

Illinois Carpet Recycling Stakeholder Group (ICRSG)

J+J Flooring Group

Merchandise Mart
Suite 10-118
222 Merchandise Mart Plaza
Chicago, IL 60654
Host: Russ Delozier, Director of Sustainability

Minutes

May 8, 2017

11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

1. State Senator Melinda Bush called the meeting to order with brief welcome remarks, appreciation to J&J Flooring Group for hosting the meeting, and introductions of participants.

Meeting participants:

State Senator Melinda Bush, Illinois State Senate (via teleconference)

Damon Carson, Repurposed Materials, Inc. (via teleconference)

Russ Delozier, J+J Flooring Group & Engineered Floors

Nick Fiore, Carpet Landfill Elimination and Recycling (CLEAR)

Michelle Gibson, DeKalb County Health Department

Becky Jayne, Illinois EPA (via teleconference)

Julie Manley, Guiding Green LLC (CARE consultant)

Nick Meyer, Office of State Senator Melinda Bush (via teleconference)

Eric Nelson, Interface

Bob Peoples, Carpet America Recovery Effort (CARE)

Louis Renbaum, DC Foam

Wyatt Rollins, Shaw Industries Group, Inc.

Jennifer Stowe, Carpet and Rug Institute

Mike Thomson, Thomson Weir

Dave VanVooren, Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County

Mike Weir, Thomson Weir

Walter Willis, Solid Waste Agency of Lake County

2. Bob Peoples, Executive Director of CARE, provided an update on carpet industry recycling and the California Carpet Stewardship Program (AB 2398). CARE is celebrating its 15th anniversary in 2017 continuing to develop market based solutions for the recycling & reuse of post-consumer carpet.

Bob reported the cumulative national gross collections through 2016 is forecasted to exceed 4.6B lbs., but there is a decrease in national collections from 2015 to 2016. An insufficient volume of products to absorb the recycled material and limited demand in the market to pull recycled products through the supply chain are challenges impacting the recycling of carpet.

Carpet sales per year in California have been decreasing since 2013, while sales have increased across the US. Although California has several products affected by extended product responsibility (EPR) legislation, carpet is the only product where there are other alternatives (i.e., other flooring options) without a fee on the market so the consumer has a choice of flooring materials to purchase.

Discussion recognized an interest in recycling carpet back into carpet, yet there is an understanding that recovery for the highest and best value (not necessarily carpet to carpet) is of greatest importance.

Senator Bush shared her belief that people want to know that the products being purchased are sustainable, and has considered creating an award for manufacturers utilizing sustainable materials.

3. Illinois Carpet Tile Recovery

Interface reported carpet tile recovery continues to grow, including in IL.

A new collector, Repurposed Materials Inc, founded by Damon Carson, started up in the Chicago area late 1Q 2017. In addition to other markets, Damon is repurposing the carpet tile, as well as coordinating material return to manufacturers for reprocessing.

Opportunities to improve carpet tile collection were discussed, including engagement with C&D contractors to identify and address challenges with collection, as well as outreach with the City of Chicago Chief of Sustainability to explore ways to improve support for collection. A suggestion was made to work with commercial marketing co-operatives to facilitate communication with Chicagoland dealers.

4. It was agreed to postpone a survey to track progress at this time. The effort should remain on education, outreach, and engagement to increase carpet tile recovery.
5. A proposal was made and approved to hold the next meeting of the Illinois Carpet Recovery Stakeholder Group remotely, and to redirect the travel funds to a project that would enhance carpet recovery in IL. The project would be defined based on outcomes from the action items with the greatest opportunity for impact.
6. The meeting closed with recognition of the collaborative working environment and continued emphasis on demonstration of impact.
7. Action Items
 - Continue outreach to large corporations to encourage specifications indicate carpet tile return mechanism. (Julie Manley)
 - Engage C&D contractors/waste haulers to identify and address challenges with collection. (Julie Manley & Nick Fiore)

- Initiate discussion with the City of Chicago Chief of Sustainability to explore ways to improve collection. (Walter Willis will initiate an introduction for Julie Manley.)
- Explore options to work with commercial marketing co-operatives to facilitate communication with Chicagoland dealers. (Julie Manley)
- The next meeting will be scheduled for Fall 2017 and will be held via teleconference/web only. (Julie Manley)