

The background of the image is a collage of various textile materials. At the top, there are several layers of light brown, textured fabric. To the left, there is a piece of white paper with a grid pattern. Below that, there are some decorative items: a string of yellow beads, a string of green beads, and a small pink bowl containing dried flowers. At the bottom, there are several rolls of fabric in various shades of green and blue, with different textures and patterns.

Carnegie

Responsible Return Program

A take-back program designed to keep materials in motion and out of landfill.

Contact responsiblereturn@carnegiefabrics.com
www.carnegiefabrics.com/responsible-return-program

Why does recycling matter to us?

As Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) policies for textiles continue to grow, Carnegie is actively expanding its recycling efforts. Our materials are designed with responsible chemistry in mind—PVC-free, totally chlorine-free, and free of heavy metals, plasticizers, and stabilizers. They are also manufactured in a way that reduces emissions such as carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, hydrocarbons, sulfur dioxide, and particulate matter.

We have long pursued a circular design approach—extending the useful life of materials and diverting them from landfill. According to one study, each pound of waste from apparel production is associated with 2.06 pounds of CO₂-equivalent emissions.¹ Our recycling partners provide detailed reports tracking total tonnage diverted from landfill and corresponding CO₂ emissions avoided.

The urgency is clear: the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency reports that landfills received over 11.3 million tons of textile waste.² Globally, the textile industry is a major contributor to pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. Textile waste presents additional challenges at end of life—natural fibers can take years to decompose, while synthetic fibers may not fully decompose at all. Even biodegradable materials like wool release methane and carbon dioxide during decomposition, contributing to greenhouse gas accumulation.

In the United States, approximately 75% of pre-consumer textile waste is recycled, while only 15% of post-consumer textile waste is recovered. On average, each American discards roughly 70 pounds of textile waste annually—totaling nearly 13 million tons per year. **These realities reinforce the importance of designing materials—and systems—that keep textiles in use longer.**

11.3

million tons of textile waste are sent to U.S. landfills each year (EPA)

•

13

million tons of textile waste generated annually in the U.S.

•

70

lbs per person average textile waste discarded each year

•

2.06

lbs of CO₂e generated for every 1 lb of apparel production waste

•

15%

recycled of post-consumer textile waste (vs. 75% pre-consumer)

Recycling Pathways for Carnegie Materials

At the end of their useful life, Carnegie materials can be recovered and diverted from landfill through several pathways:

1. Downcycling

Discarded fabrics can be shredded and repurposed into lower-value applications such as wiping cloths, carpet padding, and sound insulation. While this extends material use, these products may eventually reach end of life.

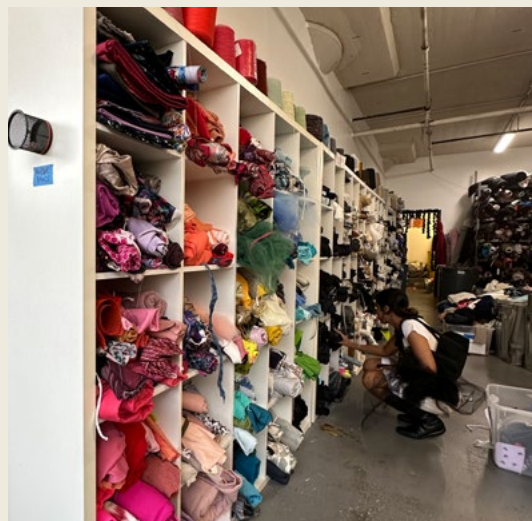
2. Upcycling

Textile waste can be transformed into higher-value products by designers, students, and artisans—supporting creative reuse and extending material value.

3. Waste-to-Energy

Materials that cannot be separated, such as paperbacked Xorel®, are sent to modern waste-to-energy facilities. These facilities convert non-recyclable waste into electricity for homes and businesses or steam for industrial use—reducing reliance on landfill disposal.

Additionally, unbacked Xorel can be safely reprocessed and downcycled into secondary consumer products such as bottles for milk, water, and cleaning products, as well as packaging and containers.



How to Return Samples

Keep your library current—without the waste

We believe reusing sample memos not only reduces waste, but also helps keep your sample library and workspace organized. Returning samples is quick, easy, and designed to fit into your workflow.

How It Works

1. Gather your samples

Collect any Carnegie memos you no longer need.

2. Reuse the original packaging

All sample shipments include reusable packaging—simply place your samples back inside and reseal.

3. Attach your return label

Use the included USPS prepaid return label, or generate a new one below.

4. Send it back

Drop the package in your mailbox or [schedule a USPS pickup](#).

Need a new return label?

Generate a prepaid return label [here](#) and send your samples back with ease.

Why return samples?

- Reduce material waste
- Keep your library clean and up to date
- Help extend the life of existing materials

Good to Know

- No minimum quantity required
- No sorting needed
- Only Carnegie samples are accepted

How to Return Xorel®

What Xorel materials can be returned?

All Xorel materials can be returned, including previously installed wallcoverings and textiles in any backed or unbacked construction.

All types of Xorel are accepted, including:

- Swatches
- Headends
- Cuttings
- Production scraps
- Yardage
- Previously installed yardage

Where should Xorel be sent?

Carnegie Fabrics
110 North Center Avenue
Rockville Centre, NY 11570

A **Reclamation Authorization Form** must be completed prior to shipment per fabric.

How should materials be prepared?

- Keep materials dry and clean
- Remove contaminants (nails, screws, debris)
- Package securely to maintain condition during transit

Who is responsible for shipping?

The customer is responsible for shipping materials to Carnegie.

Why can't some Xorel be recycled or downcycled?

Certain constructions (such as acrylic or paperbacked Xorel) cannot be recycled or downcycled due to similar material densities and permanently bonded layers that cannot be separated through conventional recycling systems. In these cases, materials are diverted to waste-to-energy facilities, where they are converted into electricity or steam for industrial use—reducing landfill impact.

How to Return Non-Xorel Fabrics

What materials are accepted?

All types of fabric are accepted, including:

- Swatches
- Headends
- Cuttings
- Production scraps
- Yardage

Where should materials be sent?

Carnegie Fabrics
110 North Center Avenue
Rockville Centre, NY 11570

A **Reclamation Authorization Form** must be completed prior to shipment per fabric.

Alternatively, materials can be sent directly to one of our landfill diversion partners:

Option 1: ReCircled

3200 Road 101
Sidney, NE 69162

- **Minimums:** None
- **Sorting:** Not required—materials do not need to be grouped by content
- **Process:** Items are sorted as usable or unusable. Unusable materials are sent to recycling partners to be reconstituted into raw materials and new textiles.

Option 2: FABSCRAP

140 58th Street
Brooklyn Army Terminal, Building B, Unit 5H-4
Brooklyn, NY 11220

- **Minimums:** None
- **Sorting:** Not required
- **Recycling:** Materials are shredded into insulation, carpet padding, furniture lining, moving blankets, and more. Fiber-to-fiber recycling is used when possible (100% cotton, polyester, and wool).
- **Reuse:** Usable materials are made available to designers, students, artists, and makers for creative reuse.

How should materials be prepared?

- Keep materials dry and clean
- Remove contaminants (nails, screws, debris)
- Package securely to maintain condition during transit

Who is responsible for shipping?

The customer is responsible for shipping materials.

General FAQs

Does this program support LEED credits?

Yes. Participation can contribute to LEED Materials & Resources Credits (Construction Waste Management 2.1 and 2.2) by helping divert construction and demolition waste from landfill and incineration.

Do I need to meet a minimum quantity?

No—there are no minimum quantity requirements.

Do materials need to be separated by type?

No. Our partners use proprietary sorting systems and will separate materials as needed.

What happens to the materials after collection?

Materials are sorted for reuse, recycling, or energy recovery:

- Reusable materials are repurposed by designers, students, and makers
- Recyclable materials are processed into new raw materials or secondary products
- Non-recyclable materials are diverted to waste-to-energy facilities and converted into electricity or steam for industrial use

How is impact measured?

Each pound of textile waste is associated with approximately 2.06 pounds of CO₂-equivalent emissions. Our partners provide reporting on total tonnage diverted from landfill and corresponding emissions savings.

For general inquiries, please contact responsiblereturn@carnegiefabrics.com