

The Facts about Carpet and Sustainability

For Architects, Designers and Green-builders

Making the right decisions about carpet starts with having the facts. That is why the Carpet and Rug Institute (CRI) sponsors scientific research and gathers data from independent sources to help professionals and the public make educated flooring choices. **Visit carpet-rug.org to learn more.**

Issue

The carpet industry is reducing its impact on the environment for present and future generations.

What You Should Know

- The carpet industry is concerned about the amount of old carpet that ends up in landfills each year. Carpet manufacturers are voluntarily addressing this problem by recycling old carpet materials back into carpet production, recycling old carpet into alternative uses such as building materials and auto parts, refurbishing old carpet into new carpet tiles and even hauling away old carpet so it can be reused or recycled.
- Through the **Carpet America Recovery Effort (CARE)**, carpet companies, government entities and product suppliers are working to develop market-based solutions for the recycling and use of post-consumer carpet. Visit carpetrecovery.org.
 - o It is estimated that carpet recycling efforts currently save about 200 million pounds of waste from being deposited in U.S. landfills. In a three-year pilot take-back program, the state of Washington was able to prevent the landfilling of more than two million pounds of carpet.
- You can earn LEED points by incorporating salvaged materials— such as refurbished, reused or recycled carpet – into plans for new construction or renovation. Recycled content carpet meets the same industry performance standards and carries the same manufacturer warranties as carpet without recycled content.
 - o Boulder Community Foothills Hospital (BCFH), an USGBC award-winning building, used recycled content carpet tile in its new maternity and pediatric service facility. By switching to recycle carpet tile, BCFH was able to increase the average percent of recycled content in carpeted spaces from 42 percent to 63 percent.
- Learn more about how the carpet industry is reducing its environmental footprint in the **CRI Sustainability Reports**, which can be accessed from the CRI home page by clicking on Carpet Industry.