiktor Dembs

Waste

Object

photo: Wiktor Dembs

photo: Rafał Rolka, Małgorzata Matkowska