



CARE PROTOCOL

CARE Public Drop-off Site (DoS) Selection and Load Routing

Date: April 1, 2023

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to describe the approach and decision-making protocol that CARE CA staff use when 1) establishing a new Public Drop-Off Site and 2) directing Post-Consumer Carpet (PCC) loads from a Public Drop-off Site to a CARE Collector/Sorter (CSE) or Processor. Both are herein after referred to in this document as “Recycler”.

I. Introduction

Consistent with the Carpet Stewardship Law, CARE’s goal is to support the recycling community grow the total collection of PCC by facilitating and enabling expanded recycling opportunities. One approach CARE uses are through establishing Public Drop-off Sites (DoS) and by supplying technical and marketing outreach to those sites, their surrounding communities and to our recyclers.

CARE has established numerous Public Drop-Off Sites (DoS) throughout California and continues to identify additional opportunities. These sites are independently operated, with varying rates for drop-off fees, and provide access for flooring professionals, contractors, and the public to deposit PCC. The collected PCC is then routed to a CARE designated Recycler for identification, sorting, and subsequent processing to be incorporated into the recycled materials stream. It is each recycler’s primary responsibility to secure the needed volume to sustain and grow their operations. CARE’s role is to enable, facilitate, support and assist in a way that is seen as transparent, fair and maximizes the efficacy of the use of public funds. CARE does not prioritize one recycler over another and must remain neutral in the marketplace and its fluctuations.

II. How is CARE making Public Drop-off Site (DoS) location decisions?

CARE takes into consideration multiple elements when deciding to establish a public DoS. CARE endeavors to recruit sites in areas that are not adequately serviced by private business or waste management entities, being careful not to infringe upon existing site-recycler relationships.

Choosing the location for a CARE DoS is based on the review and consideration of varying factors, including meeting CalRecycle’s priority deliverables established in approved plans.

Convenient Collections

- a) CARE, as part of their Convenient Collection objectives and Plan commitments, is required to provide:
 - i) A minimum of one (1) CARE DoS per county, and
 - ii) coverage for density of at least one (1) CARE DoS per 500,000 people with incremental growth to cover a smaller population set on an annual basis.

Proximity to Flooring Professionals

Based upon an independent Convenient Collection Study and survey of flooring professionals, the majority of tear-out PCC is handled by flooring professionals/contractors.

- a) As part of the Convenient Collection objectives, CARE is required to provide public access DoS in relation to where flooring retailers/professionals are located.
 - i) Strategic proximity to retailers/flooring professionals, which serves as proxy for population density, presents the most ideal opportunity for capturing a larger volume of PCC.
 - ii) Percentage of residents within 15 miles of a location that accepts carpet from all flooring professionals – baseline percentage is 72%, with that figure increasing each year of the 2023-2027 Plan.

Location Type

Following are the types of locations pursued for a DoS:

- Public access solid waste facilities (e.g., transfer station, landfill) or recycling facilities such as Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) or Construction & Demolition Debris (C&D) recycling facilities.
- Regional Distribution Centers (RDC) – wholesale flooring distribution warehouses open to existing customers.
- Flooring supply houses - retail business selling industry tools and supplies to floor covering installation professionals.
- Flooring retail stores – retail flooring businesses that have space and ability to accept PCC from professional installers and the public.
- Flooring installation companies – “Big Box” stores using contracted installation companies who bring PCC back to their service yards for collection.
- Other locations may include Training Centers or large complexes such as Universities, Convention Centers, etc. These locations may be set up as temporary locations and may have limited or restricted public access.

III. How does CARE decide which DoS loads go where?

Determining the destination for a CARE DoS PCC load is based on the review and consideration of many factors and may include some or all of the following:

- Regional proximity – distance, transportation routes, and weather conditions.

- Environmental considerations (GHG emissions) are also of importance, although not quantified.
- Overall economics – cost to transport, recycling/tipping fee, added wait-time costs, overnighting costs.
- Recycler operational capacity –
 - i) Ability to sort, broker, and/or process different types of carpet material and quantities needed to meet production needs, including PCC for reuse (Carpet Tile, etc.).
 - ii) Capability of receiving a particular type of vehicle load (e.g., Trailers, Sidelifter, Cargo Containers, Walking Floor Trailers, Roll-off Bins).
 - iii) Recycler receiving hours – hauler and DoS service convenience, ease of load receiving, wait-time and unloading constraints.
 - iv) Ability to measure and report on volume received (scales, delivery receipts, etc.)
- Consideration of any pilot program(s) that may be active at the DoS or with a Recycler.
- Drop-off Site's documented relationship with Recycler – consideration of current business relationships, and/or vendor service level compatibilities.
- Hauling Service Provider routes and limitations.
- Fairness and Equity – it is in CARE's best interest to help California build a strong, healthy, and equitable carpet recycling collection infrastructure. CARE endeavors to work closely with the recycling community to enable business and thus, Program success.

IV. Changes in Routing Assignments

Potential re-Routing DoS loads: Based upon the above noted evaluation measures, re-routing rarely happens. However, CARE may, at its discretion, change DoS load routing assignments to meet the needs of Program Goals.

Just as the siting of CARE DoS locations are not intended to interrupt or damage the Recycler's Private Collection Network, PCC from CARE DoS locations is not intended to replace each Recycler's responsibility to secure the PCC needed to meet their capacity and materials demand needs. While CARE is not contractually obligated to provide notice and CARE does not guarantee PCC material volumes sourced from Public Drop-off Sites, CARE understands that Recyclers make business decisions based upon flows/volume of PCC load receiving schedules and related volumes (e.g., staffing, equipment leasing/acquisition).

In an effort to build and support a strong, healthy, and equitable carpet recycling collection infrastructure, CARE relies on the collaboration and partnership of our recyclers in order to achieve its goals. CARE assesses the above noted considerations in Section III prior to re-routing DoS PCC to a different destination.

CARE works to be respectful of our Recyclers' business planning/scheduling needs by utilizing the following protocol to notify Recyclers of any **permanent** routing changes:

- CARE strives to provide a 30-day professional courtesy notice where possible on any permanent changes to assignments.

Why might re-routing happen?

- Major service and/or schedule impacts.
- Scheduling challenges – Recycler is unable to accept loads - regularly pushing out receiving time windows, long wait times at receiving dock.
- Transportation route challenges – inclement weather/seasonal (temporary re-routing), construction, persistent delays.
- For emergency purposes, temporary schedule re-balancing or factors beyond CARE's control (e.g., weather, traffic, construction, fire), loads may be re-directed in the best interest of CARE, DoS and/or transportation company.
- Drop-Off Site operational changes – In the event that a DoS modifies its internal operations (such as changes to self-haul services), CARE may change that site's designated Recycler depending on logistics and site preferences.
- Recycler's Standing in the Program – In the event a Recycler drops or is delisted from the program, CARE will route material to a different Recycler based on the standard protocols outlined within and at its discretion.

V. Disclaimer

CARE makes every effort to ensure cost effective and reasonably equitable load distribution throughout the state. CARE has the sole discretion to disperse and direct Public DoS loads based on the factors listed within this protocol as well as other factors not anticipated or defined within this document. CARE reviews rates and factors on an ongoing basis and reserves the right to implement changes as deemed essential to the Program's success, both logistically and financially, without input or evaluation from CARE designated Recyclers, or existing or prospective DoS locations.