

**The Facts about Carpet and Sustainability**  
*For Health Care Administrators and Facility Managers*

Making the right decisions about carpet starts with having the facts. That is why the Carpet and Rug Institute (CRI) sponsors scientific research and gathers data from independent sources to help professionals and the public make educated flooring choices. **Visit [carpet-rug.org](http://carpet-rug.org) to learn more.**

Issue

*The carpet industry is reducing its impact on the environment for present and future generations.*

What You Should Know

- The carpet industry is concerned about the amount of old carpet that ends up in landfills each year. Carpet manufacturers are voluntarily addressing this problem by recycling old carpet materials back into carpet production, recycling old carpet into alternative uses such as building materials and auto parts, refurbishing old carpet into new carpet tiles and even hauling away old carpet so it can be reused or recycled.
  - Boulder Community Foothills Hospital (BCFH) in Colorado used carpet tile with high recycled content in its new maternity and pediatric service facility. Carpet at BCFH averages 42 percent recycled content. The new carpet tile has 63 percent because more recycled content is being put into in the carpet backing.
- Through the **Carpet America Recovery Effort (CARE)**, carpet companies, government entities and product suppliers are working to develop market-based solutions for the recycling and use of post-consumer carpet. For more, visit [carpetrecovery.org](http://carpetrecovery.org).
  - It is estimated that recycling carpet recycling efforts currently saves about 200 million pounds of waste from being deposited in US landfills.
- Learn more about how The many ways the carpet industry has reduced its environmental footprint can be found in the **CRI Sustainability Reports**, which can be accessed from the CRI home page by clicking on Carpet and the Environment. Here are just two examples:
  - The carpet industry is one of the only industries in the United States that voluntarily meets the Kyoto Protocol for carbon dioxide emissions. The emissions level today is the same as it was in 1990, even though yet the industry produces 47 percent more product.
  - The amount of energy and water used to produce a square yard of carpet has fallen by 70 percent and 46 percent, respectively, since 1990.