



Carpet Institute of Australia Limited

Environment Policy

The carpet industry is committed to continuous improvement of the environmental aspects of carpet through its life cycle.

Environmental Performance Issues

These include:

- the sustainable use of resources in the manufacture of carpet
- energy used in manufacture and greenhouse emissions
- solid wastes, water wastes and air emissions generated during manufacture
- air emissions and indoor air quality during carpet use
- heat and sound insulation, air filtration and other environmental effects of carpet
- wastes generated at the end of the carpet life.

Goals

- Reduce negative life cycle impacts of carpets on the environment
- Provide products that are continually improving
- Meet all community requirements on environmental protection
- Make carpets an eco-efficient as well as an economic floor covering choice
- Set a path for sustainable industry practices into the future

Environment Policy

The carpet industry recognizes its obligation to ensure that current environmental issues are addressed. Accordingly, the following actions will be undertaken to achieve improved environmental outcomes:

- the industry will assess environmental issues surrounding manufacture, installation, use and disposal of carpet
- scientific principles will be applied in the development of technology and management systems to improve performance
- a continuous effort will be made to examine ways of reducing environmental impacts, conserving resources and becoming more energy efficient
- environmental performance data will be collected and the results reported
- good environmental practice in carpet installation, use and disposal will be promoted.

Implementation Strategy

The Carpet Institute of Australia's role is to provide a central voice for the industry on environmental issues, compile industry data and research, and develop a performance improvement plan. Key elements of this strategy include:

- establishing industry standards for good environmental practice
- promoting continuous improvement at all levels of the industry
- ensuring that the community is informed about the environmental performance of carpet.

Carpet Industry Environment Management Programs

Life Cycle study of Environmental Impacts of Carpet

The industry has commissioned a study by the RMIT University's Centre for Design to conduct an independent study over the lifecycle of carpet from raw material choice, through manufacture and installation to its eventual removal and disposal, reuse, or recycling.

This study will provide the industry with definitive performance data on which it can act to improve and from which it can continue to benchmark and monitor its performance.

Carpet Life Cycle Waste Management

The objectives are to establish a consolidated industry approach to carpet wastes generated at manufacturing facilities and from installation practices; to achieve an overall reduction in waste generation in the industry and improve opportunities for recycling and reuse of clean carpet wastes. The program will determine the costs involved in post manufacturing and post consumer carpet wastes so that the economics of recycling systems for these wastes can be evaluated.

The program will assess waste streams and examine the feasibility of industry wide reduction initiatives. The primary focus will be on carpet manufacturing and installation wastes. Reuse and recycling technologies and services available for clean carpet off-cuts and other post manufacturing wastes will also be assessed. In addition, there will be an examination of transport and logistics systems that could improve the ability of manufacturers to capture these wastes and consolidate them at central locations for reuse and recycling.

Carpet and Indoor Air Quality

An evaluation of indoor air quality issues and the impacts that carpet has on indoor air quality is being conducted. The industry sees carpet as a beneficial ingredient in the construction of a quality indoor environment, as a product that not only emits little in the way of contaminants, but also benefits the air quality by trapping particulates and absorbing air toxics.

Carpet may be thought of as "the lungs" of a room, with a surface area for air contact and purification many times other indoor surfaces. It has the potential to filter the air through its fibre mass. The industry continues to work at optimizing the benefits of air purification through carpet innovation and design.

Environmental Knowledge Transfer and Education

The Carpet Institute of Australia is developing an industry training program for manufacturers, installers and the carpet retailers. This program will include a package on environmental management to assist the industry to understand the environmental issues and to make improvements in waste reduction, energy conservation and indoor air quality.