



**Characterization of
Carpet Constructions for
California Carpet Recycling Facilities

Request for Proposals**

Release Date: April 15, 2024

Due: May 31, 2024

Carpet America Recovery Effort

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www.carpetrecovery.org

SCOPE OF WORK

BACKGROUND

The mission of the Carpet America Recovery Effort (CARE) is to advance market-based solutions that increase landfill diversion and recycling of post-consumer carpet (PCC), encourage design for recyclability and meet meaningful goals as approved by the CARE Board of Directors. CARE is committed to PCC diversion and recycling that is economically, socially and environmentally sustainable for all stakeholders.

CARE serves as the state-appointed stewardship organization for the California Carpet Stewardship Program (CCSP). The CCSP is charged with meeting the requirements for carpet recycling set by the California law AB 2398 (modified by AB 1158 and AB 729) while CalRecycle serves as the state oversight agency. The purpose of the law is to increase the diversion and recycling of carpet in the state of California. The Carpet Stewardship law generates funding to meet the goals of AB 2398 through an assessment on carpet sold in California. The law is designed to find ways to incentivize the growth of carpet reclamation via reuse, and recycling, creating jobs and still allow the market to work.

CHARACTERIZATION OF CARPET CONSTRUCTION STUDY BACKGROUND

CARE has committed to increasing the recyclability of carpet as one its performance goals in the approved 2023-2027 California Carpet Stewardship Plan. More specifically, the recyclability of carpet means program capacity to recycle the various fiber types of PCC that are collected. Currently, 100% of carpet as manufactured is technically recyclable. Due to external factors, some PCC cannot be recycled due to contamination or is not recycled because the economics do not justify recycling, the volume is insufficient, technology is unavailable, or end markets for recycled output are not available.

CARE committed to investigating annual samples of PCC that is not recycled at a minimum of one recycling location over a minimum three-day period. The sample weights are compared to the total weight of PCC collected for recycling during that time period; CARE can then determine the actual percentage of PCC not being recycled in 2024 for reasons such as mixed-fiber content or backing type on commercial tiles. CARE will use these insights to inform new carpet designs, equipment investments at recyclers, and exploration of new markets for PCC material. CARE strives to increase the percentage of PCC that is recycled throughout the term of its Five-year Plan and beyond.

This RFP for characterization of carpet construction studies (characterization studies) is open to private corporations, small businesses, non-profit organizations and individuals. Applicants should acknowledge any potential conflicts of interest with CARE within their submittal. Please limit

responses to five pages and submit in pdf format to abeane@carpetrecovery.org. CARE anticipates selection of the top proposal by May 31, 2024.

APPROACH

○ **TASK 1.0 RECYCLER CHARACTERIZATION STUDIES AND SAMPLING**

CARE is most interested in sampling waste from four PCC recycling or sorting facilities in California. The contractor will visit up to four facilities to evaluate and profile waste streams from their PCC recycling/sorting operations. The contractor must also take recycler and CSE feedback on the process into account. The general steps and timeline for Task 1 will be:

Timeline	Actions Taken
June 2024	Contract awarded, complete service agreement between selected contractor and CARE. Characterization dates scheduled.
July-October 2024	Characterization studies and sample gathering performed and completed; Excel file containing data and draft report submitted to CARE.
November 2024	Final report submitted to CARE.

The characterization studies will be conducted at up to four facilities located in San Jose, Lincoln, Los Angeles, and San Diego, CA. A 20-ft x 20-ft space will be provided by each facility for the characterization study. The characterization process should be conducted using the general steps below; however, CARE may be receptive to suggested changes from industry professionals/the selected contractor:

1. Hand sort all discarded waste materials by category.
2. Calculate the total weight of each waste category and indicate reasons for material discard.
3. Calculate the amount of each waste material category as a percentage of the total amount of waste collected for the study. Calculate the amount of each waste material category as a percentage of all PCC collected during that same time period, whether it was recycled or discarded. The contractor can expect to encounter the following material categories:
 - PET, nylon 6, nylon 66, polypropylene PCC
 - Residential PCC
 - Commercial carpet tiles
 - Commercial broadloom PCC
 - Tack strips

- Loose plastics
 - Carpet cushion
 - Carpet scraps
 - Other flooring types
 - Cardboard
 - Other material
4. For each product type identified, provide details indicating why certain percentages of that material is not currently recycled at that facility. Reasons may include no secondary market, heavy glue, wetness/contamination, small scraps, technology not available, mixed fiber design, and others.

Information will be entered in an Excel spreadsheet in a format that is acceptable to CARE.

The selected contractor must seek approval from CARE before moving on to Task 2.0.

○ **TASK 2.0 SUMMARY, ANALYSES, AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Using the information gathered in Task 1, the contractor will present a written report to CARE, including:

1. An executive summary of the project.
2. An explanation of the methodology used to design and execute the characterization studies, sampling protocol, and resulting data. This should include an appendix of material categories with their descriptions. The appendix should also include pictures, as appropriate, to highlight material categories and notable reasons certain PCC is not recycled (e.g., wetness/contamination, small scraps, fiber design, etc.).
3. A written analysis of the data that includes relevant tables, graphs and charts summarizing the data for each facility.
4. A PowerPoint slide deck will be created and used to do an overview with the CARE Team.

Task 2 must be completed by October 31, 2024 and will include a wrap-up meeting with CARE.

COST PROPOSAL

Interested contractors should submit the following information in their proposal*:

1. Cover sheet with company name, address, and primary contact information.
2. Approach/Project plan - An explanation of the methodology used to design and execute the characterization studies, the sampling and resulting data. (20%)
3. A breakdown of the project costs using the following categories (50%):
 - a. Task 1 (including relevant meetings with CARE staff, facility staff, project planning, and execution):
 - i. Characterization study performed in LA
 - ii. Characterization study performed in Lincoln
 - iii. Characterization study performed in San Diego

- iv. Characterization study performed in San Jose
 - v. Completion of Excel file containing all relevant study data
 - b. Task 2:
 - i. Completion of executive summary, description of methodology, and analyses
 - c. Travel expenses
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- 4. Project manager /personnel resumes and qualifications. (20%)
 - 5. Three references of similar projects in the past five years. (10%)

* Proposal scoring criteria are provided in parentheses.

CARE will award the project based on a combination of the project plan, cost, service capabilities, and references. Applicants should acknowledge any potential conflicts of interest with CARE, the facilities at which the characterizations are to be performed, and/or former employment in the carpet industry within their proposals.

The selected contractor will enter into a Service Agreement with CARE. The Agreement will require that confidential information is not disclosed and will remain the property of CARE. The contractor will submit invoices to CARE on a monthly basis to be paid within 30 days of service, so long as the relevant scope of work is complete for the invoiced time period. The contractor will perform services according to the timeline outlined within its agreed upon scope of work. The Agreement may be terminated by either party within 30 days notice without cause, or within 5 days notice in the event of continuing substantial failure to perform in accordance with the terms by either party.

The selected contractor must, during the performance of the Agreement, keep Workers' Compensation Insurance, including Employer's Liability Insurance for its employees, and Commercial General Liability Insurance with a combined minimum limit of \$1,000,000 for bodily injury and property damage, and Automobile Liability coverage of \$1,000,000 per occurrence. CARE reserves the right to delay award of this contract based on Program funding.