

Carpet Recycling in California

Role of Local Government



PROGRAM OVERVIEW FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

More than 300 million pounds of carpet are discarded in California landfills every year—carpet that could be recycled into useful new products. Carpet Stewardship Laws (AB 2398 in 2010 and AB 1158 in 2017) were passed by the California legislature 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. In addition, CARE may be helpful to jurisdictions in reaching their AB 939 and AB 341 goals.

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 the CARE sponsored drop-off site in your county, visit the drop-off site map at CarpetRecovery.org/CA. If you would like to set up a drop-off site, please contact: CA@CarpetRecovery.org. We encourage jurisdictions to add carpet recycling information to their website, especially under mandatory commercial recycling.

Inform Retailers and the Public

The Program keeps California carpet retailers informed about the assessment to be charged. For current rates, see CarpetRecovery.org/Assessment. To provide information brochures to carpet retailers and the public, please order them here: CarpetRecovery.org/CA-Recycling-Coordinators.

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. Learn more at CarpetRecovery.org/Products.

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.

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 2022 alone, processors recycled 73 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.

Program Funding and Activities

By law, an assessment is charged on every square yard of carpet sold and/or shipped in California. The assessment varies by type and content; see CarpetRecovery.org/Assessment for current assessment amounts. 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.
- **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.
- **Education and Outreach:** CARE conducts multiple outreach efforts, including a monthly newsletter, 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.

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

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