

## 'Question Time' Workshop Summaries

Funded by:

### WORKSHOP ONE - 'Carpets and Flooring'

Facilitator: Jane Gardner, Carpet Recycling UK

#### Key Questions on increasing collection, reprocessing and end markets for carpets and flooring?

##### Who is responsible?

- *Producer responsibility and designing for recycling*
  - *Legislation will play a big part in any change to manufacture*

##### Reverse Logistics as the best collection method?

- *Retailer/fitters/manufacturers as common practice run 'take-back' scheme's when fitting new carpet*
  - *Underlay and carpet stored in separate bins?*
  - *Waste collection or trip to commercial waste site when full*
    - *Lack of trade waste sites/acceptance*
- *Wholesaler as a bulking point?*
  - *Lack of space/willingness/responsibility at present*

##### Waste routes

- *EfW options overseas most economically viable/profitable than UK markets*
- *Markets/recycling companies accepting carpets on the increase*
  - *Landfill tax increases improving comparative costs*

##### What are the barriers or issues with recycling/reprocessing?

- *Quality & Geographical coverage*
  - *Frequent collection (from stores or bulking points), suitable storage and space is a problem*
- *Costs*
  - *Collecting a single material can prove more costly if the collection points are spread over a large area.*
  - *Gate fees can be comparable to landfill but the transportation costs adds on more*
- *Quality*
  - *The best material needs to be clean, dry and have been kept undercover. this poses issues for smaller organizations who only have the space for a single bin*
  - *Lower quality material can potentially be taken by reprocessors/WM companies at a lower rate*
- *Segregation - How should this be done?*
  - *At source enables the material to be reprocessed as it is more likely to be 'clean'*
  - *After collection segregation can mean the carpet is contaminated and its only use is EFW*

## WORKSHOP TWO - 'Mattresses and Soft Furnishings'

Facilitator: Andrew Kent, Remade South East

### Key questions on increasing collection, reprocessing and end markets for mattresses and soft furnishings?

#### **Re-use potential of foam from furniture?**

- *Eco-matt already send this material back to manufacturer for re-use*
- *However these 'take back' options aren't always available and what regulations /health and safety restrictions / treatments needed for re-use in new furniture?*

#### **Local Authority preferences and schemes?**

- *Why do LA's support EfW rather than re-use?*
  - *Easier process to shred if infrastructure/collection scheme for bulky waste is in place*
  - *Less control needed over contamination*
- *For mattress re-use it is easier to work with manufacturers rather than LA's?*
  - *Collection/storage needs to be clean and dry*
  - *Different authorities offer different services*
    - *Limited commercial waste sites available*
    - *Domestic Doorstep collections (chargeable and free)*
    - *Domestic acceptance through HWRCs*
- *Social Enterprises allow localized service and job creation?*
  - *Funding available however careful implementation needed for sustainable business model past funding period.*
  - *End markets need to be in place to start any re-use/recycling operation*

#### **Availability of mattresses?**

- *Increase in efw capacity a threat to recycling/re-use?*
  - *As capacity increases mattresses availability may fall favoring mixed bulky waste shred*
- *'take back' schemes on the increase*
  - *Education needed for increase of 'take back' scheme by retailers to customers.*
- *Consumer training and awareness needed*

#### **Hygiene and H&S legislation?**

- *When is a mattress classed as waste?*
  - *This has an effect on who can handle it and where it can go*
- *Charitable organizations can accept as a donation for re-use*
- *Sanitation a concern?*
  - *Hospitality sector have constant flow of people using mattresses – is this any different to re-use?*

#### **Recycling barriers and end markets?**

- *Need for 'design for recycling' as the different components within different mattresses make recycling more complicated*
  - *Springs require several runs through a shearer and regular maintenance required on machines*