

Carpet Recycling Workgroup and Business Roundtables Overview For September 29, 2009

What is this project and who has been working on it?

Carpet can be recycled. Currently in the Northwest most used and scrap carpet is being landfilled. Area solid waste agencies estimate that tens of thousands of tons are being discarded annually.

In March of 2008, Seattle Public Utilities (SPU), with support from King County Solid Waste Division, convened a Forum of national carpet manufacturers and recyclers, local flooring sellers, local recyclers and related businesses, and local solid waste and economic development agencies to explore carpet recycling in the Northwest. The Forum was the culmination of some months of building relationships in the carpet industry locally and nationally, and researching collection, processing, and end-market considerations.

From this Forum it was determined that a strategy was needed to both encourage carpet processing and end market development for the recycled materials. The Carpet Recycling Workgroup has been formed to create this strategy.

What will the Carpet Recycling Workgroup do?

The Carpet Recycling Workgroup is building on the work of the past couple of years to develop a set of tactics, which will constitute the *Northwest Carpet Recycling Strategy*, to bring local processing capacity to the region and support end market development. The Workgroup will prioritize the strategy, identify tactics and resources, and consider how to divide up the effort with the objective of recycling carpet generated in the Pacific Northwest that is currently being disposed of in landfills. A list of Workgroup members can be found at the end of this document.

How can I find out more about carpet recycling or this project?

Much work has been done to examine the environmental and economic benefits of carpet recycling, as well as to look at the processes and end markets being used in other parts of the country. Seattle Public Utilities has created a document called "*Carpet Recycling – Northwest Project Overview, July 2009*". This document was attached to this e-mail and gives a great summary of the work done and what we know to date.

In addition, the King County LinkUp program is creating a carpet section on their website to help Workgroup members and other interested parties track the progress of the project. As of September 22nd, you can visit the website at: www.kingcounty.gov/linkup to find copies of research reports and background documents. If you'd like to speak to someone involved with the project, feel free to contact:

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What is the purpose of the business roundtable meetings?

At the first Carpet Recycling Workgroup meeting, it was determined that it was crucial to get business and industry input early in the strategy development process. To do this, the Workgroup is hosting two business roundtable meetings. The first meeting will concentrate on carpet removal, collection, and sorting and the second on end markets and demand-side processing.

What are the details and agenda for business roundtable #1?

See the third page of this document for details and an agenda.

What about business roundtable #2?

Details and an agenda will be developed and distributed in early October for business roundtable #2.

What are the next steps after the business roundtable meetings?

The Carpet Recycling Workgroup will use the input received at the business roundtable meetings to help craft the *Northwest Carpet Recycling Strategy*. The Workgroup will keep business roundtable participants and other interested parties updated via e-mail and may ask for further input as needed.

What is the timeline for the project?

The work of Workgroup is expected to be completed by the end of 2009 but also may extend into 2010 if needed.

Who are the Carpet Recycling Workgroup members?

| Workgroup Sponsors | Affiliation |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Shirli Axelrod | Seattle Public Utilities |
| Kris Beatty | King County LinkUp |
| Workgroup Team Members | Affiliation |
| Joyce Cooper | University of Washington |
| Karl Englund | Washington State University |
| Glen Geoff | City of Spokane |
| Nicole Hoekstra | Western Washington University |
| Sego Jackson | Snohomish County Solid Waste |
| Scott Klagg | Portland Metro |
| Leslie Kochan | Oregon Department of Environmental Quality |
| David Lawes | British Columbia Ministry of Environment |
| Nancy Leigh | Georgia Tech |
| Karen Leonas | Washington State University |
| Dick Lilly | Seattle Public Utilities |
| Shannon McClelland | Washington Department of Ecology |
| James Palmer | Washington Department of Commerce |
| Lisa Sepanski | King County Solid Waste Division |
| Jay Shepard | Washington Department of Ecology |
| Lyn Smirl | British Columbia Ministry of Environment |
| Bill Smith | Tacoma Solid Waste |
| Cheryl Smith | Washington State Department of Commerce |
| Tim Stearns | Washington State Department of Commerce |
| Gabriella Uhlar-Heffner | Seattle Public Utilities |
| Jan Whitworth | Oregon Department of Environmental Quality |

Carpet Recycling Business Roundtable #1 September 29 Agenda

What: Business Roundtable to discuss carpet removal, collection and sorting

Meeting Sponsor: Carpet Recycling Workgroup

Meeting Hosts:

- Seattle Public Utilities
- King County LinkUp Program

When:

- 1:00 – 3:00 pm, Tuesday, September 29th
- 3:00 – 4:00 pm, optional hour of networking following the Roundtable

Where:

- In person: The Conference Center at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport (17801 International Blvd., Seattle, WA 98158). Parking vouchers will be provided, please bring parking ticket to meeting.
- Via phone: Dial in/webinar details will be e-mailed prior to the meeting.

Meeting Objective:

- Gather input from businesses that could be involved in the removal, collection and sorting of carpet, and
- Identify top actions needed and who can help influence and act on those actions.

Agenda:

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| 1:00-1:30 | Agenda overview and introductions |
| 1:30-2:15 | Roundtable Question #1: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Around the Room: What <u>actions</u> are needed <u>by whom</u> to get carpet recycling (removal collection and sorting) established in the Northwest?▪ Group discussion and comment |
| 2:15-2:45 | Roundtable Question #2: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Around the Room: What is the <u>one</u> most important thing that would need to happen for your organization need to get involved, or expand your involvement, in carpet recycling?▪ Group discussion and comment |
| 2:45-3:00 | Wrap-up/next steps |
| 3:00-4:00 | Optional networking hour |