

NEWS EXTRA

BRITISH WOOL LCA

British Wool opened discussions on the environmental impact of wool carpets with key industry players at a recent National Floor Show in the UK following the successful peer review of its 12-month Life Cycle Analysis report.

The study which was completed by the team at Leeds University to ISO 14040 standard – the internationally recognised standard for LCA studies – covers the environmental impact of British Wool from the sheep in the field to the end of the scouring (washing) process.

The report has returned to the Bradford-based British Wool Marketing Board (BWMB), an organisation owned by over 50,000 UK sheep farmers, which collects, grades, auctions and promotes

approximately 32 million kilos of British Wool to the international textile industry.

BWMB says the report gives favourable results for British scoured wool in comparison to synthetic textile fibres but at this moment it needs to keep these private. We hope to bring further details in future issues of *Ecotextile News*.

Mr Richard Poole, European Business Manager at the BWMB who led on the LCA project said, “We held discussions on our stand with several companies wanting to know more because they have already felt the impact of environmental scrutiny on their products and business. Manufacturers are concerned about avoiding the

damaging accusation of ‘green-washing’.

“They are also keen to establish ways in which they can improve their products in advance of any government enforced regulations. We have already seen tightly regulated enforcement affect the scouring and dyeing part of the [wool textile] industry and the government has indicated that this approach to reducing environmental impact will affect the extended manufacturing process by 2050.”

Interest came from UK and European manufacturers, trade bodies, wool merchants and



spinners, which Poole believes is a clear measure of the way the industry has shifted on the eco agenda. *Web: www.britishwool.org.uk*