

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RECYCLE YOUR OLD CARPET IN TEHAMA COUNTY

What do you do with your old carpet after it is ripped out of your home or office? In Tehama County old carpet is being collected at the Tehama County/Red Bluff Landfill for recycling into new products. In the last seven months we have recycled over 74,000 pounds of carpet. Now that is a lot of carpet! As you can see, we are great recyclers of carpet in Tehama County.

Why recycle carpet, you may wonder? Old carpet presents an issue for landfills as it is hard to compact and takes up a lot of landfill space. In fact carpet is one of the top ten most prevalent materials disposed of in California. Because of this, in 2010 California became the first state in the nation to pass legislation supporting a product stewardship approach for recycling waste carpet. Product stewardship laws are a shared responsibility approach that make producers responsible for the products they create at end-of-life. This approach relieves governments and taxpayers from the high costs of product disposal and encourages manufacturers to make more sustainable products. The organization that was chosen to implement and administer the carpet stewardship plan is Carpet America Recovery Effort (CARE). California's carpet stewardship law is not a complete product stewardship approach as it does not cover the full cost of recycling carpet. It is more of a market based approach that places an environmental fee of five cents per square yard of carpet sold in California. For example, if a typical two-bedroom house needed 100 square yards of carpet then the environmental fee would be \$5.00. The environmental fee does not fully fund the recycling of carpet, but is an incentive given to processors and recyclers to encourage the recycling of carpet.

In 2012, Tehama County, along with five other rural counties, began a pilot carpet recycling program, which has now expanded to include ten rural counties. Carpet can be brought to the Tehama County/Red Bluff Landfill during normal operating hours. Self-haulers that choose to segregate carpet from their loads are charged a reduced tipping fee of \$41.90 per ton as compared to \$55.05 per ton for mixed loads (the minimum charge for loads 320 pounds and under is \$7.69). Carpet should be rolled up with the fiber side in and debris and tack strip free. Carpet pad should be rolled up separately. As a reminder, the landfill only accepts waste generated in Tehama County.

While carpet may bring in less revenue for the landfill through reduced tipping fees, recycling of the carpet, as well as other products, provides benefits such as extending the life of the landfill and conserving resources. Diverting material, especially material that takes up lots of space, from the landfill enables Tehama County to operate our landfill longer. Additionally, when carpet and other materials are recycled, they are broken down and made into new products,

thereby saving resources and lessening our impact on the environment. Some products that can be made from recycled carpet include traffic signs, laminate flooring, composite decking, sediment and erosion control products, as well as more carpet. For more information please visit our website www.tehamacountylandfill.com or call us at (530) 528-1103.