CARE Announces $2.4 Million in Grant Awards

On March 10, 2016, the Carpet America Recovery Effort (CARE) and the California Carpet Stewardship Program approved approximately $2.4 million in grant funding for eight capital improvements and three product testing projects that utilize post-consumer carpet. Of the funds available, 88% or $2.1 million has been awarded to California based projects.

Grant applicants selected for awards are: American Fiber Cushion, Carpet Solutions, GHD, Inc, Landfill Clear, Rethink Green, SafePath Products, Sierra Rubber Company, South Bend Modern Molding, West Coast Rubber Recycling, and XT Green.

Funding of proposed projects is contingent upon grant acceptance by the applicants and execution of a grant agreement. CARE expects to issue a final "Notice of Proposed Awards" in the coming month, and thanks all the companies that submitted applications this grant cycle. For more information about the grant awards, click here.

California Stakeholder Workshops Reveal Vision for Carpet Recycling's Future

Earlier this month, CARE hosted two public workshops in Burbank and Sacramento to engage stakeholders in dialogue about the future of carpet recycling in California. The workshops drew over 75 attendees from various stakeholder groups involved in carpet recycling efforts throughout the state - manufacturers, retailers, recyclers, collectors, local government representatives, transfer stations, and environmental NGOs.

The ideas generated at both workshops revealed a bold vision of a future where carpet becomes one of the greenest flooring options on the market in California. The input collected will help inform CARE's development of a 2017 Carpet Stewardship Plan that best serves the goals of the California program over the next five years. If you were unable to attend the California workshops,
but would like to contribute your ideas, suggestions, and feedback about the 2017 California Carpet Stewardship Plan, please visit: [www.carpetrecovery.org/2017Plan].

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**Reminder: Carpet Assessment Increase Effective April 1, 2016**

All carpet sold and/or shipped in California is required to be assessed at $0.20 per square yard at the point of sale starting April 1, 2016. CalRecycle approved this assessment increase at their monthly public meeting on January 26, 2016. The increased funds collected will be directed to a set of enhanced incentives for processors and collectors involved in the recycling of post-consumer carpet, which will help CARE reach state mandated carpet recycling and diversion goals.

Over the past few months, CARE has been conducting direct outreach to retailers throughout the state to provide sufficient notice of the assessment change and ensure a smooth transition. For a list of [Frequently Asked Questions](#) and other resources about the assessment change, visit: [www.carpetrecovery.org/CA-retailers](http://www.carpetrecovery.org/CA-retailers).

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**Register for the 2016 CARE Annual Conference**

The [14th Annual CARE National Conference](#) will be held May 18-19, 2016 at the Hyatt Regency in Greenville, South Carolina. The conference provides attendees the opportunity to discuss innovations in carpet recycling, learn about new and existing products made from post-consumer carpet, and hear about developments within the carpet industry. The keynote speaker at this year's conference is Bill Carteaux, President & CEO of SPI: The Plastics Industry Trade Association. [Register now!](#)