

January 2010

Carpet Action Plan

Introduction

An industry-government Material Action Plan (MAP) is being developed with the aim of laying out measures to reduce carpet waste to landfill. The MAP is due for publication at the end of March 2010 as part of a plan for the wider Flooring Industry - whose implementation will help deliver on the Construction Industry's commitment to halve waste to landfill by 2012. A Stakeholder Group drawn from industry, agencies and local and national government is guiding the action planning process. See <http://www.carpetrecyclinguk.com/news9.html> for further info. This paper outlines four key issues expected to be covered in the final plan.

1. Voluntary Agreement and Target

Industry voluntary agreements, including targets for landfill diversion, have proved popular in Action Plans for other industries, and are being proposed for the Flooring industry.

2. Flooring Recovery Notes

Similar to Packaging Recovery Notes (PRNs), a system of Flooring Recovery Notes could be used to incentivise investment in carpet recycling by offering additional payments per auditable tonne of carpet recycled. The revenue needed to fund Flooring Recovery Notes would be generated through a small levy on sales of new flooring.

3. WRAP remit

WRAP (Waste Resources Action Plan) is the government's delivery body on recycling and resource efficiency. Carpet recycling has previously been 'out of scope' for WRAP but extension of WRAP's remit to include carpet recycling is being discussed, meaning that a degree of public funding would be available to support end market development for carpet recycling.

4. Backmarking

Backmarking has been suggested as a means of easily identifying waste carpet by pile and backing type. The need for backmarking to apply equally to imports has been recognised.