

Press contact: Miriam Gordon, GAIA, [\(415\) 902-5196](tel:4159025196)

April 14, 2017

**California Carpet Controversy:
CalRecycle Hearing Tomorrow to Examine Carpet Industry Accountability**

(Sacramento) Tomorrow, [CalRecycle](#), California's agency for recycling, faces off with the Georgia-based carpet industry on carpet waste management. California consumers pay a \$.25/square yard fee for the industry association, Carpet America Recovery Effort (CARE), to implement recycling. CARE has collected over \$27 million from California carpet buyers.

According to a new report released today, Miriam Gordon from the [Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives \(GAIA\)](#), the carpet industry has increased its incineration of discarded carpet more than it has increased recycling efforts.

"The California law mandates that the carpet industry establish a program to recycle carpet waste," explains **Miriam Gordon**, report author. "What CARE has done so far and proposes to do in the next five years is to rely more on incinerating carpet than recycling it. If California consumers knew that the fees they pay when they buy carpet adds to toxic exposures in low income communities, and that the money hasn't really increased recycling, I think they would feel ripped off."

"All we want is a carpet recycling program that works for California" states Heidi Sanborn, Executive Director of the National Stewardship Action Council. "CalRecycle has confirmed our position that the CARE program going from 8-10% recycling in 6 years is not meeting the legislative standard of "continuous and meaningful improvement" - it's imperative we fix this program in 2017".

At the CalRecycle hearing on April 18th, the Director will consider staff recommendations to reject the CARE plan for the next five years and could levy fines of \$10,000/day per company. CalRecycle has already filed an accusation to fine CARE almost \$3.3 million for failing to meet 2013-15 goals. The days of giving consumer fee money to producer run programs may be in the past if there's not enough authority given to the state agencies like CalRecycle to ensure producers do what is best for California's fee payers, businesses, and local governments.

More Info: [GAIA](#) and <https://calpsc.org/products/carpet/>