Do you have questions about investing in real estate? Are you looking to increase your portfolio? Come to RHA’s Investment Club led by Michelle Broderson, in the RHA conference room. It is a monthly meeting of people new to the world of real estate investing and those seasoned professionals. Some of the topics you can look forward to discussing include: increasing your cash flow, financing, buying foreclosures/auctions/short sales, multi-family investments and actually penciling out a deal. Bring your questions and your expertise.

The more people we have participating, the more that is brought to the table and the more you gain out of the experience. Bring your friends!

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RECYCLE USED CARPET—DON’T TOSs IT IN THE LANDFILL

From Shiri Axelrod, Seattle Public Utilities

A bout 50,000 tons of used carpet—100 million pounds!—is typically thrown in the trash every year in Seattle and King County, either in mixed garbage or in loads of building materials. Yet carpet can be recycled, and current efforts locally make it easier for you to do so.

In a landfill, carpet sits forever. The energy, water, and chemicals used to make it remain in a useless state, while virgin petroleum is imported to make new carpet.

Reuse and recycling change this equation for the better. Compared to landfilling, recycling carpet saves energy and greenhouse gas emissions. Recovered material is re-manufactured for either new carpet or other products.

Carpet manufacturers, flooring sellers, and local recyclers provide you a route to saving material, gaining green building credit, and avoiding landfilling.

How can you recycle carpet? Here are some options to consider:

When you buy new carpet, secure recycling/recovery service for your old carpet at the time. Buy from companies that will recycle your old carpet.

Ask the sellers/installers what recycling service they will provide, and get documentation if you’re seeking Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) credit (www.usgbc.org/DisplayPage.aspx?CategoryID=19).

Write in carpet recycling in remodel/renovation job specifications. The method of removing flooring and handling the removed carpet is likely to affect the recyclability; your job specs and instructions to the people on the job are important to keep the value of the used carpet so the material is not contaminated or spoiled.

Before used carpeting is removed, identify ahead of time the parties who will transport and receive it for recycling rather than landfilling. Choose recycling either directly with the carpet manufacturer or seller you do business with, or by arranging with a recycling hauler and receiving facility that will document their recovery rates for your jobs.

Keep it clean: The more your materials are kept from being mixed with garbage or contaminated by unknown or suspect materials, the better results for recyclability. Carpet torn up with vinyl tile, for instance, may be contaminated with asbestos in the tile or adhesives. Carpet used as a “drop cloth”, or used to wrap up renovation wastes, is likely to be rejected from recycling.

Compare the costs: Recycling building materials costs less than disposing as garbage, with tipping fees around $60 per ton rather than up to $130 per ton. (Seattle charges $130 per ton for landfilling.)

In the Puget Sound region, you’ll find carpet manufacturers and many flooring sellers capable of providing recycling. Companies that transport or haul building materials can direct the lots to receiving facilities for sorting, consolidation, and processing.


For information on recycling carpet in Seattle and King County, visit: your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/wdidw/category.asp?CatID=5&MatID=38.

You can also find information on a number of other recyclable building materials:

• Recycled building materials:
  • Aluminum: www.aluminum.org/what_makes_aluminum_special.html
  • Glass: www.national Glass Council.org
  • Plastic: www.plasticsnews.com

You can search for recycling facilities near your location by going to Recyclesite.com.


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