

The Facts about Carpet and Sustainability *For School 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 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 hauling away carpet from customers to be reused or recycled.
 - Third Creek Elementary School in Statesville, NC, used recycled-content carpet to meet its “green” goal of having recycled content in more than 50 percent of the building materials for this 92,000 square-foot-facility.
 - The Kennedy School at Harvard University renovated its 2,400-square-foot computer lab using carpet tiles made from six-year-old carpet that was cleaned, retextured and restyled using modern carpet designs.
- 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. Visit carpetrecovery.org.
- Learn more about how the carpet industry is reducing its environmental footprint in the **CRI Sustainability Reports**, which can be accessed from the CRI home page by clicking on Carpet Industry. 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 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.