



CARPET AMERICA RECOVERY EFFORT SM

Developing market-based solutions for the recycling & reuse of post-consumer carpet

Resource Document

Definitions Used in the AB 2398 Plan

For purposes of the CARE Stewardship Plan, definitions included are in the AB 2398 statute, and in the Product Stewardship for Carpet Regulations (November, 2011), with some revisions, which have an asterisk.

Carpet*: A manufactured article that is used in commercial or residential flooring applications as a decorative or functional feature and that is primarily constructed of a top visible surface of synthetic or natural face fibers or yarns or tufts attached to a backing system derived from synthetic or natural materials.

- (1) "Carpet" includes, but is not limited to, a commercial or a residential broadloom carpet or modular carpet tiles.
- (2) "Carpet" does not include a rug, pad, cushion, or underlayment used in conjunction with, or separately from, a carpet.

Carpet as Alternative Fuel (CAAF*): Fuel that has been produced from source-separated, and sorted post-consumer carpet and processed, including (1) extraction of components for recycling if at all possible; and (2) size reduction, shredding, and/or blending with coal fines, etc. CAAF is not a type of recycling, but it is a type of diversion for purposes of this Article. CAAF replaces other and is an alternative fuel source to other fuel sources such as coal, natural gas and fuel oil.

Carpet America Recovery Effort (CARE): A nationwide, 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose focus is on post-consumer carpet stewardship.

Carpet Industry: The universe of participants involved in the production of carpet, including carpet manufacturers, fiber manufacturers, material suppliers, etc. It includes, but is not limited to, members of the Carpet and Rug Institute (CRI).

Cement Kiln: Cement production facility that may use CAAF as a source of energy and/or as an additive for cement production.

Collected: Gross pounds of CA PCC collected (total includes material that may eventually be sent to landfill)

Collection: Any method of consolidating and temporarily storing recovered commercial and/or residential carpet.

Demolition: Represents the teardown of a building (1 time carpet removal). There is no estimate of percentage of flooring covered by carpet.

Disposal Diversion: Carpet removed from the waste stream that was destined for the landfill or incineration, for the purpose of reuse, recycling, CAAF or waste-to-energy.

Disposal Facility: Facilities that are licensed and permitted to provide final disposal for the specific wastes they accept, including waste-to-energy, incineration, and landfilling.

Diverted: Actual PCC removed from waste stream for reuse, recycle, CAAF or WtE (Collected Pounds minus PCC and process waste pounds that ultimately goes to landfill from processors or collectors)



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Entrepreneur: Individual or privately-held company which is not a carpet manufacturer, who actively, collects, sorts, processes or manufactures products made from post-consumer carpet.

ESJPC: Environmental Services Joint Power Authority

Filler: Materials such as calcium carbonate, etc. used in the production of carpet backing.

Gross Collected: Actual pounds of PCC removed from waste stream for reuse, recycle, CAAF, kiln, or WtE, as reported to CARE by recyclers, prior to processing.

Incineration: Complete burning of material to ashes, with no energy recovery, to reduce waste volume.

Input: The post-consumer carpet that is collected, sorted and readied for processing.

Landfilling: Landfilling includes the placement of post-consumer carpet and/or the residuals from a post-consumer carpet management method into a landfill disposal facility.¹

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Carpet Stewardship: An agreement entered into by multi-stakeholders, including carpet industry, entrepreneurs, government entities and non-governmental organizations.

Output: The material that results from the processing (shredding, shearing, hammer milling, etc.) of post-consumer carpet from the processor. Examples of output include: fiber, shredded carpet tile, depolymerized chemical components, carpet filler, etc.

Post-Consumer Carpet Materials: Carpet that has completed its life cycle as a consumer item or is no longer used for its manufactured purpose.

Post-Industrial/Pre-Consumer Carpet Material: Carpet materials generated in manufacturing and conversion processes, including, but not limited to manufacturing scrap and trimmings/cuttings.

Processing: Preparing carpet material for reuse, recycling, CAAF, WTE, or disposal.

RCRC: Regional Council of Rural Counties

Recovered: Gross pounds of CA PCC collected (this includes unrecyclable PCC carpet or carpet processing waste that may eventually be sent to landfill).

Recycled Content: Also known as recovered material content is the percentage of material, by weight, a product is made from that has been recovered from consumers in the municipal solid waste stream (post-consumer content) plus any industrial materials salvaged for reuse (pre-consumer/post-industrial content).

- **Post-Consumer Recycled Carpet Content:** The amount or percent of carpet, by weight, that is no longer used for or has served its manufactured purpose, that is incorporated into the manufacturing process of the same or a different product.
- **Post-Industrial/Pre-Consumer Recycled Carpet Content:** The amount or percent of carpet material, by weight, generated by manufacturers or product converters, such as trimming, overruns, and products returned to the mills that are incorporated back into the manufacturing process of the same or a different product.



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Recycling: Transforming or remanufacturing discarded carpet materials into usable or marketable materials, rather than for landfill disposal, incineration, WTE, CAAF, or reuse.

Reuse: Refurbishing and donating/selling recovered carpet back into the market for its original intended use. The reuse of recovered carpet retains the original purpose and performance characteristics of the carpet.

Rug: A loose laid (not installed or attached at wall base) soft floor covering manufactured from natural or synthetic fiber, including carpet cut into room or area dimensions that is not intended to cover the entire floor.

Sorting: The method used for segregating collected carpet into the various backing types (PVC, SBR Latex, etc.) and/or fiber types (e.g., Nylon 6, Nylon 6.6, Polypropylene and Polyester).

Source Reduction: The result of using less product or material in manufacturing and use of carpet, and/or reducing the amount of discarded carpet generated.

Source Separation: The process by which carpet is separated/segregated from all other materials at the end of its useful life (or when discarded).

SFOC: Sustainable Fund Oversight Committee

SPC: Sustainable Plan Committee

Type 1 Recycling Material: Output of the materials with the most benefits to manufacturers of finished products. Examples of Type 1 recycling materials include post-consumer carpet fiber, post-consumer carpet backing, engineered resins and material for carpet cushion.

Type 2 Recycling Material: Output of the materials with benefit to manufacturers of finished products, but a lower value than Type 1 recycling materials. Examples of Type 2 recycling materials include carpet filler and non-functional filler.

Waste-to-Energy: Process of recovering thermal energy from solid waste through combustion.