

## **Carpet Recycling Workgroup and Business Roundtables Overview For October 16, 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. You can visit the website at: [www.kingcounty.gov/linkup](http://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:

Kris Beatty  
King County LinkUp Program  
206-296-3740  
[Kris.Beatty@kingcounty.gov](mailto:Kris.Beatty@kingcounty.gov)

Shirli Axelrod  
Seattle Public Utilities  
206-684-7804  
[Shirli.Axelrod@seattle.gov](mailto:Shirli.Axelrod@seattle.gov)

### 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 was learned at business roundtable #1?

A meeting summary of business roundtable #1 is available by request. Please contact Kris Beatty, [kris.beatty@kingcounty.gov](mailto:kris.beatty@kingcounty.gov), 206-296-3740.

### What about business roundtable #2?

See page three for the business roundtable #2 agenda. A meeting summary will be prepared and made available following the roundtable meeting.

### 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 the Workgroup is expected to be completed by the end of 2009, but may extend into 2010.

### Who are the Carpet Recycling Workgroup members?

<b>Workgroup Sponsors</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Shirli Axelrod	Seattle Public Utilities
Kris Beatty	King County LinkUp
<b>Workgroup Team Members</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
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 Klag	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 #2 October 16 Agenda**

What: Business Roundtable to discuss carpet processing for end markets and manufacturing

Meeting Sponsor: Carpet Recycling Workgroup

Meeting Hosts:

- Seattle Public Utilities
- King County LinkUp Program

When:

- 9:00 – 11:00 am, Friday, October 16<sup>th</sup>
- 11:00 am – 12:00 pm, optional hour of networking following the Roundtable

Where:

- In person: Puget Sound Regional Council offices, The Waterfront Building (1011 Western Ave, Suite 500, Seattle, WA 98104). Parking vouchers will be provided up to \$12.
- Via webinar: Registration link and instructions provided in e-mail.

Meeting Objective:

- Gather input from businesses that could be involved in the processing of carpet and the use of processed carpet-derived commodities in manufactured goods.
- Identify top actions needed.

Agenda:

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| 9:00-9:20   | Agenda overview and introductions   |
| 9:20-10:00  | Processing for end-markets presentations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Jeremy Stroop, CARE – products on the CARE “ideas” page, current uses of recovered fiber</li><li>▪ Karl Englund, Washington State University – report on processing and product services at WSU</li><li>▪ Bob Reiss, Reliance Carpet Cushion – manufacturing using recovered fiber, what processing is required</li><li>▪ Other processors / manufacturers – briefly describe what you are working on</li></ul> |
| 10:00-10:50 | Roundtable Question #1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Around the Room: What needs to happen to advance end markets and processing that supplies end markets in the northwest region?</li><li>▪ Group discussion and comment</li></ul>   |
| 10:50-11:00 | Wrap-up/next steps  |
| 11:00-12:00 | Optional networking hour  |