



Carpet Recycling Summit Briefing Paper

Tuesday, October 30, 2012
Morton Arboretum
4100 IL Route 53, Lisle
10 am - 3 pm



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INTRODUCTION TO CARPET RECYCLING SUMMIT



The purpose of the Carpet Recycling Summit is to engage the key stakeholders in an interactive dialogue on how best to increase carpet and pad recycling in Illinois. The key stakeholders include manufacturers, retailers, installers, recyclers, government, and environmental groups.

The Summit will provide information on the status of carpet recycling in the United States, locally here in Illinois, and examples of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and non-EPR approaches to recycle carpeting and padding.

The Summit is also a goal-oriented event, with time dedicated to identifying barriers to increasing recycling and discussing strategies for overcoming these barriers. Within 30 days of the Summit, a Carpet Recycling Action Plan will be developed, based on input received at the Summit, and distributed to the attendees, hopefully leading to a coordinated effort to increase carpet and pad recycling.

Visit swanastore.com to register and to become part of the conversation if you haven't already.

Why Attend the Carpet Recycling Summit

The Summit will provide a unique opportunity for the various stakeholders to gather and focus on a single goal – increasing carpet and pad recycling in Illinois and throughout the region.

The Summit will provide:

- A status update on carpet recycling programs on a state and national level.
- An opportunity to work together to increase diversion rates through a statewide effort and have input on the development of a Carpet Recycling Action Plan.
- An opportunity to network with industry stakeholders and colleagues.

What is your role prior to, during and after the Summit?

Prior to the summit, please read this briefing paper, explore resource links and brainstorm the issue to identify barriers and strategies.

During the summit, attendees will be asked to participate actively by stating their stakeholder positions and working cooperatively to help develop strategies for increasing carpet and pad recycling.

After the summit, attendees will be asked to review the Carpet Recycling Action Plan, provide comments and work on tasks and ideas which relate to their role within the recycling solution.

The remainder of this briefing paper addresses the following topics:

- Carpet Industry Background
- Current Management of Carpet and Padding
- Efforts to Increase the Recycling of Carpet and Padding
- Preparing for the Summit

CARPET INDUSTRY BACKGROUND



The following section provides a brief history of carpet making, the materials used to make carpet, and a listing of the major manufacturers of carpet and padding in the United States.

Carpeting

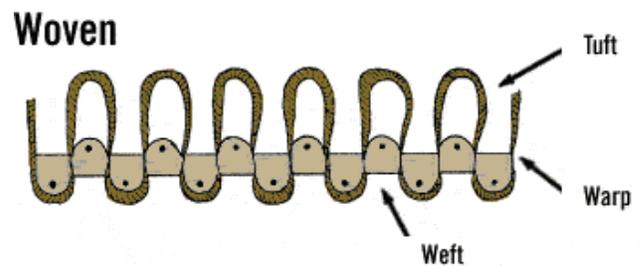
The two primary ways to make carpeting are tufting and weaving, which are shown and discussed below.

Tufted: Tufting is a process of creating textiles, especially carpet, on specialized multi-needle sewing machines. Needles stitch hundreds of rows of pile yarn tufts through a primary backing fabric, where a loop holds the yarn in place to form a tuft as the needle is removed. The yarn is caught by loopers and held in place for loop-pile carpet or cut by blades for cut-pile carpet. Next, secondary backings of various types are applied to render a variety of performance properties.

Tufted carpeting is used in both residential and commercial carpeting. Typically the pile or tuft portion of residential carpeting is about 40% by weight of the carpeting (with the primary backing representing 10% by weight and secondary backing comprising 50%), and for commercial the tuft is about 30% (primary backing at 10% and secondary at 60%) by weight. With the tuft being the most valuable part of the carpet, residential carpeting is usually more valuable as a recyclable material and easier to harvest than commercial carpeting.

Woven: Woven carpet is created on looms by simultaneously

interlacing face yarns and backing yarns into a complete product, thereby eliminating the need for a secondary backing. A small amount of latex-back coating is usually applied for bulk.



Facts on Fiber

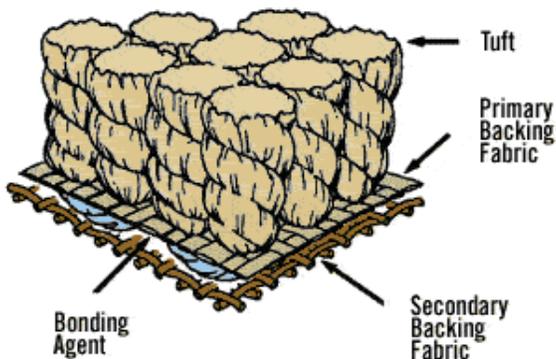
Wool and manmade fibers -- polyester, nylon, rayon, and acrylics -- were gradually introduced by carpet making companies in Dalton, GA.

Nylon was first introduced in 1947 and grew steadily to ultimately dominate the market. Polyester was first used in 1965 and was followed soon by polypropylene (olefin). Most manufacturers will agree that the single most important development in the industry was the introduction of bulk continuous filament nylon yarns, invented by DuPont in the 1950s. These yarns provided a luxurious quality, durable carpet, similar to wool, which was more economical to produce.

In 1950, only 10 percent of all carpet and rug products were tufted, and 90 percent were woven. However, man-made fibers began to be introduced along with new spinning techniques, new dye equipment, printing processes, tufting equipment, and backing for different end uses.

Today, tufted products are more than 90 percent of the total, followed by less than 2 percent that are woven, and 6.7 percent for all other methods, such as knitted, braided, hooked, or needlepunched. By 1951, the tufting industry was a \$133 million per year business made up primarily of bedspreads, carpet, and rugs, with carpet accounting for \$19 million. The industry broke the billion dollar mark in 1963. Through the years, the Dalton, Georgia area has continued to be the center of the tufted carpet industry, and today, the area produces more than 70 percent of the total output of the world-wide

Tufted



industry of over \$9 billion. Dalton is now known as the “Carpet Capital of the World.”

As Figure 1 shows, total industry shipments in 2007 totaled 1.6 billion square yards compared to 97 million square yards in 1950.

The majority of the carpet produced in the United States contains one of six pile fibers: nylon, polypropylene (olefin), acrylic, polyester, wool, or cotton. Synthetic fibers make up more than 99% of the fiber used by the U.S. carpet industry. According to the carpet industry’s recovery group, also known as CARE (Carpet America Recovery Effort), a survey of its members found that in 2011 nylon 6 and nylon 6,6 fiber accounted for 67% of the carpeting sorted for recycling or reuse, PET fiber accounted for 19% and polypropylene accounted for 10%.

Manufacturer Directory

The Manufacturer Directory on the following pages lists locations throughout the U.S. where carpet is manufactured.

Figure 1: Annual Carpet Production Increase 2 Fold in 60 Years



Annual productions, according to the Carpet and Rug Institute, have increased 2 fold in 60 years. Total industry shipments in 2007 totaled 1.6 billion square yards. In 1950, industry shipments were 97 million square yards.

U.S. Carpet Manufacturer Directory

Atlas Carpet Mills Inc.

Los Angeles, CA 90040
atlascarpetmills.com
products: tufted carpet, commercial carpet

Barrett Carpet Mills

Dalton, GA 30722-2045
barrettcarpets.com
products: tufted carpet, commercial carpet, antistatic treatments, custom carpet, graphics, modules, carpet tile, spike proof carpet, attached-cushion

Beaulieu Group, LLC

Dalton, GA 30722
beaulieu-usa.com
products: residential carpet, commercial carpet

Bloomsburg Carpet Industries, Inc.

New York, NY 10010
bloomsburgcarpet.com
products: axminster carpet, wilton carpet, woven carpet, commercial carpet, residential carpet, aircraft carpet, antistatic treatments, wall coverings, custom carpet

Blue Ridge Industries, Inc.

Ellijay, GA 30540
blueridgecarpet.com
products: commercial carpet, tufted carpet, reuse/recycle

Burtco Enterprises, Inc.

Dalton, GA 30721
burtcocarpets.com
products: tufted carpet, commercial carpet, residential carpet, graphics, printing, borders, computer graphics, spike proof carpet, commission tufting

C & A Floorcoverings, Inc.

Dalton, GA 30720
powerbond.com
products: commercial carpet, broadloom carpet, six foot roll, module, reuse/recycle, carpet tile

Constantine/Product Concepts

Dalton, GA 30722-2399
constantine-carpet.com
products: tufted carpet, commercial carpet, residential carpet, graphics, accent/area/scatter rugs, room-size rugs

Creston Carpet Mills LLC

Chatsworth, GA 30705
products: residential carpet

Daltonian Flooring Inc.

Dalton, GA 30720
daltonian.com
products: needlepunch carpet, wilton carpet, woven carpet, commercial carpet, residential carpet, outdoor carpet (non-athletic), spike proof carpet, modules, carpet padding, carpet tile

Dixie Group, Inc., The

Chattanooga, TN 37422
thedixiegroup.com
products: tufted carpet, knitted carpet, needlepunch carpet, residential carpet, commercial carpet, exhibition carpet, garage, juvenile, kitchen, manufactured housing, modules, outdoor athletic, outdoor non-athletic, patterned carpet, recreational vehicle carpet, six-foot

Fortune Commercial, Inc.

Dalton, GA 30722
fortunecarpet.com
products: tufted carpet, commercial carpet, residential carpet

Interface Flooring Systems

LaGrange, GA 30241
interfaceflooring.com
products: commercial modular flooring products, carpet tile

J & J Industries, Inc.

Dalton, GA 30722-1287
jjindustries.com
products: chemicals, tufted carpet, commercial carpet, antistatic treatments, graphics, spike proof carpet, carpet padding

Langhorne Carpet Company, Inc.

Pennel, PA 19047-7175
langhornecarpets.com
products: wilton carpet, woven carpet, commercial carpet, residential carpet

Mannington Carpets, Inc.

Calhoun, GA 30703-2281
mannington.com
products: tufted carpet, commercial carpet, antistatic treatments, graphics, module, spike proof carpet, custom carpets, carpet tile, carpet padding

Merida Meridian, Inc.

Boston, MA 02210
meridameridian.com
products: woven carpet, commercial carpet, residential carpet, woven rugs, accent/scatter rugs, room-size rugs, area rugs

Milliken Carpet

LaGrange, GA 30241
millikencarpet.com
products: commercial carpet, residential carpet, module, tufted carpet, borders, carpet padding, patterned carpet, recycle/reuse, sample service, hardwood flooring, custom carpet, area rugs, accent/scatter rugs, wool, chemicals, six-foot, pattern

Mohawk Industries, Inc.

Calhoun, GA 30703
mohawkind.com
products: knitted carpet, wilton carpet, tufted carpet, woven carpet, commercial carpet, residential carpet, aircraft carpet, border carpet, graphics, spike proof carpet, custom, room-size rugs, back coating, back coating chemical, backing fabrics, dyestuff, carpet padding

Northwest Carpets, Inc.

Dalton, GA 30720
northwestcarpets.net
products: tufted carpet, commercial carpet, residential carpet, hospitality carpet, hotel and motel carpet, computer graphics, custom carpet, cove base, carpet padding

Royalty Carpet Mills / Camelot Carpet Mills, Inc.

Irvine, CA 92614
royaltycarpetmills.com
products: tufted carpet, commercial carpet, residential carpet, graphics, spike proof carpet, custom carpet, tufted area rugs

Shaw Industries, Inc.

Dalton, GA 30722-2128
shawfloors.com
products: residential carpet, commercial carpet, tufted carpet, woven carpet, garage carpet, kitchen carpet, mobile home carpet, modules, carpet tile, spike proof carpet, custom carpet, tufted rugs, woven rugs, room-size rugs, novelty rugs, area rugs, carpet padding

Tai Ping Carpets Americas, Inc.

Calhoun, GA 30701
taipingusa.com
products: axminster carpet, wilton carpet, woven carpet, commercial carpet, custom carpet, yarn production

CURRENT MANAGEMENT OF CARPET

This section of the briefing paper provides information on the amount of carpet and padding disposed of each year in Illinois, and the efforts by the carpet industry to divert carpet and padding from landfilling through recycling and diversion (primarily energy recovery) programs.

Carpet and Padding in the Illinois Waste Stream

According to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's report entitled, *Nonhazardous Solid Waste Management and Landfill Capacity: 2011*, Illinois' landfills accepted approximately 14 million tons of materials/waste in 2011. Another study commissioned by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity in 2009 entitled, *Illinois Commodity/Waste Generation and Characterization Study*, reported that 1.7% of the material/waste landfilled in Illinois is carpeting and 0.3% is carpet padding. Utilizing these data sources it is estimated that in 2011, Illinois landfills accepted 238,000 tons of carpeting and 42,000 tons of carpet padding. This represents a significant amount of material that could be diverted to higher and better uses as a recycled feedstock for new products or as an energy source.

The Carpet MOU and the Creation of CARE

Starting in 1999, the Wisconsin and Iowa Departments of Natural Resources agreed to combine efforts to pursue carpet stewardship in the Midwest. In 2002, the group developed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) regarding carpet recycling initiatives. Stakeholders involved in the original MOU included government agencies, carpet industry, recyclers, waste management representatives and the environmental industry. At the time, there was some trepidation from the recycling industry regarding costs associated with the effort. The push largely came from specific manufacturers that championed sustainability as an important part of their companies' missions and sought to incorporate recycled-content into the products they manufactured. An independent third-party organization was created as a result of the MOU in 2002 called the Carpet America Recovery Effort (CARE). This organization facilitated the carpet industry-led initiative to find market-driven solutions to divert carpet and padding from landfills.

In an effort to continue the work of the original MOU, CARE initiated a process in 2010 to prepare a new set of goals for carpet recycling. By July 2011, the parties were not able to agree on key areas, resulting in the original MOU expiring. The group did develop a model federal legislation proposal ("The

Used Soft Surface Floorcovering Recovery and Management Act") without result, partially due to the pending results from California (enacted in September 2010) regarding carpet and pad recycling goals, sustainable financing and legislation. CARE does continue to operate without the MOU, monitoring and engaging in the creation of new markets for collection, processing and end-use materials. The efforts in California will act as an experiment and will provide valuable information regarding the feasibility of the program, which will be reviewed by the CARE stakeholders as part of the four year evaluation policy.

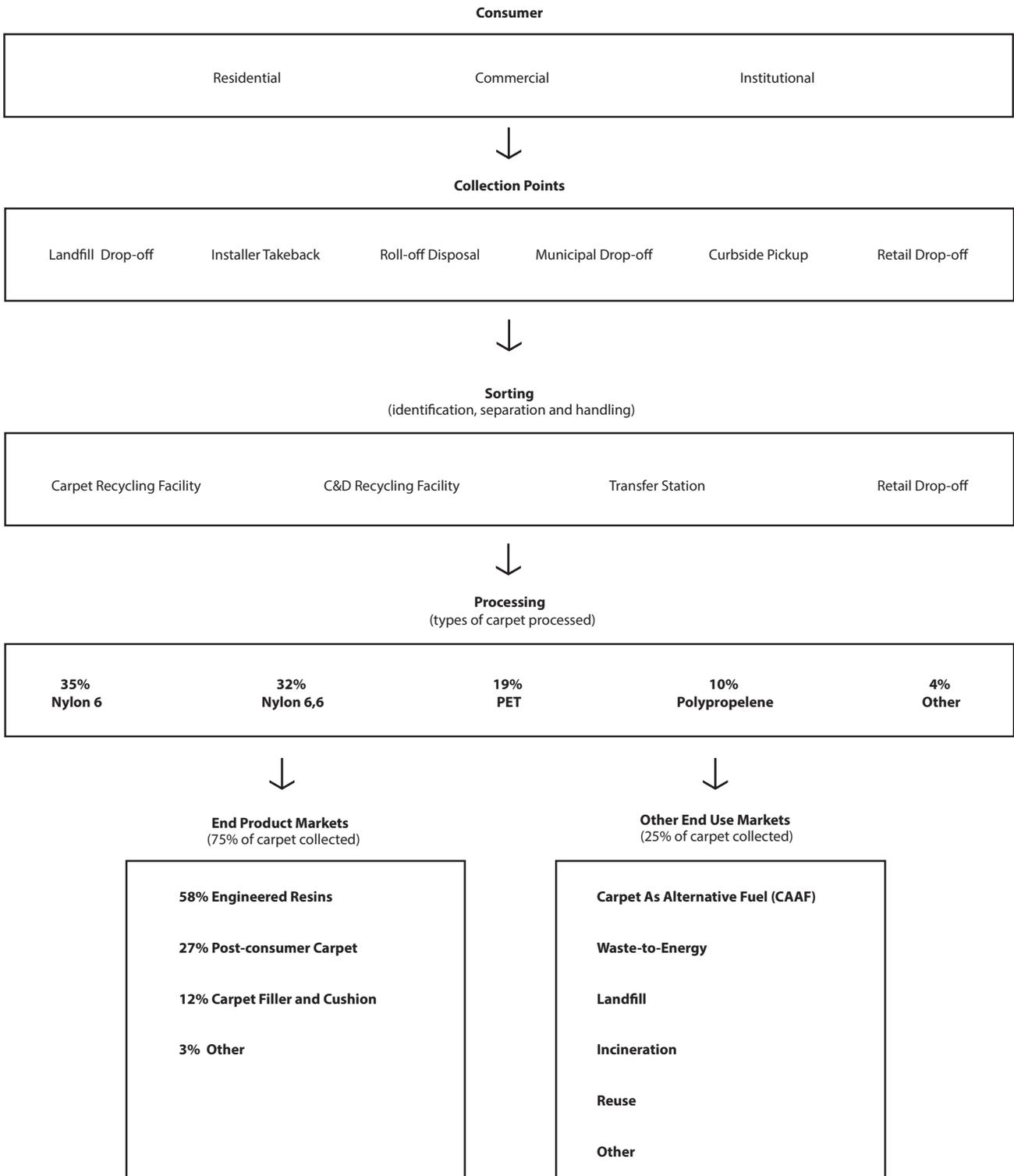
More information regarding CARE's voluntary carpet management programs is provided in the following section of this briefing paper.

Flow of Materials, End Markets

Figure 2 helps illustrate the way in which carpet and padding is generated, collected, sorted, processed, and managed or made into new products. This figure was developed based on a similar figure and information contained in CARE's 2011 Annual Report. As Figure 2 shows, carpeting is currently collected through numerous points with the majority being collected by installers who utilize their own drop off sites/containers or those provided by carpet retailers and manufacturers. A growing trend in Illinois is the involvement of the construction and demolition (C&D) debris recyclers who provide roll-off boxes to large renovation projects that include carpet removal (among other C&D debris). The roll-off boxes are then taken to C&D recycling facilities where carpeting (primarily nylon) is segregated and sent for further processing and recycling. As the figure shows, the majority of post-consumer carpet that does get processed is nylon 6 (35%) and nylon 6,6 (32%) which have good market value and can be used in multiple end products.

Unfortunately, not all carpet types have good markets. Of the total amount of post-consumer carpet collected in 2011, CARE reports that 75% was recycled and sent to end product markets, while the remaining 25% was either used as CAAF (carpet as alternative fuel, 11%), sent to waste-to-energy facilities (14%) or reused (less than 1%).

Figure 2: Carpet Management - Flow of Materials



Source: Carpet America Recovery Effort (CARE) 2011 Annual Report

The majority of post-consumer carpet that does get processed is nylon 6 (35%) and nylon 6,6 (32%) which have good market value and can be used in multiple end products.

EFFORTS TO INCREASE THE RECYCLING OF CARPET AND PADDING



This section will focus on two primary approaches to carpet recycling :

- 1) voluntary approach relying on the participation of manufacturers, retailers, installers and recyclers to develop programs that offer an alternative to landfilling, and
- 2) legislative approach using the principle of extended producer responsibility (EPR) to engage manufacturers in the end of life management of their products, in this case carpet and padding. The discussion of the voluntary approach includes an overview of the carpet industry's efforts under CARE

and other organizations, along with existing programs ongoing in Illinois. The legislative approach includes a brief overview of the California law (AB 2398) that was passed in 2010 and implemented in July 2011.

Voluntary Approach

Leading the carpet recovery efforts in the United States is an organization named the Carpet America Recovery Effort (CARE), which is a 501(c)(3) organization with over 400 members as of 2011 (an increase of 17% since 2010). CARE was formed in 2002 as a voluntary initiative of the carpet industry and government to divert carpeting from the nation's landfills. It was created as a result of a Memorandum of Understanding for Carpet Stewardship signed in January 2002 by members of the carpet industry, governmental entities and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The stated mission statement of CARE in its 2011 Annual Report is:

To advance market-based solutions that increase landfill diversion and recycling of post-consumer carpet, encourage design for recyclability and meet meaningful goals as approved by the CARE Board of Directors.

Detailed information on CARE, its progress towards achieving its mission, and current carpet recycling results may be found by going to carpetrecovery.org. The 2011 Annual Report provides the following findings for carpet recovery on a national level in calendar year 2011:

- CARE members diverted 333 million pounds of carpeting (out of total estimated discards of 3.8 billion pounds) from landfills with 250 million pounds recycled or reused, 46 million pounds managed at waste-to-energy plants and

36 million pounds used as carpet as an alternative fuel (CAAF) primarily at cement kilns. In 2002 the total amount of carpeting diverted from landfilling was only 57 million pounds.

- The overall diversion rate as a percentage of discards was 9% and the overall recycling rate was 7%.
- The most common end product made from post consumer carpeting is engineered resins (58% of the total amount collected), carpet fiber (20%), carpet backing (7%), carpet cushion (10%), filler for carpet and other products (2%) and other uses (3%).
- Of the carpet collected by CARE members 35% was nylon 6, 32% was nylon 6,6, 19% was PET, 10% was polypropylene and 4% was other.
- Respondents to CARE's annual survey employ 1,462 people, an increase of 29% versus 2010.
- 97% of the post-consumer carpeting was used within the United States.

In addition to the programs discussed above, it is worth noting the efforts of Starnet, Fuse Alliance, Carpet Recyclers Network, and the Northwest Carpet Recycling Workgroup, which are briefly described below.

Starnet Worldwide: Starnet offers carpet reclamation services that are designed as a one-stop shop. It takes care of the entire process, from removal to compliance to certification to reclamation at a recycling center. The program is LEED compliant and can be used for LEED accreditation. It also works within the green initiatives set forth by the Carpet America Recovery Effort (CARE). For more information visit its website at starnetflooring.com/effective-tools/reclamation-services/.

Fuse Alliance: Fuse Alliance is another membership organization which endorses carpeting recycling. It is a member owned network of professional commercial flooring contractors located throughout the United States and boasts of environmental responsibility through Ecollect™, its national material collection and recycling program. For more information visit its website at fusealliance.com/about/about.aspx.

Carpet Recyclers Network: The Carpet Recyclers Network is a group of individual business owners whose goal is to become the premier post-consumer carpet collection and processing network in North America, striving to improve the way carpet is collected and recycled across the United States and Canada. For more information visit its website at carpet-recycle.com.

Northwest Carpet Recycling Workgroup: This is a collaboration that began in 2009 between King County Solid Waste Division, Seattle Public Utilities, the Washington Department of Commerce and private sector businesses. The primary goals of the Workgroup were to bring carpet recycling capacity to the Northwest and to increase end markets for recovered carpet materials. The Workgroup prepared a report in 2010 entitled, *Northwest Carpet Recycling Strategy for Established Carpet Processing Capacity and End Market for Recovered Materials*. Since that time the carpet recycling effort has grown considerably in the Northwest with more processing capacity being developed and continued collaboration amongst stakeholders to address collection and marketing of post-consumer carpet. For more information on the Workgroup and a copy of the 2010 Strategy Report visit the following website: your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/linkup/carpet/index.asp.

Illinois Diversion Efforts

Illinois has dozens of retailers, installers, carpet recycling companies, and construction and demolition recycling companies currently providing carpet diversion programs. The following is a brief summary of several of these efforts in Illinois.

CLEAR Carpet Recycling: Carpet Landfill Elimination and Recycling (CLEAR) is a carpet and pad recycler with a network of collectors (retailers, installers, drop-off sites) throughout the Midwest and Northeast portions of the United States. CLEAR has a post-consumer carpet processing facility in Grand Rapids, Michigan and also has a collection/sorting location in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. CLEAR works with numerous retailers, installers and recyclers in Illinois, and is one of the largest processors of nylon and polypropylene carpeting in the country. Among its many collection sites, CLEAR has a drop-off facility at the Zion Landfill in Zion, Illinois, possibly the first carpet recycling option offered at a landfill in Illinois. For more information on CLEAR visit its website at landfillclear.com.

Go Green: Go Green is located in Addison, Illinois and operates

a 10,000 sq. ft. facility where post-consumer carpeting is sorted and baled. Go Green sells 80% of its nylon to CLEAR. Go Green works with numerous retailers, installers and other recyclers to separately collect carpet and padding. Go Green does charge for picking up the material but typically its cost is less than what the retailer or installer would pay to landfill the carpet and padding.

K. Hoving Recycling and Disposal: K. Hoving is involved in several business operations, including construction and demolition (C&D) debris recycling and operates a C&D recycling facility in West Chicago, IL. Under Illinois law, C&D recycling facilities (often referred to as 22.38 recycling facilities after the section of the Illinois Environmental Protection Act that regulates such facilities) must not landfill more than 25% of what they accept. As a result, facilities such as K. Hoving's in West Chicago must continually strive to find new markets and options for the materials it accepts in its roll-off boxes at new construction, renovation and demolition job sites. One such new material being diverted by K. Hoving is carpet, primarily nylon 6 and nylon 6,6. This is one of several C&D recycling facilities that are now focused on diverting carpet from landfilling in Illinois.

Legislative Approach

On September 30, 2010 California law AB 2398 was signed into law with the purpose of increasing the diversion and recycling of carpet (see the following website for more details, calrecycle.ca.gov/epr/PolicyLaw/Carpet.htm.) The law is based on an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) approach under which carpet manufacturers, either individually or jointly, design and implement their own stewardship program for diverting and recycling carpet. The State's role (CalRecycle) is to review and approve plans, check progress and support industry by providing oversight and enforcement to ensure a level playing field among the manufacturers. The following bullets provide an overview of the primary features of the law.

- *Stewardship Plans:* AB 2398 recognizes CARE as the only carpet stewardship organization at least until April 1, 2015. Manufacturers are encouraged to join the CARE effort but under the law individual manufacturers may submit their own stewardship plans. CARE did submit a stewardship plan to CalRecycle on January 9, 2012. The plan is very important because it defines the programs that will be implemented and those responsible for implementing

them. It also provides a clear road map to stakeholders and the public as to how carpet will be diverted from landfilling. Each year an annual report must be submitted to CalRecycle to document the progress being made in implementing the plan and diverting and recycling more carpet. The law also requires that the program financing, as administered by the stewardship organization, be independently audited each year.

- *Financing:* An important component of any EPR law is how the program will be funded. AB 2398 is somewhat unique in that it set an upfront fee (\$0.05 per square yard) that knowingly was not intended to fund the entire program costs, but instead act as an incentive to increase carpet recycling. This fee must be shown by retailers on the consumer's receipt. It is estimated the fee will generate approximately \$5 million per year. According to CalRecycle from the time period of July 2011 to March 2012 CARE collected \$3.6 million and the funds requested by carpet recyclers was \$1,031,284.
- *Compliance:* In order to be compliant with the law all carpet manufacturers selling carpet in California must have an approved plan (or be part of the CARE stewardship group plan), and must make a continuous and meaningful effort to implement the plan. As long as the program being implemented is deemed to be in compliance by CalRecycle, manufacturers will have met their obligation under the law. Retailers are required to sell carpeting that is compliant, meaning they can only sell carpet from manufacturers that have been deemed compliant by CalRecycle. As stated above, retailers are also required to show the assessment fee of \$0.05 per square yard on the receipt provided to the consumer in order to achieve a level of transparency with the program. Violation of the law can lead to administrative civil penalties of up to \$1,000/day, and up to \$10,000/day if the violation is intentional, knowing and negligent.

It would be fair to ask what has the California law resulted in as far as carpet diversion and program implementation. In the 2011 Annual Report, CARE includes the following results for the early stages of implementation beginning in July 2011 when implementation started through December 2011 (the law does require that CARE submit annual reports beginning July 1, 2013

for the previous calendar year):

- 80 carpet manufacturers registered with CARE to be part of its stewardship group.
- 3,500 carpet dealer and retailer kits explaining the law were distributed.
- There are 16 sites registered as collectors and processors, employing nearly 204 people involved directly in carpet diversion.
- Processors diverted nearly 34 million pounds (while nearly 183 million pounds were still landfilled) for a diversion rate of 18% of the total amount of carpet discarded. Of that 34 million pounds, 13 million pounds (7% recycling rate) were recycled into new products, the remainder was combusted as an energy source (which remains a somewhat contentious issue, with the goal of achieving higher recycling levels as opposed to use energy). According to CalRecycle the recycling rate has increased to 8.3% for the first quarter of 2012.
- The carpet assessment fee resulted in revenues of \$2,525,228 with qualified processors receiving \$703,454. Of the 16 qualified processors/collectors, 8 requested funding from CARE.

To date, California is the only state to enact EPR legislation for carpeting. During the 2012 legislative session, two other state carpet bills were introduced in Washington and New York, but have yet to be enacted as law.

SUMMIT PREPARATION

In order for the Summit to be as successful as possible, it will be important for the attendees to come prepared. That means carefully reviewing this document and doing your own additional research using the links and resources provided in this briefing report and your own sources. It would also be ideal for you to have thought through the issues involved with carpet and pad recycling and what we have learned from current efforts to recycle, both legislative and voluntary approaches. Finally, it will be important to share your unique perspective on carpet and pad recycling so others can learn from you, and ultimately work towards a consensus on what makes the most sense in Illinois for moving forward. The focus of the lunch time exercise and the final panel discussion will be on identifying the barriers to increased recycling and discussing strategies for overcoming the barriers.

During the Summit, the University of Illinois student/SWANA intern who helped prepare this briefing paper will be carefully taking notes and compiling a list of the barriers and potential strategies for moving forward. The presentations and discussions at the Summit will be summarized into a Carpet Recycling Action Plan that will be sent to all attendees (and ultimately shared with others) for final review and comment. Once finalized it will then be up to the key stakeholders to begin implementing the Plan and continuing this important effort to divert carpet and padding from landfilling into higher and better uses.

We hope to have a great summit and look forward to seeing you there!

APPENDIX A: AUTHORS AND CONTRIBUTORS

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APPENDIX B: REFERENCES AND LINKS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

CalRecycle

California is the first state to establish a private-sector designed and managed statewide carpet stewardship program. This program follows producer responsibility principles to ensure that discarded carpets become a resource for new products in a manner that is sustainably funded and provides jobs for Californians.

For an introduction to California's Carpet Stewardship Law, visit calrecycle.ca.gov/epr/PolicyLaw/Carpet.htm.

To review the California Carpet Stewardship Plan, visit calrecycle.ca.gov/EPR/Carpet/CrptPlan.pdf

Carpet America Recovery Effort

The mission of CARE is to advance market-based solutions that increase landfill diversion and recycling of post-consumer carpet, encourage design for recyclability and meet meaningful goals as approved by the CARE Board of Directors.

For basic recycling knowledge, visit carpetrecovery.org and carpetrecovery.org/pdf/Carpet_Recycling_101.pdf.

The 2011 Annual Report can be found at carpetrecovery.org/pdf/annual_report/11_CARE-annual-rpt.pdf.

The 2012 MOU Update can be found at carpetrecovery.org/pdf/annual_conference/2011_conference_pdfs/Wednesday/2012_MOU_Update_Presentation.pdf.

Carpet Recycler's Network

The membership of the Carpet Recyclers' Network is comprised of independent business owners that desire to bring the Carpet Recycling Industry into the next level of sophistication. Our members are located throughout the United States and Canada, allowing our members to handle corporations that have locations throughout North America. Read more about the Carpet Recycler's Network at carpet-recycle.com.

Environmental Protection Agency

The EPA provides an overview of the carpet industry including procurement guidance, case studies and web resources. For additional information, visit epa.gov/epp/pubs/products/car-pets.htm.

FUSE Alliance

Fuse Alliance is a member owned network of professional commercial flooring contractors located throughout the United States. The organization's goal is to increase the flooring contractor's value in the supply chain, and ensure that these values are continually enhanced to support member's customers and suppliers. For more, visit fusealliance.com/about/about.aspx.

King County Linkup/Carpet Recycling Workgroup

In 2009 and early 2010, LinkUp collaborated with Seattle Public Utilities and others to develop a strategy establishing regional recycling infrastructure and end-markets for carpet waste generated in the Pacific Northwest. Learn more about the Carpet Strategy Project at your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/linkup/carpet/index.asp.

Starnet Flooring

Starnet Reclamation Program is an environmentally friendly service that accepts and recycles virtually all carpet materials. Read more at starnetflooring.com/effective-tools/reclamation-services.



swanailinois.org

The Carpet Recycling Summit agenda and registration details can be found at swanailinois.org.