

## CARPET RECYCLING WORKGROUP

### February 2nd Meeting Summary and Follow-Up

This document contains the February 2nd meeting summary along with follow-up from the core group (Shirli, Kris, Beth, Julie, David). The February 2nd meeting was held to review and hear comments about the draft Northwest Carpet Recycling Strategy for Establishing Carpet Processing Capacity and End Markets for Recovered Material. The core group sifted that input and has incorporated various changes in the Strategy document.

Below, you will find

1. A compilation in table form of input received from Workgroup members and our responses about how the input will be incorporated into the Strategy document.
2. Meeting notes from February 2, 2010.

#### Feb 2 Workgroup Input and Core Group Responses

Action	Comment/input	How comment was addressed
<b>#1. Product Stewardship</b>	Product stewardship should be a strategy not an action.	Because the objectives of the Workgroup are to establish processing capacity and end markets, we decided that it is most appropriate to leave product stewardship as an action item at this time. It is one of the several ways to achieve the objectives in the Workgroup Charter. This is because end markets are required for a successful product stewardship effort. Establishing carpet recycling is going to require a broad-based approach that uses a variety of tools as outlined in the Strategy document.
	Coordinate with West Coast Climate Forum.	Added to "others involved" column.
	Mary Bell Austin of San Mateo County expects to be involved in this product stewardship action.	Added to "others involved" column.
	Northwest Product Stewardship Council will discuss roles at their policy sub-committee meeting and return with a recommendation.	Added to "others involved" column.
<b>#2. Carpet Recycling</b>	Provide a resource to match specification of feedstock to supply chain of local manufacturers. SPU's current WWU intern might present to manufacturers' association to get businesses thinking about working with researchers to come up with solutions.	Added to 3d under Demand for Recycled Content Products (Action #3).
	Offer incentives for use of recycled inputs.	Added under 3d. Also included under the Economic Development (Action #6).
	WA Department of Commerce will take the lead on Action 2b.	Added to the "Lead" column.
	King County will be working on Action 2a—getting specs incorporated into KC contracts.	Added to "others involved" column.

	Seattle and King County will co-lead #2 overall.	Added to "Lead" column.
<b>#3. Demand for Recycled Content Products</b>	Rresearch on green products and lifecycle should be added as a separate action item. Lifecycle analysis should be factored into decision making. Use lifecycle assessment databases as a tool for identifying which manufacturers can use the recovered materials.	Added 3c.
	Revise the title of Action #3 to reflect that the action includes not just products, but also carpet-derived commodities.	Changed title to "Demand for Recycled Content Products and Carpet-Derived Commodities".
	Add a research item on to how to break carpet down into constituent materials.	Added to 3f.
	Provide recovered material specs for local manufacturers working with WA Department of Commerce.	Added under 3d.
	Karl Englund with Washington State University would like to be involved with 3c, 3d and 3e.	Added into "others involved" column.
	Nicole Hoekstra with Western Washington University said by email that she would like to be involved with 3c, 3d and 3e.	Added into "others involved" column.
	Shirli Axelrod with Seattle Public Utilities will be working on 3a.	Added into "others involved" column.
	Beth Humphreys with King County Solid Waste Division will be working on Action #3.  Seattle and King County will co-lead #3 overall.	Added into "others involved" column.  Added to "Lead" column.
<b>#4. Public Policy</b>	Seattle is already doing this, just need to feed their process.	Added into "others involved" column.
	Start date should be 2010.	Date changed.
	Bill Smith with City of Tacoma will work on 4a.	Added into "others involved" column.
	Shirli Axelrod will coordinate within the City of Seattle on Action 4.	Added into "others involved" column.
<b>#5. Asbestos</b>	Learn how asbestos regulations and enforcement work in other states, since Washington's system of enforcing through building permits doesn't appear to work well.	Added to "Holding Tank." Potential to add later depending on how current effort between Puget Sound Clean Air Agency and local building departments works.
	King County and Seattle will continue to work on this Action.	Added into "others involved" column.
<b>#6. Economic Development</b>	Work with counties and cities to identify zones, funds/tools that could be offered to help development. Need to create toolkit that make this appealing to companies.	Added 6g under Economic Development (Action #6).
	Address permits as part of the economic development strategy.	Included as part of 6c.
	Develop defined list of carpet processing facility parameters.	Added under 6a Economic Development (Action #6).

	Show how these are green jobs.	Added under Economic Development (Action #6).
	Define who needs to be involved in creating financial incentives.	This will be done as part of the workplan for this task.
	Facilitate high-level talks between Economic Development and Recycling leaders.	Added under 6b.
	James Palmer suggested that WA Department of Commerce lead on recruitment.	Added as "Lead" for 6a.
	Beth Humphreys and Shirli Axelrod will work on Action 6.	Added into "others involved" column.
<b>#7. Collaboration</b>	<p>Add these groups as potential for networking and collaboration.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Northwest Product Stewardship Council</li> <li>• CA Product Stewardship Council</li> <li>• CA Resource Recovery Association (and their conference)</li> <li>• Association of Oregon Recyclers (Leslie can pitch a conference panel on this topic)</li> <li>• Washington State Recycling Association (and conference)</li> <li>• Cascadia Green Building Council conference</li> <li>• Built Green conference (March)</li> </ul>	List of conferences, organizations to collaborate with will be included as part of workplan for this action item.
	Shirli Axelrod and Beth Humphreys will work on Action 7.	Added into "others involved" column.
	Participate in/plan events (e.g., CARE, others)	Added as 7c.

## February 2, 2010 Meeting Notes

### Agenda

- I. Introduction
- II. Strategy Feedback, Discussion & Roles
- III. Next Steps

### Welcome and Introductions

#### Phone:

Mary Bell Austin, San Mateo County and CA Product Stewardship Council  
 Joyce Cooper, University of WA  
 Karl Englund, Washington State University  
 Leslie Kochan, OR DEQ  
 Jay Shepard, WA Department of Ecology  
 Eun-Sook Goidel, Full Circle Environmental

#### Room:

Shirli Axelrod, Seattle Public Utilities  
 Kris Beatty, King County LinkUp  
 Julie Colehour, Colehour + Cohen  
 Beth Humphreys, King County  
 Sego Jackson, Snohomish County  
 Shannon McLelland, WA Dept. of Ecology  
 James Palmer, WA Dept. of Commerce  
 Lisa Sepanski, King County  
 Bill Smith, City of Tacoma  
 Susan St. Germain, WA Dept. of Commerce  
 David Stitzhal, Full Circle Environmental

## Recap of Work to Date

- The Workgroup effort started in summer 2009.
- 2 business roundtable meetings held. A large number and wide array of businesses connected in some way with carpet participated. The meetings received a lot of enthusiastic response and input.
- Workgroup met again to provide input into recommended actions that would lead us to a strategy that we could jointly share.
- With the exception of the California folks who joined later, the Workgroup was involved in helping rank and prioritize the tasks that are in the strategy.
- Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) and King County having been working during the past month to organize and consolidate tasks based on all the input received.
- Meeting purpose is to look at draft strategy and work towards finalizing something that will work and that people will participate in.

## Strategy Feedback, Discussion & Roles

For each action item in the strategy document, the group answered three questions:

1. Who is already working on this? What are you doing?
2. What comments/input do you have on this action item?
3. Who wants to take the lead or help support the implementation of this action item?

The following section summarizes the discussion around each of these questions for each action item.

### #1. Product Stewardship

#### *Who is already working on this? What are you doing?*

Lisa Sepanski: There was a conversation at last Northwest Product Stewardship Council (NWPSC) meeting and it was decided that a subcommittee for carpet would not be formed. Carpet is a current priority for the NWPSC. However, Jay Shepard, who is also on the Council, will be working on the MOU with CARE and NWPSC decided to make carpet part of the policy sub-committee meeting and try and work product stewardship into CARE negotiations.

Sego Jackson: Wasn't at the NWPSC meeting but this sounds like a good plan. After the policy sub-committee meeting we can better figure out roles. We found in electronics process that the more people informed the better. Garth Hickle with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency is coordinating regular conference calls with all the states about the CARE MOU process.

Leslie Kochan: Jan Whitworth of Oregon DEQ is participating in CARE negotiations. There was a bill in the last legislature with batteries and compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) for the first year. Carpet could have been added later. Legislation did not pass. Will be introduced again in 2011.

Mary Bell Austin: Not part of legislation in CA this year.

Bill Smith: West Coast Climate Forum materials management committee has selected carpet as a focus, in addition to organics. Bill Smith co-chairs the committee, which may be merged with the product stewardship committee. Jay Shepard is also involved.

#### *Comments/inputs?*

Leslie Kochan: People felt like product stewardship should be a strategy not an action. Seems like product stewardship is more important in today's environmental context. There is some frustration in Oregon with the CARE process. Add product stewardship as a strategy and research as the action.

Jay Shepard: West Coast Climate Forum – organics and carpet are a priority. This is EPA sponsored. Need to coordinate this task with them. A lot of strategy stuff in that group.

Jay Shepard: Industry has not established a financing model in the CARE process. This means hope is not high for success.

***Who wants to take the lead or support this action?***

Mary Bell Austin: Expect to be involved in this action but not in the lead.

Leslie Kochan: Will be involved in legislation in OR in 2011 with Jan Whitworth.

NWPSC: As mentioned above, roles will be discussed at policy sub-committee meeting.

**#2. Carpet Recycling**

***What are you doing now?***

James Palmer: Working with local manufacturing associations – third and fourth tier Boeing suppliers that need to diversify (see more below under comments/input).

Bill Smith: Working on carpet through a construction debris incentive program. Requiring certification of recycling facilities. Tackling issues such as whether ADC (alternative daily cover) and incineration considered recycling.

Leslie Kochan: Department of Administrative Services has set standards for public and leased buildings. They have a spec that allows the purchase of greener carpet, but do not specify any take back. They are considering changing some of these standards and DEQ will provide input.

James Palmer: Question for Leslie – are schools included in state program? Leslie Kochan: Don't think so – schools are operated by local government.

Shirli Axelrod: WA State has contracts that can be used by others to purchase recycled content carpet. Seattle has both requirement to buy recycled carpet and a mandate to recycle used carpet.

James Palmer: On item 'b' I have contacted Mithun (architectural and design firm) – they are very interested in getting involved.

Shirli Axelrod: The By-Product Synergy Project is aware of carpet and this Workgroup but are not focusing on this right now.

***Comments/inputs?***

James Palmer: We need a resource available to third and fourth tier Boeing suppliers to match specification of feedstock to their supply chain. PhD intern should be introduced at an association meeting to get businesses thinking about working with research to come up with solutions. Meeting in June (Manufacturer Appreciation Week) is a good opportunity to push this idea. Statewide attempt to re-align airplane technical capacity to clean energy. Will continue to work with existing associations. Would be very good if we could offer incentives for use of recycled inputs.

***Who wants to take the lead or support this action?***

James Palmer – Will take the lead on action 'b'.

Beth Humphreys: King County will work on action 'a' – getting specs incorporated into KC contracts.

Leslie Kochan: As mentioned above, OR DEQ will provide input to the OR Department of Administrative Services standards being developed.

### **#3. Demand for Recycled Content Products**

#### ***What are you doing now?***

Leslie Kochan: There is some research needed that should be its own action item. Doing work on green building materials – for residential housing, what are the best recommendations we can make about materials that would be best for environmental protection (climate, toxics etc.). One category being looked at is flooring – looking at resins in carpet in terms of toxicity. This is a flooring lifecycle analysis. This needs to be factored into decision making. Call out as separate sub-task item.

Joyce Cooper: We should think of lifecycle assessment as way to evaluate how you should use recycled materials.

Shirli Axelrod: Nicole Hoekstra of Western Washington University is working on program that include action items c, d & e. Student is working on this.

Joyce Cooper: Did some work on this with Industrial Materials Exchange (hosted online by Seattle-King County) – also mentioned that there are databases of lifecycle info available.

Karl Englund: Great idea to do lifecycle assessment but maybe more important to figure out how to break down carpet and what to do with it. Karl is currently working with a local processor on this. Must first get consistency in quality – that is where Karl's interest lies – helping recycling facilities make a better feedstock by helping them break it down and separate it so that you get consistency and purity. Manufacturers require this and it is a good place for Washington State University (WSU) to help. Research should focus on how to break things down and make good feedstock (e.g. how much energy has to go into the process to make it into an acceptable feedstock).

Shannon McLelland: Question – Do processors exist here? Shirli – no.

#### ***Comments/inputs?***

Leslie Kochan: Add research/lifecycle sub-task as described above.

#### ***Who wants to take the lead or support this action?***

James Palmer: Will lead actions b & c.

Beth Humphreys: King County will support.

Shirli Axelrod: SPU will lead 3a.

Bill Smith: Co-chairing committee to come up with purchasing policy at Tacoma (3a).

Karl Englund: Will support c, d and e.

### **#4. Public Policy**

### ***What are you doing now?***

Bill Smith: Working on certifying C&D haulers and receiving facilities in Tacoma.

Kris Beatty: King County is looking at certification as well – not very far along in the process.

Shirli Axelrod: Seattle is also doing this and is farther along.

### ***Comments/inputs?***

Shirli Axelrod: Seattle has people working on C&D materials generally – just need to feed that process, not do this independently as part of this strategy. Since some work is already happening, start date should be 2010.

### ***Who wants to take the lead or support this action?***

Bill Smith: Will support 4a.

Shirli Axelrod: Will coordinate within Seattle on this.

## **#5: Asbestos**

### ***What are you doing now?***

Kris Beatty: Kinley Deller is working with the building permit agencies in the suburban cities in KC to learn about their permit process and how asbestos is handled in those processes. This includes working with Puget Sound Clean Air Agency to see if things can be standardized. Kinley has developed draft BMP for C&D recycling facilities for asbestos and lead.

Shirli Axelrod: Seattle is also working to make sure that the appropriate sign-off is happening.

Leslie Kochan: Will talk to DEQ and Dept. of Administrative Services may have policies – Leslie will check.

### ***Comments/inputs?***

Bill Smith: Interested in learning how this works in other states. In WA clean air groups write regulations but have no money to enforce. It is left to building permit agencies – that is where this falls through the cracks.

### ***Who wants to take the lead or support this action?***

Kris Beatty: Kinley Deller of King County will continue to work on this issue.

## **#6: Economic Development**

### ***What are you doing now?***

James Palmer: How do we recruit a recycling company? Incentives are it. How do we get incentives? Talked with Steve Gerritson about who has been interested in the past. This company is less interested now due to economic downturn. Have identified another company and will work it.

Sego Jackson: In draft of solid waste comp plan update to engage in 6b – just in draft stage, but hoping it will get their economic development folks involved.

***Comments/inputs?***

James Palmer: Most helpful thing that counties and cities can do to help statewide effort: Identify zones, funds/tools to help development that could be offered, etc. Need to create toolkit that make this appealing to companies.

Susan St. Germain: The permit side of things is huge – companies want to know that there are no roadblocks.

Shirli Axelrod: Look at energy and water rebates available to companies.

James Palmer: Need defined list of facility parameters – should talk to processors to get this and then help with siting options. Then develop a proposal. We have had conversations so far with three companies.

Shirli Axelrod: I have a couple of other company names I can pass on as well.

James Palmer: Need to create a definitive list. Then I can collectively can get an idea of the needs of the industry.

Shannon McLelland: Do we know why companies would want to come here?

James Palmer: Used to be building boom – bad economy has changed that. But things are cyclical. We want to take advantage of things turning around.

Shirli Axelrod: Green Image.

Beth Humphreys: Green Jobs.

Kris Beatty: Since CARE hasn't met the goals it established for diverting carpet, they may have a greater incentive to make something happen.

Sego Jackson: Enthusiasm here to recycle carpet.

Bill Smith: Any recognition with economic development community that recycling is a green job?

Susan St. Germain: No, but is it?

Bill Smith: Yes. There may be an educational opportunity for high level talks between economic development leaders and recycling leaders.

Leslie Kochan: Need to create our definition of green jobs – make sure it is not bad green jobs (low wage, no benefits).

Susan St. Germain: Need to talk about who needs to be involved in creating new financial incentives.

James Palmer: Must be a collaborative effort. Not easy in the current economic/legislative climate.

***Who wants to take the lead or support this action?***

James Palmer: Take the lead on recruitment. State level approach to this is appropriate.

Shirli Axelrod: Seattle will support.

Beth Humphreys: King County will support.

## **#7. Collaboration**

### ***What are you doing now?***

No input

### ***Comments/inputs?***

The group brainstormed collaboration and outreach opportunities for action item #7 as follows:

- NWPSC
- CA Product Stewardship Council
- CA Resource Recovery Association (and their conference)
- Association of Oregon Recyclers (Leslie can pitch a panel at their conference)
- Washington State Recycling Association (and conference)
- Cascadia Green Building Council conference
- Built Green conference (March)

Sego Jackson: Should we re-convene advisory group/business groups from time to time?

Shirli Axelrod: Yes, may make sense. Maybe try and have a CARE meeting or conference in Seattle? I have a slot to talk about our effort at CARE conference coming up in Santa Fe.

Shirli Axelrod: CARE has asked us to be on a panel with them at Green Build. Stakeholders may be attending and we can enlist them to help with the effort.

### ***Who wants to take the lead or support this action?***

Shirli Axelrod: Seattle will continue to work on this.

Kris Beatty: King County will continue to work on this.

### **Overall Discussion:**

Shannon McLelland: Strategy seems a bit fractured – do we need to prioritize?

James Palmer: Many of the actions are interrelated.

Shirli Axelrod: This is a multi-faceted strategy that envisions a number of people working on a number of things.

Julie Colehour: The process did include culling things down and putting them in a holding tank. We were not able to get it down below seven except for the public policy which could start in 2011.

Kris Beatty: It is a bit of chicken and egg as it typically is with recycled materials market development.

James Palmer: At this stage we are laying groundwork – coalitions formed – all collectively building foundation to do execution.

Leslie Kochan: We have many related priorities going on – we don't have the resources to take on major pieces, but it helps us to stay informed with your process and sharing the info as appropriate with others doing work down there.

Sego Jackson: With electronics the initial goal was build to product stewardship. That was clear from day-one. On this, most should be done by carpet manufacturers and they aren't doing it. It takes a village to put in a producer responsibility program. Create the garden that this can be placed into. That is different from us stepping in a doing the whole garden.

Leslie Kochan: This is very much the same as what metro and DEQ are interested in. Don't want to enable the carpet industry. We should not take on things that the carpet industry should be doing on their own.

Kris Beatty: I have been thinking a lot about how it would make more sense if market development efforts were more tied into product stewardship.

Lisa Sepanski: That is where we started with Take it Back Network – worked with private companies to make it part of his business.

Shannon McLelland: Can't we just follow the electronics model?

Lisa Sepanski: This is a tough nut to crack – no end markets.

David Stitzhal: Fewer manufacturers, all domestic.

Kris Beatty: If you step up and work with industry – doesn't that grease the skids for product stewardship?

Shirli Axelrod: There is no interim "we will collect carpet" in this plan.

Lisa Sepanski: Could build a product stewardship strategy with the assumption that some funding will go to market development.

Sego Jackson: Skills are in room to write legislation tonight – that is different then getting it passed – that needs a broad coalition.

Kris Beatty: We are building and facilitating markets and infrastructure and the economic development piece is new and important.

Lisa Sepanski: Need something that is urging things forward.

Karl Englund: I have a client coming in two weeks who is looking at how to make a replacement part. Would love to have carpet there that I could show. We processed it, try this material. Getting prototypes and test products out there is key.

James Palmer: Manufacturers are not even looking at recycled materials now. We need to show them the potential. Get engineering group that understands recycling process and capabilities. Sourcing locally is good message (green etc.).

Shirli Axelrod: Think of it as an industrial raw material – not a waste item.

Karl Englund: local processor that I have been working with has some great ideas and I have some other ideas -- proposal is ready to go.

James Palmer: State does offer companies tax incentives for R&D – James and Karl to talk.

## Next Steps

- KC/SPU to revise strategy and send back out by end of February.
- KC/SPU to draft an e-mail about next steps that we ran out of time to cover.