

# Carpet Recycling in California

## Role of Local Government



## PROGRAM OVERVIEW FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

More than 340 million pounds of carpet are discarded in California landfills every year—carpet that could be recycled into useful new products. In 2010, the California legislature passed AB 2398 to increase the diversion and recycling of carpet in the state. The California Carpet Stewardship Program, administered by the non-profit Carpet America Recovery Effort (CARE), is charged with meeting the requirements for carpet recycling set by this law.

### **How Local Government Can Help**

Local government agencies are essential partners for the Program's mission. CARE invites you to collaborate with the Program in several ways:

#### **Set Up or Publicize a Carpet Recycling Drop-off Site**

Your help is needed to encourage local transfer stations or other facilities to set up and publicize carpet recycling drop-off sites. To see if there is a CARE sponsored drop-off site in your county, visit the drop-off site map at [CarpetRecovery.org/CA](http://CarpetRecovery.org/CA). If you would like to set up a drop-off site, please contact: [CA@CarpetRecovery.org](mailto:CA@CarpetRecovery.org).

#### **Inform Retailers and the Public**

The Program has informed California carpet retailers about the assessment to be charged under AB 2398 (\$0.25 per square yard). If you have opportunities to provide information brochures to carpet retailers and the public, please order them here: [CarpetRecovery.org/CA-Recycling-Coordiators](http://CarpetRecovery.org/CA-Recycling-Coordiators).

#### **Buy Recycled**

Work with procurement staff to include carpet, carpet underlayment, and other products made with post-consumer recycled carpet in your purchase orders and specification sheets. The buying power of state and local government agencies can divert carpet from California landfills, promote markets for recycled-content products, and help your agency fulfill SABRC requirements.

#### **Consider Grant Opportunities**

CARE offers equipment and infrastructure micro grants to increase collection. Information on these and other grants can be found at [CarpetRecovery.org/CA-Grants](http://CarpetRecovery.org/CA-Grants).

#### **Facilitate Outreach & Education**

CARE depends on your help to reach stakeholder groups within your agency or community. Program staff members are available to give in-person presentations to:

- Your procurement team, about products made with post consumer recycled carpet.
- Your solid-waste task force, about setting up a carpet recycling drop-off site.
- Local carpet retail associations, about the assessment, use of funds and resources available.
- Local contractor associations, about where and how to recycle used carpet.

## Use of Recycled Carpet

In 2016 alone, processors recycled 38 million pounds of carpet collected from California homes and businesses. Post-consumer carpet is recycled into fiber or plastic pellets, which can be used to make a broad range of products including carpet, carpet tiles, carpet underlayment, and products for industries including automotive, transportation, and construction.

To browse currently available products made with post-consumer recycled carpet visit [CarpetRecovery.org/Products](http://CarpetRecovery.org/Products).

## Program Funding and Activities

Under AB 2398, an assessment is charged on every square yard of carpet sold and/or shipped in California (\$0.25 per square yard as of January 2017). All California carpet retailers are responsible for charging and reporting the Carpet Stewardship Assessment on all carpet sold in California.

Assessment funds are invested into efforts to help the California Carpet Stewardship Program influence recyclability of manufactured carpet, increase reuse opportunities, provide collection opportunities, increase recycled output, and support the development and procurement of products made with post-consumer carpet. Key activities include:

- **Subsidies:** CARE allocates subsidies to qualified post-consumer carpet Processors, Collector/Sorter Entrepreneurs (CSEs) and Secondary Product Manufacturers, to support the collection, recycling and processing of post-consumer carpet into new products.
- **Drop-off sites:** CARE establishes and services public drop-off sites, paying for the rental of collection containers and transporting them to participating processors for recycling. For a map of current drop-off sites, visit [CarpetRecovery.org/CA](http://CarpetRecovery.org/CA).
- **Grants:** CARE manages a grants program that has encouraged investment in carpet recycling facilities and supports the recovery of carpet for recycling. Visit [CarpetRecovery.org/CA-Grants](http://CarpetRecovery.org/CA-Grants).
- **Education and Outreach:** CARE conducts multiple outreach efforts, including a monthly newsletter, annual public workshops, presentations and a wide array of print and digital communications.

## Contact Us

To stay informed, sign up for our monthly e-news at [CarpetRecovery.org/CA-Recycling-Coordinators](http://CarpetRecovery.org/CA-Recycling-Coordinators).

To connect with the California Carpet Stewardship Program, contact CARE Senior Associates:

**Lisa Mekis:** [lmekis@CarpetRecovery.org](mailto:lmekis@CarpetRecovery.org), 510-862-6033

**Jared Zitron:** [jzitron@CarpetRecovery.org](mailto:jzitron@CarpetRecovery.org), 310-699-3717