

Illinois Carpet Recycling Working Group Overview

Background

The Illinois Carpet Recycling Working Group (CRWG) is a collection of solid waste agencies, counties, and carpet collectors, processors, retailers, installers, manufacturers and construction and demolition facilities. The Group is dedicated to advancing carpet recycling in Illinois through infrastructure building, partner collaboration, program implementation, policy, and education and outreach efforts.

Members

Jennifer Jarland, Kane County – Co-chair

Cameron Ruen, SWANCC – Co-chair

Darci Ackerman, Heritage Recycling

Bill Fedun, Heritage Recycling

Nick Fiore, CLEAR Carpet Recycling

Wendy Gold, MBL Recycling, Inc.

Joy Hinz, DuPage County

Becky Jane, IEPA

Marta Keane, Will County/ IRA

Eugene Knaus, Go Green Carpet Recycling

Robert Lenzini, MBL Recycling, Inc.

KJ Loerop, K Hoving

Eric Nelson, Interface

Dean Olson, Will County

Karen Rozmus, Oak Park

Steve Rypkkema, Ogle County

Bill Schomburg, Turf Reclamation Services (TRS)

Kasey Wakefield, Kruse Carpet Recycling

Walter Willis, SWALCO

Accomplishments

- October 2012: SWANA-Land of Lincoln Chapter held a summit on carpet recycling at Morton Arboretum in Lisle, with over 80 attendees. A round table discussion on barriers and solutions resulted in a Carpet Recycling Action Plan, which formed ongoing goals for carpet recycling in Illinois.
- February 2013: SWANA President, Walter Willis, engaged private sector and carpet industry to join the Carpet Recycling Working Group in a partnership approach to increase carpet recycling in Illinois. Co-chairs, Jennifer Jarland and Cameron Ruen, were assigned to the group.
- March 2013: The 19-member CRWG meets monthly, and has been active since March. The group has implemented a Plan of Action. See the back side of this document for an outline of goals and actions.
- June 2013: Several members of the working group presented in a Carpet Recycling session at the IRA/SWANA Joint Conference in Normal, with over 40 attendees.

Barriers and Solutions

- Need higher volume of carpet to be diverted from landfills to recyclers.
Increase Collection/ Create Public Drop-off Locations
- The shipping distances are too great, and therefore expensive to send to processors.
Increase Collection/ Create Public Drop-off Locations
- The problems associated with landfilling carpet and the benefits of recycling carpet are not visible to the general public. In many cases, it is easier to landfill carpet than recycle it. Therefore there is a lack of incentive to recycle, along with a lack of funds to create incentives.
Education & Outreach, Website, Speakers Forums, Policy, Legislation
- PET has limited recycling opportunities in Midwest markets and is used in multifamily and residential applications. It has a short lifespan of 3-4 years, is practicably non-recyclable, but is growing in market share due to its lower cost versus nylon based carpeting.
End-Market Research & Development, Policy, Legislation
- Not all types or components of carpet and padding are recyclable, ie. rubber padding, PET carpet. Collections contain a quantity of contamination, ie. wet carpet, duct tape, tack strips, plastic.
Education & Outreach, Policy, Legislation
- Need to create a market for recycled carpet, to close the loop.
Internal Policy

Illinois Carpet Recycling Working Group Plan

Increasing Collections

- Engage generators and collectors
- Produce Best Practices document
- Facility/Drop-off feasibility assessment and needs analysis
- Recruitment

Market Development

- Engage manufacturers
- Design for Environment (DfE)
- Supply-chain considerations
- Closed-loop opportunities
- Possible funding opportunities

Legislation

- Analyze state/national methods
- Research feasibility
- Draft timeline and language
- Collaborate with IEPA and Task Force

Policy

- Analyze state/national policies and industry consumers
- Gather examples
- Formulate priorities
- Advocacy

Education and Outreach

- Develop outreach strategy
- Create info awareness materials

Speakers Forums

- Identify stakeholders
- Engage speakers
- Organize events

Website

- Website Management/Maintenance
- Incorporate new information

Database

- Engage collectors
- Incorporate new information
- Provide assistance documents