

Negotiated Outcomes Breakout Group: Recycling
June 12, 2001
Baltimore, MD

Participants: Wayne Gjerde, MN; Ed Duffy, Honeywell; Ken McIntosh, CRI; Diann Barbacci, Lees Carpets; Jim Hartzfeld, Interface; Mark Ryan, DuPont; Phil Bailey, Collins & Aikman; Gordon Hui, US EPA; Dale Phenicie, CRI, Facilitator: Matt Ewadinger, NC.

The main objective of the Recycling Breakout Group session was to develop 10-year schedule for carpet recovery that included the following assumptions.

- The volume that will be counted toward this goal will include post-consumer carpet and tiles as well as post-industrial waste (e.g. edge trim) from carpet and tile manufacturing operations that has traditionally been destined for disposal.
- Disposal via Cement Kilns and Waste To Energy facilities will be addressed by another team
- The totality of material that is received in a facility and that is involved in a recycling process will count as being recycled even though some of the material may eventually be incinerated. For example, at Evergreen Nylon Recycling, the nylon 6-face fiber is recycled into caprolactam, the other components of the carpet are sent to a cement Kiln. All the material (face fiber and backing) is counted as “Recycled”. In other words, material is counted as it enters rather than as it leaves the facility. It should be noted that non-recycled components should be a prime candidate for market development efforts.

After much discussion regarding the amount of carpet currently being recycled and potential expansion of current markets as well as the creation of new markets, the group arrived at the following projected recovery rates.

Projected Ten-Year Schedule for Increased Carpet Recovery

<u>Year</u>	<u>Volume (M lbs)</u>	<u>% of Carpet Recovered</u>
0	180	4%
3	385	8%
6	610	12%
8	850	16%
10	1,100	20%

The percentage of material recovered is based on projected tons recycled divided by the sale of 4.7 million pounds of carpet in the base year and an incremental increase to 5.5 million pounds sold in year ten.

The group also concluded that it is essential for State and Federal government officials to partner with the carpet industry to advocate for carpet recovery. It was noted, however, that not all states have the

ability to offer the same level of market development expertise and assistance. Public sector-related action items identified include, but are not limited to, those described below.

- Provide technical assistance to carpet recycling businesses with sourcing, processing, and remanufacturing of secondary materials, and marketing their end products.
- Provide business development assistance such as identifying and, where applicable, providing funding sources (such as grants, loans, and equity investment), facility siting, business plan development, entrepreneurial training, and funding demonstration projects.
- Promote partnerships between government and industry to stimulate and facilitate the recovery and use of secondary materials (R&D activities, testing, certification, product standardization, etc.).
- Foster the development of a supply infrastructure that is capable of providing industry with clean, readily usable and available raw materials
- Develop and assist in the implementation of procurement guidelines designed to increase the purchase of carpets made with recycled content and increase the purchase of other products made in whole or in part with recycled carpet content.
- Educate the consumer and other potential customers (both public and private sector) to new carpet recovery-oriented products as they develop, and promote the purchase of those products.

The group also determined that it is essential for State and Federal government carpet advocacy efforts (in addition to carpet industry-related efforts) to be documented in order to determine their effect on the overall carpet recovery program.

The group again expressed a desire to have more time allotted for breakout group discussion of topics such as identifying industry-related action items (similar to the public sector action items listed above) and establishing milestones.

Follow-up from previous Recycling Breakout Group Report

Diann Barbacci of Lees Carpets suggested that the list of components outlined by Bob Fensterheim of the SB Latex Council could be helpful to our breakout group's deliberations and to CARE. She also suggested that a description of the types of landfills in the U.S. and regional tipping fees would be useful. Note: BioCycle Magazine publishes a list of average tipping fees by state in its "State of Garbage in America" annual issue.