

Illinois Carpet Recycling Stakeholder Group (ICRSG)

Participants

Introductory Remarks

Carpet Recycling Industry Update

Action Item Follow Up

Summarize Outcomes

Next Meeting Date(s)

Minutes

November 28, 2017

1:00 – 2:00 PM CT

Participants

Melinda Bush	State Senator, 31st Legislative District, Illinois State Senate
David Bender	Partner, Carpet Landfill Elimination and Recycling (CLEAR)
Nick Fiore	President, Carpet Landfill Elimination and Recycling (CLEAR)
Joe Foye	Deputy General Counsel- Flooring, Mohawk Industries, Inc.
Ed Gallagher	Staff, Office of State Senator Melinda Bush
Michelle Gibson	Solid Waste Specialist, DeKalb County Health Dept.
Mike Grady	Owner/Principal Strategic Advocacy Group, SWALCO
Philip Ivey	Strategic Sustainability Leader, Milliken Carpet Floor Covering
Marta Keane	Recycling Program Specialist, Will County Land Use Development
Jennifer Stowe	Vice President, Government Relations, Carpet and Rug Institute (CRI)
Nick Meyer	Chief of Staff, Office of State Senator Melinda Bush
Eric Nelson	Vice President of Strategic Alliances, Interface Americas
Bob Peoples	Executive Director, Carpet America Recovery Effort (CARE)
Louis Renbaum	President, DC Foam
Wyatt Rollins	Director – Materials Recovery Innovation, Shaw Industries Group, Inc.
Julie Manley	Program Manager, Carpet America Recovery Effort (CARE)
Mike Weir	Principal, Thomson Weir
Walter Willis	Executive Director, SWALCO

Introductory Remarks

State Senator Melinda Bush welcomed everyone to the meeting. To conserve time, she passed the meeting over to Bob Peoples, Executive Director of CARE, for his report.

Carpet Recycling Industry Update

Bob Peoples, Executive Director of CARE, shared a brief presentation illustrating the status of carpet recycling. In California, annual carpet sales per year are projected to decrease ~10% in 2017 from the most recent high of over 100 million yd² in 2013, equating to roughly a 2-3% reduction per year. CARE is scheduled to submit a new 5-

year plan to CalRecycle by March 16, 2018 with the modifications required by passage of AB 1158. The volume of carpet recovered through the National Voluntary Product Stewardship (VPS) Program has been decreasing each year since 2014. Markets continue to deteriorate, low oil prices continue, and impact from China National Sword is being felt globally. Despite these trends, there are opportunities to influence carpet diversion from landfill including supporting efforts underway on the carpet tile program, supporting procurement of post-consumer carpet content products, specifying fiber pad when cushion is used as this is a product of recycled carpet, and sharing the [Product Catalog](#) with State procurement staff. Creating demand for post-consumer carpet content products will help improve the economics for carpet recycling. CARE continues to explore technologies and products with an expanded new product/technology development team in 2018.

Action Item Follow Up

Julie Manley, Program Manager for CARE, provided a summary of work addressed since the last meeting in May 2017.

- Repurpose carpet tile from NeoCon 2017
Approximately 11,000 pounds of carpet tile were removed from showrooms during renovations for NeoCon 2017. The material was repurposed via collaboration with not for profit organizations and others, including [Designs for Dignity](#) which provides pro bono interior design for other Illinois non-profits. Since 2010, more than 21,000 square yards of carpet tile from showrooms at The MART Chicago have been donated to nonprofits. Participating mills included: Atlas Carpet Mills, Bentley Mills, Interface, J+J Flooring Group, Milliken, Mohawk, Shaw Industries and Tandus Centiva. Press release: <https://carpetrecovery.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/Carpet-Industry-Donations.pdf>
- Initiate discussion with City of Chicago
Ongoing dialogue has been initiated with the City's Recycling and Sustainability program. The program has agreed to update the [Chicago Recycling Guide](#) to improve accuracy and communication of available carpet and carpet tile recycling outlets. The current guide directs people to CARE and Shaw. Updates will include several recyclers/collectors in IL as well as programs organized by various mills. The updated content will also be shared with other locales when final. Distribution of the updated guide is anticipated by mid-December 2017.
- Connect with large corporations
According to past discussions, the greatest opportunity for improvement in the collection of carpet tile is to focus on small to medium size jobs. Therefore, LEED certified mixed-use, multi-tenant buildings have been identified as a mutually beneficial opportunity. Multi-tenant buildings generally have a higher renovation frequency due to the common practice of interior design modifications with tenant changeover, and each individual renovation may not be sufficient to fill a truck load with carpet tile. Similarly, LEED certification emphasizes efficient and environmentally responsible material and resource usage, including diversion of facility maintenance and renovation waste from landfill. Property management of these buildings tend to be large corporations responsible for a significant building portfolio; therefore, engaging property management of LEED buildings will have

broader impact than the building itself. A list of LEED certified buildings in Illinois has been obtained, and the buildings have been compiled according to county location as well as property management. CARE is initiating a collaborative effort to engage property managers, construction & demolition (C&D) debris collectors, and recyclers to inform them of the opportunities for carpet tile recovery, to assess and overcome hurdles to enable carpet tile recovery from these buildings where feasible. Emphasis will be placed on implementing projects utilizing the updated recycling guide, and metrics will be tracked as feasible.

- Engage C&D waste haulers
C&D waste haulers are a key contributor in the plan to engage mixed-use, multi-tenant buildings in carpet tile recycling. Lakeshore Recycling, one of the largest haulers in the Chicagoland area, has committed to participating in the collaborative effort. CARE will continue to engage other C&D waste haulers in the process.
- Explore commercial co-ops for outreach to dealers
Pending final review of the aforementioned recycling guide, CARE will extend the information to commercial co-ops to share with and educate their members. Similarly, mills will also make the information available to their dealers as appropriate.

Summarize Outcomes

- CARE will complete revisions for the Chicago Recycling Guide for distribution to local organizations, commercial co-ops, and mills by mid-December 2017. Any company wishing to be added to the recycling guide should contact jmanley@carpetrecovery.org immediately to be incorporated into the final version.
- CARE will continue to develop the collaboration to engage property managers, construction & demolition (C&D) debris collectors, and recyclers to improve recycling from multi-tenant building. Progress will be documented and metrics tracked as feasible.
- Waste to Energy options for carpet and carpet tile are available for a fee at the Covanta facility in Indianapolis. Cost estimates are substantially higher than landfill tip fees, and other costs/impacts such as transportation fee and emissions may be considered. However, waste to energy is a method for diversion from landfill and may warrant further consideration.
- The challenges related to carpet recycling are not specific to Illinois. California's incentivization has demonstrated recovery progress.
- State Senator Bush expressed that she is still questioning the value of EPR legislation in Illinois, but recognized the progress on carpet tile and improved information.

Next Meeting Date(s)

The next meeting will be determined in consultation with State Senator Melinda Bush's office, and communicated thereafter to the group at large.