

# Save Money & Create Jobs in New York!

## Support Carpet Recycling Legislation!

New York generates **236 million pounds of waste carpet** each year. Yet, **only 7.8 percent** of it is recycled. The remaining **92.2 percent is dumped into local landfills or burned** in municipal waste-to-energy facilities. This is problematic from an environmental standpoint because carpet **doesn't biodegrade**, and because burning carpet in waste-to-energy facilities releases **greenhouse gases**. It's problematic from a governmental perspective, too, because the bulky nature of carpet makes it costly for municipalities to transport and manage with other household waste items.

The answer is simple: **recycling** funded and managed by carpet manufacturers.



### Recycling carpet is good for the economy

At \$65 per ton, **recycling carpet could save local governments more than \$7.6 million dollars**, collectively, every year. And, it could **create over 700 jobs** for the people of New York State!

### Recycling carpet is good for the planet

Recycling one ton of used carpet into new carpet or other products **reduces greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions** between 4,900 and 5,200 pounds of carbon dioxide equivalents.

If New York recycled all of the carpet it discards, it would be the equivalent of **taking 109,000 cars off the road every year**.

### Other Benefits for New York

- ✓ Expanded recycling opportunities for residents
- ✓ Greater progress toward the state's recycling goal

### Understanding Product Stewardship & EPR

**Product Stewardship** a policy approach that minimizes the health, safety, environmental, and social impacts of products and their packaging after consumers have finished using them.

**Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)** is a legislated type of product stewardship that requires manufacturers to pay for and manage post-consumer products in an environmentally and socially responsible manner.

### DID YOU KNOW?

*The carpet New Yorkers throw away each year could:*

- ✓ Stretch a yard-wide runner to the moon and back 247 times
- ✓ Cover the playing field at Giants Stadium over 9,200 times
- ✓ Cover I-90E and I-90W from Buffalo, NY to the Massachusetts border, including ramps

# Carpet Stewardship System: *Stakeholder Roles + Responsibilities*

<b>Manufacturers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Either work on their own or through a “stewardship organization” to set up, fund, and run a convenient, statewide system for the collection of post-consumer carpet. They will submit a plan to the state for approval, and then provide annual reports on the program’s performance, including third-party audits.</li> <li>• Run a coordinated campaign to inform consumers, contractors, retailers, and wholesalers about the law, and develop educational material about carpet recycling for distribution to consumers.</li> </ul>
<b>Retailers and wholesalers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that the manufacturer of any carpet sold at retail is registered with the state or is part of a registered stewardship organization, and is in compliance with the law. A list of approved manufacturers will be available on the state’s website.</li> <li>• Distribute information to consumers purchasing carpet about the carpet stewardship program, including carpet recycling opportunities.</li> <li>• Arrange for removal and transport of carpet upon consumer request, at the manufacturer’s expense.</li> </ul>
<b>State and local governments</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review and, as appropriate, approve the stewardship organization’s plan and reports, and provide an up-to-date webpage with a list of compliant manufacturers.</li> <li>• Ensure a level playing field for all carpet manufacturers by enforcing compliance with the carpet stewardship law.</li> </ul>
<b>Residents</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Purchase their flooring in the same way they always have, but receive information on how to recycle their used carpet and get access to carpet recycling at no additional cost.</li> <li>• Recycle used carpet.</li> </ul>
<b>Flooring Contractors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transport used carpet to a state-registered collector instead of throwing it away.</li> <li>• Similar to retailers and wholesalers, ensure that the manufacturer of any carpet they install is in compliance with the carpet stewardship law.</li> </ul>

**Save money and create new jobs by supporting carpet recycling legislation this session!**

