



Carpet Recycling – Gathering Momentum

First annual conference of Carpet Recycling UK a great success

June 23rd '09, Manchester : Carpet Recycling UK held their first annual conference at the NSPCC Training Centre in Leicester, with a capacity audience of 100 people eager for knowledge of this new industry.

The keynote speaker Frank Hurd, Chairman of Carpet America Recovery Effort, CARE, outlined their success in creating value from carpet materials and achieving 500,000 tonnes cumulative recycling level. Three members of CARE also attended to share their experiences from carpet collection and sorting to new processes for fibre recovery.

Kate Chappell presented the mass balance for carpet recycling in UK illustrating the estimated 8,000 tonnes recycled in 2008 stimulated by the extensive development work done by Carpet Recycling UK.

Case studies on starting collection, processing, re-use, and raw material recovery were presented by first hand experiences from a group of three different companies i.e. Shredding Services, Axion Consulting, and Cleanstream. Networking opportunities also included displays from machinery suppliers, Bolton University, and recyclers.

Frank Hurd stressed the importance of outlets to translate recyclates into new products. In break out groups the audience had the opportunity to focus on outlets of interest to them :

- Energy recovery from carpet wastes
- Land applications for wool carpets
- Roadstone products from bitumen backed tiles

The day concluded with a panel discussion on sources of funding and the potential for government support. Carpet Recycling UK set out the route towards sustainable funding and stressed the importance of majority support from carpet manufacturers and all other members of the carpet value chain. A new membership drive supported by an industry based Board of Directors will be launched in the Autumn.

To join Carpet Recycling UK call Kate Chappell 07787 160169 or kate@carpetrecyclinguk.com