



Alex Elvin <alexanderelvin@gmail.com>

Question about recycling costs for artificial turf

3 messages

Pollard, Lindsey D <Lindsey_Pollard@uml.edu>
To: "alexanderelvin@gmail.com" <alexanderelvin@gmail.com>
Cc: "Massey, Rachel I" <Rachel_Massey@uml.edu>

Fri, Dec 18, 2020 at 1:05 PM

Hello Alex,

Thank you for your question about artificial turf recycling costs. Taking end of life costs into account is helpful in the planning stages, especially for artificial turf, as many companies suggest replacing after around 8-10 years.

TURI has presented information on [artificial turf disposal](#). However information about costs and the overall feasibility of recycling artificial turf is generally unavailable for consumers. Current evidence shows that most used artificial turf is not recycled. One reason for this could be the cost of transportation, especially if it must be shipped to a specialized recycling facility overseas. A recent article in [The Seattle Times](#) also demonstrates how reuse of artificial turf for other purposes can be problematic. It may be useful to ask for this information from the vendor and request an example of a previous field that was recycled, and a full account of steps taken to achieve a recycled material.

Are you willing to share the deadline for your review? If you have some time, I will talk with a few colleagues that may have more to offer on this subject and will get back with you.

Take care,

Lindsey

Lindsey Pollard
Toxics Use Reduction Institute,
University of Massachusetts, Lowell
978-934-3198
www.turi.org

Alex Elvin <alexanderelvin@gmail.com>
To: "Pollard, Lindsey D" <Lindsey_Pollard@uml.edu>

Fri, Dec 18, 2020 at 4:34 PM

Hi Lindsey,

Thanks for your reply. The project on the Vineyard is scheduled for a public hearing on Jan. 14, so feel free to forward any additional info before then. I appreciate your help.

Alex

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Alex Elvin
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Martha's Vineyard Commission
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(413) 884-3289

Pollard, Lindsey D <Lindsey_Pollard@uml.edu>
To: Alex Elvin <alexanderelvin@gmail.com>
Cc: "Massey, Rachel I" <Rachel_Massey@uml.edu>

Thu, Jan 7, 2021 at 1:27 PM

Hi Alex, Thanks for your patience as I dug into the topic a little more. I have checked with a few colleagues about pricing, but they were not able to readily identify a recycling estimate.

Since recycling is an important issue for your project, I thought I would share some additional links that explain the complexity of the recycling issue for synthetic turf. You may find these articles in [The Atlantic](#) and [Environmental Health News](#) to be useful. In addition, this documentary from [Zembla](#) describes recycling-related challenges in Europe. Since there is a lack of recycling facilities in the US, these findings have some relevance here as well.

Healthy Building Network recently published a [Hazard Spectrum](#) providing general guidance on selecting healthy athletic field options. They make the following statement about recycling synthetic turf:

“Current evidence suggests that most turf and infill is not recycled. Lack of turf recycling could mean significant impacts when these installed turf fields reach their end of life. Furthermore, an estimated 1-4% of the plastic infill on a field is lost each year and may become a source of microplastic pollution, which is a growing environmental concern.”

A [report from CalRecycle](#) on recycling and reuse options for synthetic turf also describes a number of challenges related to recycling.

I also checked with Recycling Works Massachusetts to learn about options for recycling synthetic turf in Massachusetts specifically. They found some reuse programs for used synthetic turf, but most recycling outlets will not take a field in its entirety as it is difficult to separate the infill from the plastic carpet.

I hope this information is useful for you. If you learn more about recycling costs, I'd be interested to hear what you learn. Please let me know if I can answer any other questions related to our work with athletic fields.

Take care,

Lindsey

From: Alex Elvin <alexanderelvin@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, December 18, 2020 4:34 PM
To: Pollard, Lindsey D <Lindsey_Pollard@uml.edu>
Subject: Re: Question about recycling costs for artificial turf

This e-mail originated from outside the UMass Lowell network.

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VIDEO LINK: What happens to plastic and polluting artificial turf?

[https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#search/TURI/
FMfcgwxwKjxBIGQcQgWtbbZMNVVkbhCpr?projector=1](https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#search/TURI/FMfcgwxwKjxBIGQcQgWtbbZMNVVkbhCpr?projector=1)



Alex Elvin <alexanderelvin@gmail.com>

Cost of recycling synthetic turf

1 message

Alex Elvin <alexanderelvin@gmail.com>

Thu, Dec 17, 2020 at 11:38 AM

To: info@turi.org

Hi,

I'm a planner at the Martha's Vineyard Commission, which is reviewing a proposal to install a synthetic field at the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School. We have been reading some materials from TURI, and one question we have is related to the cost of recycling a synthetic field. We know that recycling is still not quite a reality in the US, but I was told that TURI had done a cost estimate for what recycling a full size athletic field might cost. Can you point me in the direction of that study or document? I believe the figure was around \$280,000.

Thanks,

Alex

413-884-3289