



June-July 2008

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Architectural Wall  
Systems

Volume 1, Issue 3



# NYU Green Room

## Certification Criteria:

Climate Cool



Cradle to Cradle



Fair Trade



Energy Star



SCS



Green Guard



LEED



### Green Organizations

- Carpet and Rug Institute-(CRI)  
[www.carpet-rug.com](http://www.carpet-rug.com)
- USGBC- U.S. Green Building Council-  
[www.usgbc.org](http://www.usgbc.org)
- CARE-Carpet America Recovery Effort  
[www.carpetrecovery.org](http://www.carpetrecovery.org)
- NYU-Sustainability-  
[www.nyu.edu/sustainability](http://www.nyu.edu/sustainability)

## Rolling Out The Green Carpet.

By Giselle Graham –NYU- Purchasing Services

Carpet can play a significant role in the overall impression of a space by adding comfort to small spaces and human scale to imposing interiors. It absorbs sound and thus cuts down on noise. Its natural insulating qualities also can reduce heating and air conditioning costs. First and foremost, you must identify the needs of the environment to determine what type of carpet will be appropriate. Then you must determine what type of carpet construction is required. A dense, low pile height, loop pile carpet is great for heavy traffic areas. For offices and other areas with light foot traffic, cut-pile is an option.

There are two versions of carpet you can select from, broadloom and modular tiles, both of which are available with sustainable features.

**Modular Carpet:** is most commonly specified for commercial use. It is the

recommended option for large open areas with fixed furniture. It offers disruption free maintenance. Damaged, stained and worn tiles can be easily replaced one at a time without having to break down your furniture system. Proper maintenance extends the product life and the overall cost of the carpet.

**Broadloom Carpet:** is mostly used in corridors or in areas where the furniture is modular. It is available as tufted or woven. Tufted is created by a process in which hundreds of yarn pieces are embedded into the backing. For woven carpet, pile yarns are intricately interlaced into the foundation creating a very strong bond.

Next step in your decision making should be to determine how the carpet is dyed. There are 5 methods to choose from:

**Solution Dyeing**– the color is inserted directly into yarn during extrusion.

The color is through the yarn which offers excellent cleanability and colorfastness. This is the preferred option within a University environment

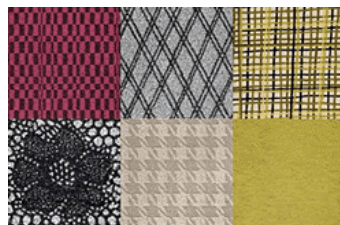
**Stock Dyeing**– color is applied after the yarn is extruded.

**Yarn Dyeing**– the finished yarn is dyed.

**Printing**– Color is applied digitally on finished carpet

**Piece Dyeing**– Dye is injected into the face of the carpet in a continuous process.

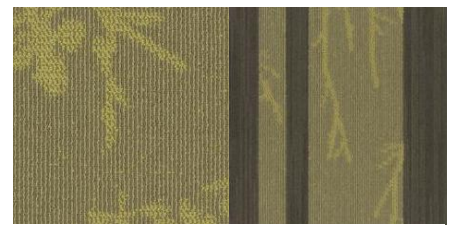
Last but not least, choosing the right color and pattern can determine the amount of soil you can disguise. Medium value colors and smaller random patterns can reduce the visible effects of soiling.



InterfaceFlor– Variety



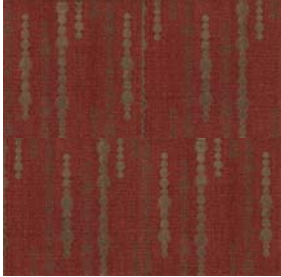
Shaw Contract– Swirl Tile



Shaw– Bloom Plush and Vivid Shadow

## For your Consideration

By Giselle Graham –NYU- Purchasing Services



Lees– Istanbul Carpet Tiles

When it comes time to specify carpet for the university, there are three sustainable considerations to be made—design and purpose; maintenance during useful life; and end-of-life options.

Here are a few questions to ask yourself when selecting carpet :

1. Is the design patterns compatible with the new surroundings and is the carpet backing system appropriate for the expected wear?
2. Does it contain PVC or other chemicals that could affect indoor air quality?
3. How long will the designs be available in case you need to replace a carpet tile?
4. What are estimated down time for installation?
5. What are the warranties?
6. What are the end-of-life options?

Modular carpet is much easier to maintain. It offers disruption free maintenance reducing down time. Proper maintenance can extend the product life and reduce the overall cost of the carpet.

The university recommends using manufacturers who can provide installation and maintenance procedures for their products. You can also reference The Carpet and Rug Institute’s (CRI) carpet installation Standard and its Care and Maintenance procedures.

The typical useful life of a carpet is anywhere from 5 to 15 years, depending on what type of environment it is installed in. Carpet in corridors and student lounges will be changed more frequently than in private faculty or administrative offices. Since landfill disposal is no longer an option, carpet companies have come up with acceptable solutions. Renewal through a closed loop system, reuse through donations and recycling of components into new carpet are all great options to avoid burdening landfills.

The Carpet America Recovery Effort (CARE) is a joint effort between the carpet industry and government to increase the amount of recycling and reuse of post-consumer carpet and reduce the carpet waste going to landfills.

The American National Standard Institute (ANSI) has approved a unified standard for sustainable carpet called the NSF 140-2007 to help make sound purchasing decisions for carpet and remove the angst from the green certification process. [www.nsf.org/info/carpet](http://www.nsf.org/info/carpet).

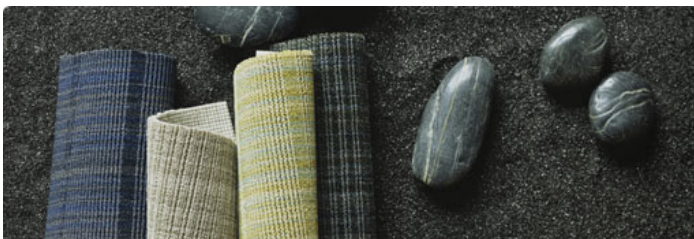
If your selected carpet has been certified to this new standard you can rest assured that it will meet performance requirements and have a lower environmental impact.

There are two organizations that can offer independent certification services for NSF 140-2007; these are Scientific Certification Systems (SCS) and NSF International. Also keep in mind that carpets certified under this new standard can contribute towards LEED credits as well.

The bottom line is that the tools to specify and maintain carpet in an environmentally responsible manner are available but seeking out the options is the first step.

"We have a moral responsibility to protect the earth and ensure that our children and grandchildren have a healthy and sustainable environment in which to live."

— Jim Clyburn



Karastan- Poetry In Motion– Woven Broadloom



Bentley Prince St– Blaze



Collins & Aikman– Kasuri

# Power Is Blowing in the Wind

By Giselle Graham –NYU- Purchasing Services

Steelcase is the largest purchaser of U.S. wind power credits in the office furniture industry. It also joins the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Green Power Leadership Club.” With this initiative alone, they will help eliminate more than 61 Million pounds of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere each year according to Steelcase’s Corporate Responsibility report.

“The power expected to be generated by the wind farm on an annual basis represents approximately 20 percent of the power Steelcase Facilities require in the US, and equals more than three times the energy necessary to fully power the Steelcase global headquarters building in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Steelcase has named this pro-

ject the Wege Wind Energy Farm, in honor of Peter Wege, a Michigan environmentalist, Steelcase founding family member and former board member” according to the Environmental News Network .

Wind power is the conversion of wind energy into useful form, such as electricity by using wind turbines. It is produced in large scale wind farms that are connected to electrical grids. The energy from this wind is renewable , abundant, clean and reduces greenhouse gas emissions.

With today’s rising coal and gas prices, wind plants are competing favorably against the more conventional power sources.

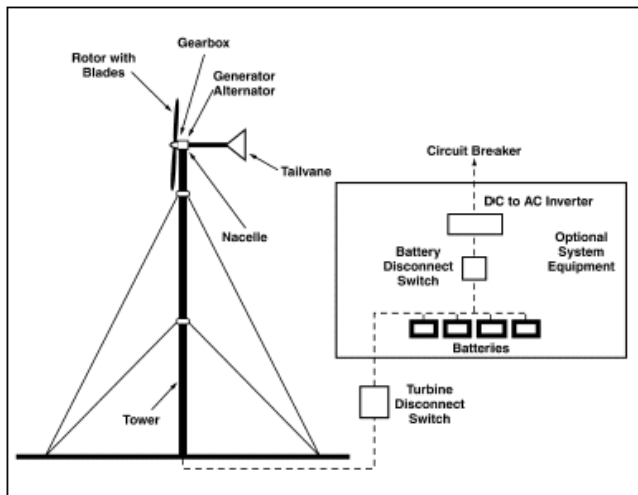
With NYU’s impending purchase of some 118,000,000 KWh of wind

power, makes our collaboration with Steelcase that much more significant. Combined forces between the university and Steelcase can make the transition to wind power more attractive to other vendors that we deal with on a day to day basis.

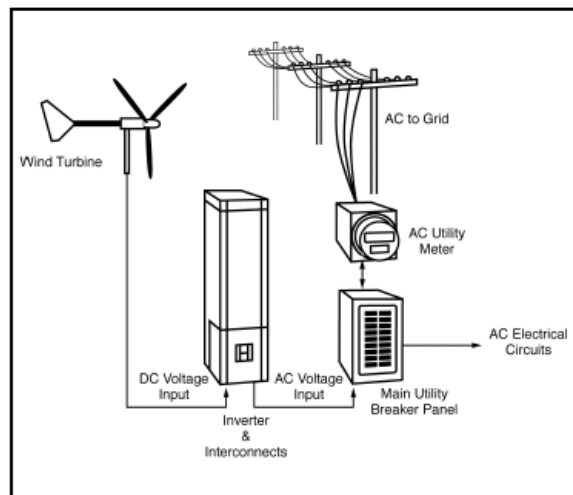
Global warming from CO2 is a problem faced by all of us today. Wind energy is a remarkable resource that can reduce the impact of burning fossil fuel and preserve our planet for the next generation to come.



3-Bladed wind turbine-



Wind Energy System- (Source: Natural Resources Canada)



Grid-Tied Wind Electric System- (Source: Phantom Electron Corp)