

80% support from carpet and textile flooring sector strengthens Carpet Recycling UK

3 years ago



Following significant growth in its membership network, <u>Carpet Recycling UK</u> (CRUK) is seeking more engagement from the construction, facilities management and flooring sectors to act to reduce textile flooring waste such as commercial broadloom carpet, carpet tiles and underlay.

The not-for-profit association reports that working with 80% of the UK's carpet and textile flooring manufacturers and distributors puts it in a stronger position to represent the sector when it comes to discussions on favourable Government policy outcomes.

Support from CRUK's 17 core members comes from Balsan, Betap, Brintons Carpets, Condor Group, Cormar Carpets, ege Carpets, Furlong Flooring, Gradus, Headlam Group, IVC Commercial, Likewise Floors, Milliken, Modulyss, Rawson Carpet Solutions, Shaw, Tarkett and Victoria Group. They are taking voluntary producer responsibility for the products they place on the market and striving to reduce waste in production as well as for their customers, helping to create cost savings.

Commenting on their focus for 2023, Adnan Zeb-Khan, CRUK Scheme Manager says: "In our 15th year, the 80% increase in industry support adds weight to our representation for the sector, recognising the achievements of our members and wider network, as we continue to help the sector to develop sustainably.

"Moving forward, companies will need to demonstrate reductions in use of new resources, design products with recycling in mind, include methods of identification of material make up and consideration of reverse



logistics for take-back and recycling outcomes. Our members are making great strides ahead with many developing products with recycling in mind, from single polymer ranges, to ranges made with recycled content."

For the construction sector, developers and facilities companies interested in sustainable solutions to flooring waste, CRUK offers an extensive network of specialists handling surplus and used textile flooring waste, such as carpet tiles, carpet rolls and clean installation offcuts.

Adnan continues: "New homes flooring contractors, for example, are already segregating carpet and textile flooring waste for reuse and recycling. They recognise the savings in resources and costs associated that they have achieved and the benefit of their connection with us when tendering for new work."

David Heafey is Finance Director of CRUK member Saint Flooring, who implemented waste material recycling throughout the company's nationwide sites in 2019. He says that membership of Carpet Recycling UK is contributing to their sustainability goals and helping to achieve annual savings of up to £170,000 a year on disposal costs by reusing and recycling their waste materials, including carpets. "Carpet Recycling UK supported us throughout and our membership helped us to find partners to recycle the carpet. Without being a member, I do not think we would have had this success."

CRUK's 136-strong membership includes specialist reuse and recycling members repurposing surplus flooring for reuse and recycling in feasible outlets or used as an alternative fuel source. Adnan observes: "Our ultimate aim is to move carpet and textile flooring up the waste hierarchy and create circularity to maximise the use of these resources. Obviously, preventing this material becoming a waste by reusing flooring in new settings is the best outcome for unwanted and surplus material. This helps to provide affordable flooring for social housing tenants and low-cost flooring for property developers. That's why we're inviting companies to discuss their projects with us."

Key to CRUK's work is collecting accurate data on the volume of carpet and textile flooring placed on the market together with tonnages for waste material which is being diverted from landfill – it is estimated that of the 470,000 tonnes arising in 2020, 70% was diverted from landfill. The latest figures due back from the 2021 tonnage survey will be presented at CRUK's annual conference on June 21-22 for which early registration is advised.

"Given the heightened interest in legislation issues, developments and challenges surrounding the treatment of textile flooring related wastes, we're expecting high demand for our conference," adds Adnan. "In just 15 years, we have come a long way in developing solutions for carpet and textile waste that preserve valuable resources and reduce costs for the supply chain.

"We want to reach more companies who would like to find sustainable solutions for their waste carpet and textile flooring material that help to reduce the impact this waste stream has on the environment. Thanks to our rapidly growing network, we can help you."

For our Directory and more information, email: info@carpetrecyclinguk.com or visit www.carpetrecyclinguk.com.