

January 2010

2009 Achievements & Targets for 2010

Introduction

Carpet Recycling UK is a not-for-profit membership association founded in 2008 with the aim of growing carpet recycling. This document provides an overview of the organisation's achievements in its second year of operation, and of the resulting benefits to members of the association. Targets for Carpet Recycling UK in 2010 are also outlined along with how the achievement of these aims will benefit members.

Membership Benefits

Companies who are members of Carpet Recycling UK benefit directly and indirectly from membership. Direct benefits include the value to a company of positioning itself as a leader on environmental issues, and the communications work Carpet Recycling UK carries out on behalf of its members: for example, case-studies in the trade press featuring members. Direct benefits also include reductions in costs of disposal for internal or post-consumer wastes by being networked with companies offering recycling services. Indirect benefits of membership accrue to a company by virtue of an improved positioning of the carpet industry as a whole on environmental issues.

2009 Achievements & Benefits to Members

1. Assisted manufacturers to divert wastes from landfill to recycling or EfW (energy from waste)
 - Environmental benefits plus cost savings of more than £ 85,000 for members
2. Specialist carpet re-use, recycling and EfW outlets expanded from 4 to 16
 - Members first to be advised of new opportunities and supported in arranging trials via new outlets
3. Accessed external public funding of £40,000 to research high-value opportunities for polypropylene recovery and wool based carpet recyclates
 - Keeping costs of membership down by leveraging in external funding
4. Increased membership from 16 to 41 companies across the carpet value chain and in waste recovery

- Members are networked with supply chain partners for recycling
- 5. Lobbying of government agencies DEFRA and WRAP resulted in acceptance of the need for support to the carpet industry to increase recycling rate
 - Future policy environment favourable to carpet recycling
- 6. Accepted a lead role in the Flooring Resource Efficiency Plan funded by WRAP and BRE Trust for development of the carpet and carpet tile sector Material Action Plans
 - Members' interests kept centre stage in these industry strategies
- 7. Gained acceptance of nylon recycle from post consumer carpets as a feedstock suitable for European engineering plastics
 - Business case for nylon recovery from carpet tiles looks more attractive to investors
- 8. Received exemptions from the Environment Agency for the use of wool cropper dust as agricultural benefit in container growing media, and for synthetic shred as an enhancement for equestrian surfaces.
 - Removal of regulatory barriers enables these end uses to grow and for more services to be offered to members

Targets for 2010 & Benefits to Members

1. Increase recycling rate to 15,000 tonnes per year
 - Reduce risk of adverse producer responsibility measures by demonstrating tangible progress on tonnage diverted from landfill
2. Increase re-use, recycling and EfW outlets to 30
 - Increase choice and geographical spread of recycling facilities thereby decrease costs of recycling for members
3. Facilitate an industry-government voluntary agreement on landfill diversion of carpets
 - Create conditions for accelerated take-up of recycling in future years
4. Continue to conduct self-funded trials on end market development and optimisation
 - Strengthen business case for investment in new carpet recycling facilities
5. Carry out trials to determine best collection logistics
 - Members benefit from recommendations on lowest costs collection systems
6. Increase membership to the point where the organisation is financially sustainable
 - Carpet Recycling UK continues to operate and deliver benefits to members in future.
7. Leverage in additional public funding to support technical work on end market development
 - Keeping costs of membership down while delivering more outcomes