

Illinois Carpet Recycling Stakeholder Group (ICRSG)

Web Meeting

Minutes

June 6, 2018

1:00 – 2:30 PM CT

Meeting participants:

Alec Laird, Illinois Retail Merchants Association
Becky Jane, Illinois EPA
Bob Peoples, CARE
David Bender, Circular Polymers
David Van Vooren, Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC)
Eric Nelson, Interface
Fred Schmidt, Chicago Floorcovering Association
Jennifer Stowe, Carpet and Rug Institute
Joe Foye, Mohawk Industries
Julie Manley, CARE/Guiding Green LLC
Louis Renbaum, DC Foam
Michael Thomson, ThomsonWeir
Michael Weir, ThomsonWeir
Nick Fiore, CLEAR
Russ Delozier, J+J Industries
Walter Willis, Solid Waste Agency of Lake County (SWALCO)

1. Following participant introductions, Bob Peoples, Executive Director of CARE, provided a brief update on carpet industry recycling and the California Carpet Stewardship Program.

Bob reported that CARE had a successful annual conference, despite a downturn in attendance, in May in Orlando, Florida. It was the first time the conference was co-located with the Re|focus Sustainability & Recycling Summit as well as NPE2018 (Plastics Industry Association) which drew the opportunity for significantly increased visibility and engagement.

From a national perspective, carpet recovery has shown a slight improvement since year end 2017. End markets for recovered materials continues to struggle. Gross collections are down 22% as compared to 2016, nationally. China's National Sword has impacted recycling rates and markets due to China's 95% reduction in imports. A lot of commodity resins as well as other materials are now staying in the US,

resulting in increased supply well beyond the demand. Therefore, prices have dropped. Additionally, the pad market has been weak and sporadic. The Voluntary Product Stewardship (VPS) distributions have declined month on month, but there was a slight uptick in March 2018 (the most recent month on record). There is a lot of price variability affecting the market, but there were indications of a slight drop in inventory which would be a positive sign.

California is making slow but steady progress. The recycle rate in 2017 was 14%, with Q1 2018 approaching 14.5%. The new law AB1158 is creating new challenges and CARE is investing a lot of effort to comply. In a recent May hearing, the carpet stewardship plan was disapproved, initiating a 60-day clock for CARE to resubmit. CARE has requested a 30-day extension to allow time for the advisory committee to comment as is required by AB1158.

2. Illinois Carpet Diversion Strategy

Julie Manley, CARE Program Manager, provided a summary of the strategy and ongoing activity. The Illinois Carpet Diversion Strategy focuses on 3 components: Outreach, Collection, and End Markets. Based on data from past Illinois Commodity/Waste Generation & Characterization Studies, the majority (70%) of textile waste, of which ~25% is carpet or carpet pad, in Illinois is generated in IEPA Region 2 which is comprised of 9 counties: Cook, McHenry, Lake, Kane, Kendall, DuPage, Will, Grundy, and Kankakee. This information reinforces this task force's effort to target in on these counties.

Outreach: CARE updated Illinois collector information at the end of 2017 and distributed accordingly. As discussed in the Nov 2017 meeting, there is an opportunity to address LEED certified buildings as they already have a vested interest in resource management. Based on US Green Building Council data, there are ~1500 LEED registered projects in the 9 county region. It is common many of these properties to be managed by a real estate property management organization. While there are a number of such organizations, CBRE and Jones Lang LaSalle are the market leaders. CARE has initiated dialogue with high level management at CBRE. Additionally, CARE is in discussion with the Institute of Real Estate Management, headquartered in Illinois, to explore educational and outreach opportunities with their membership, which includes over 700 members in IL.

Collection: CARE reviewed websites in the 9 counties to identify carpet recycling outlets. As of county website information in May 2018, all but 3 counties in IEPA Region 2 had at least 1 carpet collection site. Some counties represented in the June 6 meeting expressed concern that the locations may no longer be accepting carpet. The county representatives will confirm the accuracy of the information on their websites. In addition, CARE will work with the county representatives to support continued collection through alternative programs.

End Markets: CARE has initiated a list of IL manufacturers that use recycled materials as well as IL manufacturers in product classes that have been

demonstrated to incorporate post-consumer recycled carpet. These classes include, but are not limited to, engineered resins, carpet fiber, carpet backing, insulation, composite sheets (signage), erosion control, mats, wheel stops, ramps, and pavers. CARE proposes to develop an outreach campaign to educate these manufacturers on the opportunity to incorporate post-consumer carpet into their products. Highlights will include:

- Products may be eligible for the new Double Green™ label being launched by CARE if they meet the minimum percentage of recycled post-consumer carpet and another recycled material.
- Illinois companies that process California carpet or incorporate recycled post-consumer carpet from California in their products may be eligible for financial incentives from the CA EPR program.

3. Summarize Outcomes & Actions

- CARE and respective county representatives will seek to add collectors in Kendall, Grundy, and Will counties.
- County representatives will confirm the accuracy of carpet recycling information on their respective websites, and work with CARE to identify continued collection options.
- Nick Fiore, Louis Renbaum and CARE will work together to engage organizations previously served by CLEAR to identify carpet diversion opportunities.
- CARE will continue education/outreach with property management organizations.
- CARE will develop an outreach campaign to encourage end market development. Anyone that is aware of companies that may be in the target audience (recycled products or products in the proven product classes), please send the company contact information to jmanley@carpetrecovery.org.
- Coordinate outreach in conjunction with Greenbuild (Nov 14-16) in Chicago. Eric Nelson and Russ Delozier offered to assist in developing the outreach concept. Nick Fiore offered to assist in engaging the expo flooring contractor.

4. Next Meeting Date

A face-to-face opportunity is proposed in conjunction with Greenbuild in Chicago (Nov 14-16), but the form of the event is still to be determined.