

I think the new proposals included in Addendum 2 are a step in the right direction, but I don't believe they go far enough. It is nice that the industry is willing to grant or loan some of the money they have collected to other people who they hope will solve this problem. But the truth is that the only people who can solve this problem are the members of the carpet industry themselves. They have bemoaned the fact that nobody has stepped up to recycle their discarded products. While grants or loans are welcome, the reality is that they are unlikely to provide sufficient incentive, and will likely languish or be soaked up by limited efforts that do little to help.

There are simple steps the industry can take to ensure that leftover carpet is recycled into new products. They can build recycling facilities in California themselves to accept these products, and commit to developing the technology to efficiently separate the carpet components into reusable materials. They can also commit to using the recycled material in new products which they manufacture themselves. Yes, this will require investment. But the money is already being provided, and has only to be used appropriately.

If we accept Addendum 2 as it stands, a year from now the industry will be back with their hands in the air, saying nobody took them up on their generous offer, whining about "market conditions," and asking once again to be let off the hook. Let's create a real, meaningful program now. Why wait?

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