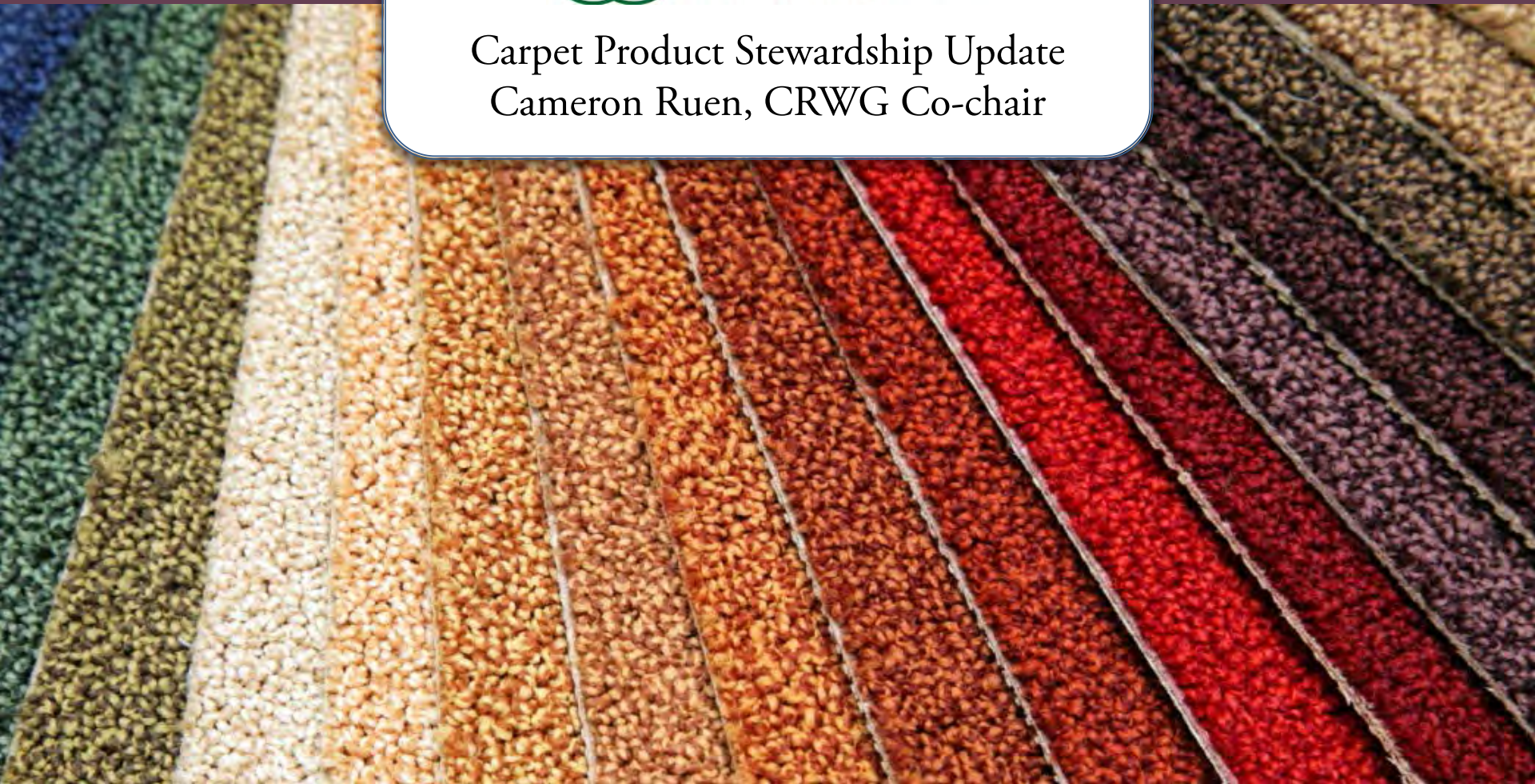
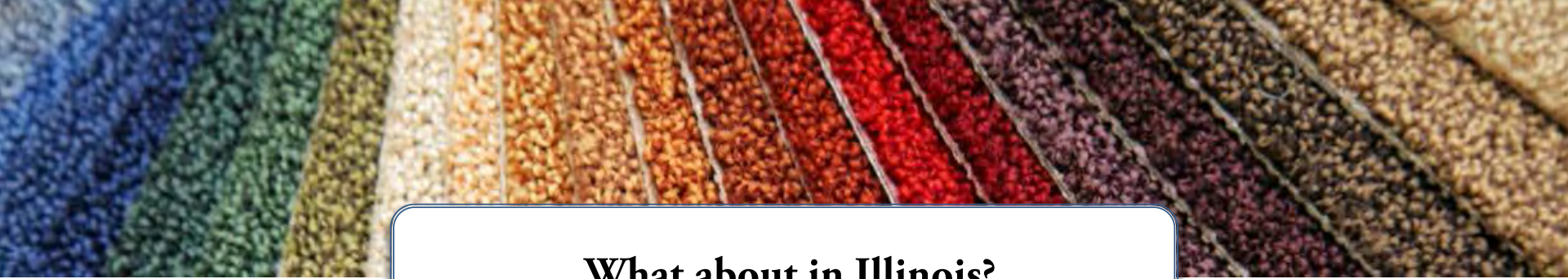




Illinois Carpet Recycling  
Working Group

Carpet Product Stewardship Update  
Cameron Ruen, CRWG Co-chair





## What about in Illinois?

Based on CARE's national estimate of 14 pounds of carpet per person per year, and an Illinois population of 12.8 million, we might estimate that the amount of carpet discarded annually in Illinois is **around 180 million pounds**.

However, based on the 2009 *Illinois Commodity/Waste Generation and Characterization Study\**, it could actually be as **high as 560 million pounds**. According to that same study, carpet and padding are 2% of what is landfilled in Illinois.



\*2009 Illinois Commodity/Waste Generation and Characterization Study: [illinois.gov](http://illinois.gov)



## Foundation of Understanding

- Carpet recycling presents unique challenges: bulky, many materials, needs to remain dry.
- There are various methods of collecting carpet.
- Residential waste collection programs, offering bulk-item pick up for free or low cost, deliver all material to landfill.
- PET is currently difficult to recycle, and presents a cost burden for processors, which threatens the longevity of the current voluntary market-driven approach.
- Process of identification, transportation and processing carpet has high costs.
- Manufacturer responsibility for Design for Environment principals and the end-of-life process of the product.
- Retailers state lack of space for storage, Installers see little incentive





## Why did we form the Illinois CRWG?

- **October 2012:** SWANA IL organized the first **Illinois Carpet Recycling Summit**
- **December 2012:** Carpet Action Plan developed
- **February 2013:** Illinois Carpet Recycling Working Group formation
- **March 2013:** Working group began meeting monthly
- **June 2013:** Carpet Session at the IRA conference
- **July 2013:** [swanainninois.org/carpet](http://swanainninois.org/carpet) launched with resources and drop-off locations
- **October 2013:** 8<sup>th</sup> meeting held, subgroups well established, work happening
- **November 2013:** Carpet session at the ILCSWMA conference
- **January 2014:** Carpet Stewardship Act legislative bill filed, 6 sponsors
- **February 2014:** End Market Development & Best Practices Report complete
- **May 2014:** Toolkit for local government program managers complete
- **June 2014:** Carpet Recycling Toolkit session at the IRA/SWANA Joint Conference
- **June 2014:** [Illinois Product Stewardship Council](#) (ILPSC) formed
- **February 2015:** Carpet Stewardship Act legislative bill filed: [SB 1433](#).
- **April 2015:** IL Carpet Recycling Stakeholders Group convenes



## Collection Models

- Permanent drop-off locations
- Carpet Recycling Collection Events (Kane, Will, DuPage)
- Curbside Programs (pilot program in Oak Park – no longer)
- Carpet Retail Outlets (back-of-house/ not public)





## Illinois Players

- Illinois Carpet Recycling Working Group
- Nick Fiore, CLEAR in Waukegan
- DC Foam Recycle/Wellman Plastics Recycling, LLC
- Phoenix in Aurora
- Midwest Partners: MN, IN, Kruse Carpet Recycling
- Senator Melinda Bush, 31st District (Lake County)
- Illinois Carpet Recovery Stakeholders Group



## Marketing Efforts Overview

- Carpet Recycling Briefing Paper
- Carpet Recycling Action Report
- Website – [swanaininois.org/carpet](http://swanaininois.org/carpet)
- Extended Directory Updates
- Customized Flyer – Residential outreach
- Press Releases and press release templates
- “How To” Guides
- Newsletter articles
- Conference sessions
- Carpet Recycling Summit 2012
- Letters of Support of EPR bill





# The PET Problem







## EPR Bill for Carpet and Pad: 2014 & 2015

- IL Carpet Recycling Working Group (CRWG), established in March 2013, and representing approximately 25 stakeholders supports introducing an EPR bill in 2014 for carpet and pad. Primary reasons are the continued growing market share of PET carpet that is threatening the economic viability of carpet collectors/processors, and the fact that carpet and pad account for about 2% of landfilled materials in IL or 280,000 tons per year.
- The Legislative and Policy Subgroup of the CRWG has developed the broad parameters of an EPR bill:
  - Carpet manufacturers required to utilize CARE as stewardship group
  - A carpet assessment fee will be specified in the bill for PET/PTT/blended carpet fibers only (nylon and polypropylene no fee)



## Illinois Carpet Recycling Stakeholders Group

Senator Melinda Bush has convened a group of stakeholders to maximize the economic and environmental benefits of carpet recycling by identifying strategies and tactics to increase the diversion and recycling of post-consumer carpet diversion and recycling on April 27<sup>th</sup> and June 17<sup>th</sup> to date.





## **SB 1433: MOU Provisions**

1. Designate a CARE/CRI employee as the project manager for Illinois and assist with the administration of the IL Carpet Recycling Working Group and the growth and role of the CRWG in helping educate the public and affected stakeholders (e.g., retailers, installers, recyclers, local government, waste industry), and expanding the collection network in the State. Should dedicate at least 400 hours/year. Possible formal alliance with SWANA-IL Chapter and ILPSC.
2. Assist in the development and implementation/maintenance of a record keeping system to track the collection and management of post-consumer carpet on a statewide basis. Ultimate goal is to understand how much carpet is being diverted, how it is being diverted/processed and ultimately managed.



## **SB 1433: MOU Provisions**

3. Provide research funding to an IL state university and/or research body (e.g. Argonne National Lab) to focus on finding viable markets for PET, PTT and blended carpets. Such markets should focus on IL based uses for carpet as a priority.
4. Provide a grant program of great enough value to attract an end use market user into IL. One possible company is Fiberon Decking.
5. Provide a grant program of great enough value to recyclers for capital items such as equipment and building upgrades that will help recyclers become more profitable.



## **SB 1433: MOU Provisions**

6. Assist in creating a dialogue with retailers and installers to increase collection opportunities (in conjunction and with the support of the CRWG). Goal would be to have retailers provide drop off locations for patrons of their store. This will help capture carpet from both the installers and the do-it-yourselfers. Also assist in creating a dialogue with construction and demolition debris recyclers, and the waste industry in general on developing a more robust collection infrastructure.
  
7. Develop a Carpet Stewardship Plan, with the input of the CRWG and other interested stakeholders, specific for Illinois with provisions similar to those listed in SB 1433 and have it finalized by January 1, 2016.



## Illinois Carpet Recycling Stakeholders Group

Senator Melinda Bush has convened a group of stakeholders to maximize the economic and environmental benefits of carpet recycling by identifying strategies and tactics to increase the diversion and recycling of post-consumer carpet diversion and recycling.

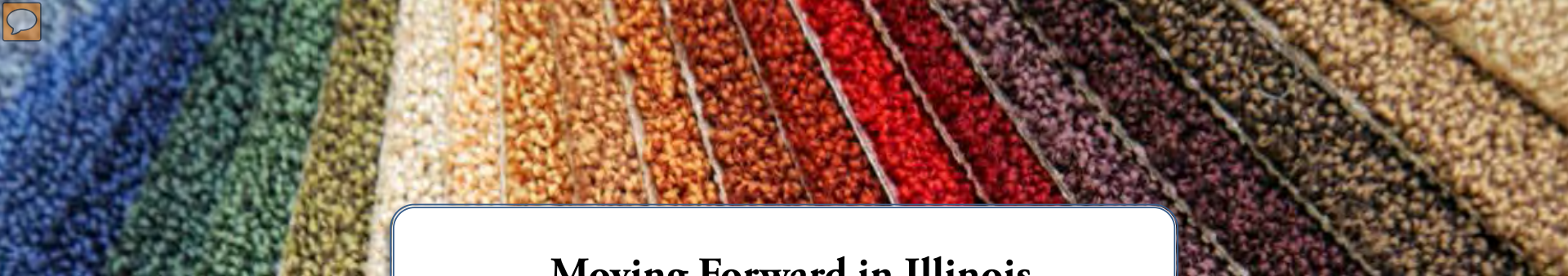
### **Provided from the Carpet Manufacturers as Next Steps:**

1. Baseline Illinois Carpet Collection, Diversion and Recycling (90---120 days)
  - a. Survey all known collectors, sorters and processors of Illinois PCC
  - b. Get Illinois sales data estimates from Torcivia
  - c. Create Illinois Carpet Recovery report



## Illinois Carpet Recycling Stakeholders Group

2. Interview all key players to identify potential opportunities (60---90 days)
  - a. Collectors and Processors (Mark Lienhart and Glenn Odom (Wellman/DC Foam), Nick Fiore, Kasey Wakefield and Dick Kruse, others?)
  - b. Targeted Illinois Retailers, Starnet, Resource, CCA Global, others?
  - c. Government representatives from municipalities
  - d. Walter Willis, et al
  
3. Develop strategic projects for initial focus, i.e. (after interviews)
  - a. Increased diversion and collection with DC Foam
  - b. Commercial collection thru Kruse Recycling
  - c. Potential project TBD with Nick Fiore of CLEAR
  - d. Possible communication/education materials for municipalities



## Moving Forward in Illinois

# WE NEED YOU!

- Spreading the word
- Considering drop-off locations
- Adding on to existing events
- Talking to retailers in community
- Submitting press releases
- Joining the CRWG family
- Promoting product stewardship







## Contact Information

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### SWANCC's Media Outlets:

Informational Elists: [Residents and Educators](#)

Facebook: [Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County](#)

Twitter: [SWANCCtweets](#)

YouTube: [SWANCC Group](#)

