Introduction and insight into Carpet Recycling UK

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CRUK travels to the US

Thank you for the invitation!
Introduction

- Independent, not-for-profit trade organisation;
- Set up in 2007 by industry leaders – only 2% of waste generated by the sector was being diverted from landfill;
- Based on CARE model and linked with CARE since 2010 as an affiliate partner;
- Set up to help manufacturers reduce carpet waste through its processes and have continued to raise awareness regarding carpet and textile flooring waste;
- 2014 Bob Peoples presented at our 1st awards ceremony;
- In 2018 we reported that over 1m tonnes of textile flooring waste were diverted from landfill by industry which was directly influenced by us;
- Of the 400k tonnes of carpet and textile flooring waste:
  - In 2018 - 42% diverted from landfill;
  - In 2019 - 65% diverted from landfill;
  - In 2020 – 70% diverted from landfill;
- 2020 – waste captured increased to 467k tonnes (all our figures are independently verified).
Key achievements

- 2022/23 - core members manufacturers and distributors increased from 9 to 17;
- Now representing circa. 80% of the carpet and textile sector in the UK;
- 136 members in total – with lots more interest;
- Recognition from other related trade associations;
- Members cover the whole supply chain;
- New and innovative research being carried out;
- The only independent organisation in the UK doing all this and much more to support the sector.
Thank you Core Members
Network Includes

- Raw material suppliers;
- Carpet manufacturers;
- Flooring distributors, wholesalers, retailers and contractors;
- Event management companies;
- Fit out/refurbishment companies;
- Designers, developers, construction;
- Retail buying groups and other associations;
- Technology suppliers;
- ECRA/CARE;
- Specialist carpet reuse and recycling companies;
- Waste management companies.
Annual Waste Tonnage Survey

- CRUK is the only company collating credible waste tonnage information on the sector;
- Voluntary process – no official requirement;
- Independently verified data;
- The data is used to measure and report on performance;
- Complicated process, with so many variables and duplications;
- Current survey (2021) we will be tracking more POM data and breaking it down into fibre types, production types and industries sold into – will also start to include artificial grass;
- Finalising 2021 data to be announced at our conference this June;
- Working group set up with Core Members to make the data collection process easier and more accurate.
2020 Annual Carpet & Textile Flooring Waste

467,000 carpet waste arising in the UK in 2020

End of Life Treatment Outcomes

- Disposal - landfill 30%
- Disposal - incineration 21%
- Refuse Derived Fuels (inc. exports) 33%
- Solid Recovered Fuels (inc. exports) 5%
- Equestrian 9%
- Other 2%
End Destinations & Tonnages

- The majority of carpet is treated using WtE or incineration, in large part due to the treatment routes of residual waste.
- Equestrian is currently classified as a recycling route for EoL carpets.
- Landfill is still a key outlet for this waste.
- Need more reuse and recycling options to shift activity up the waste hierarchy.
Research Projects

- Circular design guide;
- Technology review (current & future);
- University of Birmingham (ARLI Fund) – cleaning post-consumer waste to create new end markets;
- Lancaster University – 12-month MSC – finding more sustainable solutions for carpet waste;
- Sustainable Materials Hub;
- KTP Cardiff University – study on dismantling carpet tiles.

“Chemical Recycling”
Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)

- POPs specific to flame retardants (decaBDE) and stain removals (PFOA/PFOS);
- Sofa and soft furnishing waste have just been declared as having a high level of POPs – disposal now only via incineration;
- Not enough WtE capacity in the UK – may push carpets out;
- Engaged with the Environment Agency (EA) Natural Resources Wales (NRW) & Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA);
- Natural Resources Wales (NRW) conducting the independent study;
- CRUK challenging this position with its own testing through members

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Scheme

- 2023 developing one for packing waste with modulated fees being introduced in 2024;
- Should we have our own EPR or be lumped together with other Bulky Household waste?
- Anticipate consultations to start in 2025/26;
- Europe moving ahead with EPRs and see it as a way forward – last year France introduced one which included carpet waste;
- CRUK preparing its members and the wider sector for a possible EPR scheme – creating the blueprints to pass on to agencies.
Annual Conference

- 2-day Conference 21-22 June;
- Dinner and Awards;
- Guest speakers;
- Feedback from last year – more panel discussions;
- Developing programme;
- Speaker opportunities still exist;
- Exhibition and Sponsorship packages available.
Outreach / social media

- Website avg. 3k hits/month
- E-news 1012 readers
- Twitter 1844 followers @CarpetRecyclingUK
- LinkedIn – 1645 followers carpet-recycling-uk
- Promotions in over 25 industry-wide publications
Coverage in 2022 includes:

- CFJ Sustainability Guide
- CFJ, CFJ Handbook and Specifier Guide
- Tomorrows Contract Floors
- Stocklists
- Interiors Monthly
- Recycling Inside
- SMG News
- Tomorrows Contract Floors
- Refurbishment and Restore Design Buy Build
- Art of Design
- Mix Interiors
- Archtech
- Building and Facilities News
- Design Buy Build
- FMJ
Actions from Conference

1. Understanding the CARE model and how it works with legislators and industry;

2. How do you conduct your member and industry survey(s) to gain maximum response?

3. Networking with you to find the latest solutions on:
   - End-of-life recycling and treatment solutions
   - Raw material suppliers
   - New product design concepts

4. Forecast of challenges with legislation and new technologies;

5. Sharing knowledge and information.
It’s been an amazing privilege to be here.

Carpet Recycling UK is thankful for the link with CARE and its network.
Conference!

Meet our network
Register your interest, find out more
www.carpetrecyclinguk.com
Stay in touch

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