



UNITED BY ACTION: CATALYZING THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN TEXTILES




Washington D.C. 2017



TextileExchange
Sustainability
Conference

October 9-13, 2017 | Washington, D.C.
#TextileConf | #CreateMaterialChange | #GlobalGoals



2017 Textile Sustainability Conference

#TExileConf | #CreatingMaterialChange | #GlobalGoals

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More than 320 Companies attended, including:

(See full list of attending companies on page 5)

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LVMH



Wrangler



Fashion Institute
of Technology



Bloomberg

Attending Companies



Aaseervaa Fabrics (PSP India)	Cotton & Moss	Future Made Group	Kering	Organic Trade Association (OTA)	Sustainable Fashion Academy & GLASA
Abercrombie & Fitch	Cotton 2040	FUTUREAD®	KID Interior AS	OrganiMark	Sustainable Furnishings Council
Action against Child Exploitation (ACE)	Cotton 2040 / Forum for the Future	Gallant International Inc.	KnowledgeCotton Apparel	Outerknown	Sympatex Technologies, Inc.
Action for Social Advancement (ASA)	Cotton Council International	Gap Inc.	Koala Sleep Pty Ltd	Pacific Institute	Target Corporation
adDRESSing Change	Cotton Diaries	Gap Inc. Aro Center of Excellence	Kowa American Corp.	Patagonia	Taylor Home & Fashions Ltd.
adidas	Cotton Incorporated	Garnet Hill	Kowa Company, Ltd.	PeerAspect	Tchibo GmbH
ADNAS	Cotton made in Africa / Aid by Trade Foundation	Gebr. Elmer & Zweifel	KPMG	Pesticide Action Network UK	TCI Apparel Group
Agency for Promoting Investment in Burkina Faso	CottonConnect	Geetanjali Woollens	L.L.Bean	Plastics For Change	Tejidos Royo
Aligned Incentives	Coyuchi	Giotex Ltd	Lanas Trinidad S.A.	Polopique	Texas A&M AgriLife Research
Allied Feather & Down	Cradle to Cradle Products Innovation Institute	Global Merino	Landon Nash	prAna	Texas Organic Cotton Marketing Cooperative
Amaduo Leather	Cycleeffect Regenerative Ventures	Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS)	Leadership & Sustainability	prAna Living, LLC.	Textil Santanderina
amelia*williams	Deckers Brands	go4more	Lenzing AG	Pratibha Syntax	Textile Exchange
American Eagle Outfitters	Dibella India	GoodWeave International	Leonardo Academy	Punarbhavava Sustainable Products(PSP)	The Chemours Company
Andrea Martin Styles	DIRD Group	GOSTWYCK Partners	Li & Fung (Trading) Ltd.	Pure Strategies	The Forest Trust (TFT)
Ann Inc - Lou & Grey	Diyang Merino	Government of Burkina Faso	LIM College	PVH Corp.	The Humane Society of the US
ANN Inc.	Drexel University	gr3n	Loftex	PVH Europe	The Nature Conservancy (NatureVest)
Applied DNA Sciences	DuPont	Green Connections Media	Loomstate	Ramblers Way	The North Face
Aquafl	Ecoalf Recycled Fabrics	GreenBiz Group	lululemon	Rare	The Prince of Wales's International Sustainability Unit
Armstrong Spinning Mills (P) Ltd	Ecocentric Brands	GreenBlue Institute	LVMH	Re.Sustain	THEORY
Asahi Kasei Corporation	Ecocert Group	GreenLama	Macy's	Re:Down LLC	Thirst
ASOS	Ecot	GRI	Magnifeco / Island Foundation	re:newcell	Thread
ATB	Edcotton SAC	Guangdong Esquel Textiles Co.Ltd.	Mahima Fibres	Recover	Timberland
Author	Edcon	Guideboat Co.	Mantis World	Recovertex	Transparency-One
Aytug & Aytug International Business Consultants	Egedeniz Textile	H A L L O T E X	Mara Hoffman Inc	Recyclex Co., Ltd.	Transparentem
Benjamin Siggers	Eileen Fisher, Inc.	H&M	Marist College	REI	TraQtion
Berman/Rivera	Elaine Delgado Consulting	H&M Foundation	Marks and Spencer	RESET Carbon Limited	TS Designs
Better Buying	Ernst & Young	Hallotex S.L.	Mayamiko	Resonance	Two Eleven Associates
Better Cotton Initiative (BCI)	Esquel Group	Hemp Fortex Industries Ltd.	MCL News & Media	Resource Recycling Systems	UMass Amherst
BIOCOTON	EuroCentra.Inc	Himalayan Wild Fibers	MEC	Responsible Sourcing Network	Unifi Manufacturing, Inc.
biov8tion	European Outdoor Group	Hohenstein Group	Mercado Agrícola Natural de Viejo San Juan	RESTORE Clothing	UNIQLO/Fast Retailing Co., Ltd.
Bloomberg	Evmu	Hohenstein Institute of America	MetaWear	RRS	United Nations
BrightLabel	Express	Humane Society International	Miyagi Cable TV	Rhwenzori Sustainable Trade Centre	University of Delaware/Better Buying
BSD Consulting	Fabrikology	ICEA	MQ Retail AB	Sahana Clothing Company	University of Missouri
Burton Snowboards	Façon Magazine	ICEA-QCS	Mr Price Group Limited	SanMar	UNPCB - Union Nationale des Producteurs de Coton du Burkina
C&A	Fair Fashion Center	Icebreaker	NativeEnergy, Inc	SASB (Sustainability Accounting Standards Board)	US Fashion Industry Association
C&A Foundation	Fair Fiber	Iconoclast	Natural Cotton Color	Savory Institute	Vandegrift Inc.
C.N. Cotton Limited	Fairtrade America	IFC	Nature USA	Shift	Varner - Dressmann
Canopy	Fairtrade Foundation	IFOAM - Organics International	Naturepedic	Skunkfunk	Varner Retail AS
Cape Wools SA	Far East Knitting & Dyeing Ind Ltd	IKEA	Natur-Tec	Smallholder Farmers Alliance	VEGEA
Catholic Relief Services	Faribault Woolen Mill Co.	Imperial Stock Ranch	Ndless: The New Normal	SOCILA - Support Organic Cotton in Latin America	VEJA
ChainPoint	Fashion for Good	Imraan Textiles	Neo-Concept Group Ltd	Soil & More International BV	VF Corporation
Change Agency	Fashion Institute of Technology	Inditex S.A.	Neutral.com	Soil Association	Vreseis Ltd.
Chargeurs Wool	Fiberactive Organics, LLC	Initiative for Smallholder Finance	New Balance	SourceTrace Systems	Walmart
Chetna Coalition	Field to Market	Institute for Textile and Apparel Product Safety	Nice-Pak Products, Inc.	Sourcing Journal	West Valley College
Chetna Organic Agriculture Producer Company Limited	Fjällräven International	International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC)	Nike, Inc.	South Asian Sourcing Private	WestPoint Home
Chetna Organic Farmers Association (COFA)	Florida State University	International Finance Corporation	Nine West Holdings	Spectrum International	WFEN
Circle Economy	Fontheim International	Intrinsic Textiles Group	Nishi Senkoh Co., Ltd.	Spiber Inc.	Williams-Sonoma Inc.
Columbia Sportswear Company	Forum for the Future	IOAS, Inc.	Norrone	Stella McCartney	Women's Wear Daily
Control Union - India	Foundation Center	ISEAL Alliance	NSF International	Summit Company B.V.	Woolrich Inc
Control Union Bangladesh	FOUR PAWS Intl	J. Crew	Obeete, Inc.	Superdry	Woolworths
Control Union Certifications	Fox & Lillie	J.C. Penney Purchasing Corporation	On the Mark PR	SupplyShift, Inc.	World Bank
Control Union Inspections (Pvt) Ltd.	Freelance	Jennie Textiles Inc	Orange Fiber	Sustainability Recruiting	World Resources Institute
Cornell University	Freudenberg Performance Materials	Jeplan, Inc.	Oregon Tilth (OTCO)	Sustainable Apparel Coalition	World Wildlife Fund
COSA	Fung Group	KATZ Textile Technologies Consulting	Organic Cotton Accelerator	Sustainable Cotton Cluster SA	Wrangler
Costco					

2017 Textile Sustainability Conference Overview



The focus of the 2017 Textile Sustainability Conference was **United By Action: Catalyzing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Textiles**. Textile Exchange's annual global conference was held near Washington D.C. on October 9-13 and was our largest conference to date—with over **500 people participating from 37 countries and 328 different companies**. We've been told that this was the best conference yet! With 118 speakers, this year's conference was not only inspiring and eye-opening, but the place to be for the latest research and state-of-the-art solutions in textile sustainability.



Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Action



Textile Exchange has committed to creating a target call to action for the textile industry around adopting the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The 17 SDGs are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity. The supply networks of brands and retailers are addressing these issues head on, as well as the countries where they source from. The SDGs serve as a global framework that can help transform the apparel industry. Conference sessions addressed SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 5 (Clean Water & Sanitation), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 15 (Life on Land) and SDG 17 (Partnership) among others.

You can learn more about this on our SDG Resource Page [here](#).

Textile Exchange Basics Day

Back by popular demand, this half-day learning opportunity was made available on the day before the conference for those who are new to textile sustainability or simply wanted to freshen-up on their skills and understanding. The focus areas included:

- Developing a Fiber Strategy
- Re-thinking Supply Chains as Supply Networks
- Integrity & Standards
- Preferred Fiber and Materials Benchmark



Textile Exchange Celebrates 15 Years!



CELEBRATING
15
YEARS

Textile Exchange proudly celebrated 15 years as a leading collaborative organization in the textile industry on October 9th during the conference kick-off reception.

Thank you to our sponsors, Textile Exchange Co-Founders:



Members-only Breakfast with Andrew Winston

Andrew Winston, a globally recognized expert on how companies can navigate and profit from humanity's biggest challenges, opened the first full day of the conference with an exclusive Textile Exchange Member-only event.

Andrew's first book, Green to Gold, was the top-selling green business title of the last decade, selling over 100,000 copies in seven languages. Inc. Magazine included Green to Gold on its all-time list of 30 books that every manager should own. His new book, The Big Pivot, provides a practical roadmap to help leaders build resilient, thriving companies and communities in a volatile world. He is also author of the Harvard Business Review Magazine cover story, "Resilience in a Hotter World." His views on strategy have been sought after by many of the world's leading companies, including Boeing, HP, J&J, Kimberly-Clark, PepsiCo, PwC, and Unilever.



Sponsored by: 



Mina Guli, Water Advocate and Founder of ThirstForWater.Org

Mina Guli, the Founder and Chief Running Officer at Thirst, kicked-off the conference with a healthy dose of inspiration for the attendees! Mina is a global leader, an entrepreneur and adventurer passionate and committed to making a difference in the world. Following a 15-year successful career as a world leader in climate change, including cofounding Peony Capital – a company that provides capital and knowledge to Chinese companies to help them mitigate their impact on the environment - Mina established Thirst, an organizational initiative of the Young Global Leaders of the World Economic Forum.



H&M: A Catalyst For Change - Bringing Innovation To Scale

Helena Helmersson, Global Head of Production H&M

Helena spoke about The H&M Group's 2030 strategy to reach 100% sustainable materials. How H&M wants to foster innovation at every stage of the value chain to ensure a holistic approach to reach our 2030 goal. The H&M Group wants to transform the fashion industry with initiatives such as Global change awards, investments in start-ups, supplier/innovator partnerships as well as through big collaborative platforms. How our long-term strategy will inspire new ways of thinking to bring innovations to scale.



Marissa Pagnani | Group VP Corporate Responsibility, PVH, Corp

Marissa discussed how PVH applies the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the context of its CR efforts, including through public reporting, partnership with stakeholders, and country-specific initiatives. She will also examine PVH's efforts on the SDGs through the lens of its CR initiatives at Hawassa Industrial Park in Ethiopia, where PVH has supported a group of top suppliers in establishing factories and a fabric mill, and formed a joint venture in a woven shirt factory.



Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Where to Start

13 Years and Counting to Transforming our World with the #GlobalGoals. This opening session introduced two case studies of companies **Target** and **C&A** integrating the SDGs into their strategy.



John Davies | Vice President & Senior Analyst, GreenBiz
Jeffrey Hogue | Chief Sustainability Officer, C&A
Jennifer Silberman | VP, Corporate Responsibility, Target

Getting the Most out of Our Land

How can we feed and clothe the world without exhausting the natural assets we depend upon? Do we need a second green revolution or is there another way?



Andre Leu | President of IFOAM-Organics International; Author of The Myths of Safe Pesticides
Dan Zook | Dir. Of Investments, Initiative for Smallholder Finance
Tobias Bandel | Managing Partner, Soil & More International BV

Investors are Taking Score

There is growing evidence that Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) research is being integrated into investment analysis and yielding better company performers. This panel will reveal little known ways that your ESG – and increasingly your SDG - work is being rated by Investors, the standards for disclosure and latest best practices.



Lauren Cope | ESG Analyst at Bloomberg LP

Katie Schmitz Eulitt | Strategic Advisor, Stakeholder Engagement – SASB

Funding SDG Opportunities

The SDGs offer a compelling growth strategy for business and open market opportunities that can positively impact society. However, many companies continue to struggle with the question: What do the SDGs mean for my business? What is the role of philanthropy? This panel discussed how the textile industry can implement business models to advance the SDGs, build them into core business strategies, sustainably manage value chains through an SDG framework, align their philanthropic efforts and partnerships to take these efforts forward.



Karen Newman | Senior Consultant, United Nations

Arif Ekram | Manager of Global Partnerships, Foundation Center

Trevor Davies | Global Head, International Development Assistance Services Institute, KPMG

Material Matters: A Journey Back to Farms, Forests and Landfills ©

How are purpose driven companies changing the way their businesses operate? How do personal and commercial motivations combine to drive results? This breakout session took a journey back to the farms, forests and landfills to discover how three different companies are changing the way we look at raw materials.



Michael Pogue | CFO, prAna | Andrew Almack | CEO, Plastics for Change

Giulio Bonazzi | Chairman and CEO, Aquafil

Sabrina Mueller | Manager Sustainable Assortments & Products Non Food, Tchibo

Facilitator: Liesl Truscott | European Materials Director, Textile Exchange

Decarbonizing Operations

Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions are already hard enough to tackle and the industry has done a lot of great work in many ways with owned operations to reduce carbon and other GHG emissions, all helping to contribute to SDG achievement. But as always the thorny challenges reside in production... non-owned production at the Scope 3 level. What is required to begin really turning the tide on Scope 3 emissions for brands? The Decarbonizing Operations breakout session looked at how some committed brands and retailers, including Walmart with their recently announced Project Gigaton, are activated to make meaningful, scaled impact.



Jeff Wilson | Sr. Business Development Manager - Sustainability, NSF International
Ariane Grazian | Sr. Manager of General Merchandise Sustainability, Walmart
Tim Greiner | Co-founder and Managing Director, Pure Strategies, Inc.
Brian Au | | Managing Director, RESET Carbon Limited

Human Rights, Decent Work and Livelihoods in Global Supply Chain

Promoting human rights and better employment practices throughout the Global Supply Chain was the focus of this session, including effective measures to improve working conditions and pay, eradicate forced labor, slavery and human trafficking. Linkages among #GlobalGoals 1 (End Poverty), 5 (Gender Equality), 8 (Decent Work), and 10 (Reduced Inequalities) were discussed.



Caroline Rees | President, Shift

Ozgu Cubukcuoglu Yalcin | Egedeniz Textile

Dr. Marsha A. Dickson | Irma Ayers Professor/Co-founder, University of Delaware/Better Buying

Sabine Hertveldt | Better Work Program Lead, International Finance Corporation

Soledad Requejo | Operations Officer, International Finance Corporation

Pesticides and GMOs in Cotton: More Work to be Done

This Session showcased the recent reports released by Soil Association and Pesticide Action Network (PAN) U.K. With increased interest and pressure to create positive impacts in agriculture, how do we leverage our energies as an industry to create the transformative change that is required?



Keith Tyrell | Director, Pesticide Action Network UK

Sarah Compson | Standards Project Manager, Soil Association

Responsible Wool Standard - Discussion Forum

This was a forum where representatives from the RWS stakeholder groups shared their experiences, insights and ideas. The goal was to develop a shared understanding of the key issues that need to be addressed in order to grow the adoption and impact of the standard.



Stuart Adams | Textile Exchange
Valentina Zarew | Textile Exchange

Managing our Way through a Water Shortfall

The World faces an estimated 40% water shortfall by 2030 while global demand is estimated to increase by 55% by 2050. The plenary included a presentation of the state of water and the implications for society and industry in the context of SDG 6 (availability and sustainable management of water) and SDG12 (sustainable production). From a discussion of the importance of context based targets to the latest corporate water foot printing methodology, this session was designed to lead the audience in a discussion of best practices in measuring, managing and reporting on water impacts.



Tien Shiao | Senior Associate, Pacific Institute

Yann Risz | Co-founder & Managing Director, Aligned Incentives

Roian Atwood | Director of Sustainability, VF Jeanswear, Imagewear, Central and South America

Scaling the Use of Sustainable Cotton



(Left to right) Hans Theyer, Fair Trade America; Zachary Angelini, Timberland; Inka Apter, Eileen Fisher; Charlene Collison, Forum for the Future; Alison Ward, CottonConnect; Lena Staafgard, Better Cotton Initiative; Alexandra Perschau, ABT Foundation; Keith Tyrell, Pesticide Action Network UK; Justin Mundy, HRH The Prince of Wales's International Sustainability Unit.

The Sustainable Cotton Communiqué demonstrates that there is a demand for more sustainable cotton and the commitment made by companies will help to drive sustainable practices across the sector. In turn, this will help alleviate the environmental and social costs that are too often associated with cotton production, including the over-use of pesticides, the release of greenhouse gases, the depletion of local water sources and rising costs of production.

The brands that have committed to the 100% by 2025 pledge are: ASOS, EILEEN FISHER, Greenfibres, H&M, IKEA, Kering, Levi's, Lindex, M&S, Nike, Sainsbury's, F&F at Tesco, Woolworths, Adidas, A-Z, BikBOK, Burberry, Burton Snowboards, Carlings, Coyuchi, Cubus, Days like This, Dressmann, Hanky Panky, House of Fraser, Indigenous Designs, KappAhl, Kathmandu, Mantis World, MetaWear, Otto Group, prAna, SkunkFunk, Timberland, Urban, Volt and Wow.

[Learn more here.](#)

Dispelling the Myths of Not a Penny More



Quality versus cost containment is one of the fundamental challenges of every sourcing department. Add in sustainability requirements which are not generally measured at the P&L level and you have the “Not a Penny More” mantra in sourcing. This plenary offered new research on the value of investing, and the concomitant cost of not investing, that penny or nickel into your product and value network.

Karin Ekberg | CEO Leadership & Sustainability

Stephanie Chan | Sustainability Lead, Esquel

Dr. Jung Ha-Brookshire | Associate Professor of Textile and Apparel Management, University of Missouri

Shreyaskar Chaudhary | Managing Director, Pratibha Syntex Limited

Technology and Traceability

This breakout session aimed to explore how technological innovations in traceability may be used in the textile supply chain to achieve common goals. Technology has taken incredible strides, providing options for companies seeking to verify the raw material sources. Leaders in this field presented their work, and held a discussion to identify risks, challenges, and opportunities.



Patrick Mallet | Director, Innovations, ISEAL

Dr. Timo Hammer | CEO WKI Hohenstein Group

MeiLin Wan | Vice President Textiles, Applied DNA Sciences

Matthew Betcher | Creative Director, ALLIED Feather & Down

Meredith Boyd | Global Business Development Director, Unifi Manufacturing, Inc.

Towards a Bio-based Economy

This session was designed to delve into the brand based perspective to the bio based economy and how apparel brands are embracing this from strategy through to a commercial level. The panel-based forum started with case studies from selected speakers and then turn to a facilitated panels discussion addressing topics spanning from setting strategy to enablers of commercial success.



Sophie Mather | Material Futurist, BIOV8TION

Kenji Higashi | Dir. & Executive Officer, Spiber Inc.

Mattias Bodin | Sustainability Business Expert, Materials and Innovations, H&M

Claudia Richardson | Materials Innovation Manager, Patagonia

Working Session: Responsible Wool Standard



The Responsible Wool Standard has been in action for over a year. This session explored three topics with leading experts to improve adoption and success of the standard. The group discussed strategies around building supply and demand, how to create greater price stability, and where to go next with land management.

Phil Townsend | Sustainable Raw Materials Specialist, Marks & Spencer
Jose Fernandez | Founder/President, Global Merino
Chris Kerston | Dir. Market Engagement and Public Outreach, Savory Institute

Synthetics: What are the Problems? Meeting SDG #12

SDG #12 - Sustainable consumption and production is about promoting resource and energy efficiency, sustainable infrastructure, and providing access to basic services, green and decent jobs and a better quality of life for all. The following questions were addressed in this breakout session: What are the problems facing synthetic fibers in meeting this goal? How do we deliver on SDG #12 for all members of the synthetic fiber supply chain from raw materials to brands and retailers and finally the consumer?



Karla Magruder | Founder and President Fabrikology
Dr. Maurizio Crippa | CEO, gr3n
Kelsey Halling | Dir. Impact, Thread International
Ethan Barr | Senior Sourcing Manager, Target
Jerry Wheeler | Founder/President, Ecocentric Brands

Net Positive Project

Making Our Efforts Count: How a new frame on sustainability can drive the ‘net-positive’ outcomes we need. A record breaking amount of companies are demonstrating their progress in reducing their environmental and social impacts. We should be proud of this progress given where we started, but in looking to the future, are these reduction goals enough? A growing movement of companies have started to define what it would mean to give more back to society and the environment than what they take out. Such a ‘Net Positive’ approach requires transformative shifts in business models, new partnerships and innovation. The Net Positive Project breakout discussed what is needed to drive truly positive outcomes and learn from courageous companies on the journey to transformative change.



Charlene Collison | Assoc. Dir. Sustainable Value Chains and Livelihoods, Forum for the Future
Sandra Seru | Director, Forum for the Future

Setting Apparel Sustainability Goals with Sound Science

How can apparel companies meet rising consumer demand over the coming decades while decreasing their environmental impacts to function within planetary boundaries? In this session, experts from the World Resources Institute gave practical guidance on how businesses can use environmental science to improve operations, rethink supply chains and drive business model innovations that will help them thrive in a resource-strained world.



Paul Reig | Senior Associate, World Resources Institute

Deborah Drew | Research Analyst, Business Center, World Resources Institute

Michael Schragger | Managing Director, Sustainable Fashion Academy

Tien Shiao | Senior Associate, Pacific Institute

Taking Action to Drive Impact



As companies focus on their CSR targets and the industry looks to meet SDG goals, the role of sourcing strategies becomes stronger and stronger. This plenary presented on how companies can act together through the common language of standards to drive meaningful change on a global scale.

Patrick Mallet | ISEAL

Leather and Cashmere: Impacts & Opportunities

Leather and cashmere are the next animal sourced materials that are being addressed by Textile Exchange. The industry has started work on animal welfare, grazing and environmental impacts, and addressing traceability. Attendees were able to learn from experts about the impacts, activities, and opportunities.



Caroline Reid | Project Manager Sustainable Development | IKEA

Sandra Vijn | Director, Sustainable Food, WWF

Deborah Froeb | Dir. Investment Product Development, NatureVest (The Nature Conservancy)

Dr. Sara Shields | Farm Animals Behavior and Welfare Specialist, Humane Society International

New Reporting Metrics: Navigating the Maze of ESG, SDG and Integrated Reporting



For the attendees that are responsible for reporting at their company, this session included an important discussion of best practices in incorporating SDG disclosures into sustainability reporting or your integrated reporting, all through the lens of materiality to the business and your shareholders and other stakeholders.



Lauren Cope | ESG Analyst at Bloomberg LP
Alyson Genovese | Head of Corporate/ Stakeholder Relations, N.America, Global Reporting Initiative (GRI)
Angelika Guldt | Sustainability Communications, Lenzing AG
Katie Schmitz Eulitt | Strategic Advisor, Stakeholder Engagement - SASB

Putting Women and Children First: The Social Agenda

This breakout featured five projects working to bring equality and human rights to the fore. From ending child exploitation to bringing out women's entrepreneurial skills, these projects combine technology and human factors for success.



Alison Ward | CEO, CottonConnect

Mitsuya Inagaki | Manager, Kowa Company

Yuka Iwatsuki | President/Co-founder, Action against Child Exploitation

Arun Ambatipudi | Executive Director, Chetna Organic

Nina Smith | CEO, Goodweave

The Post-Consumer Textile Collections Conundrum

As technology and innovation transform waste into worth, will consumers embrace old things as new? How will trash be positioned to change the dirty perception to that of luxurious and desirable items? Attendees in this breakout session learned about the gaps requiring cross sector collaboration to expedite and scale trash conversion into new and consumable products.



Frank Zambrelli | Senior Advisor, Glasgow Caledonian University (GCNYC) Fair Fashion Center
Traci Kinden | Textile Program, Circular Economy
Anne Johnson | Partner/Vice President, RRS
Katrin Ley | Managing Director, Fashion For Good

Data Collection to Measure Impacts in Your Supply Network



This working session focused on the development of the joint Centralized Database System with Textile Exchange and the Global Organic Textile Standard followed by discussion breakout groups. By the end of the session, the group had identified the most important metrics and indicators to be collected from each actor in the textile supply chain, the best collection methods, and with what groups or organizations we should collaborate. These outcomes will ultimately contribute to the design of the Centralized Database System and Textile Exchange's overall Impacts program.

Rahul Bhajekar | Director Standards Development & Quality Assurance, GOTS

The Journey to Regenerative Agriculture and How We Get There: +/- 5% Fiber Challenge

Textile Exchange has promoted sustainable agriculture and the use of preferred fibers as one barometer of transformative change for the textile industry. Textile and apparel companies play an important role in the transition to a more resilient, regenerative and circular economy. Moving industry toward preferred fibers and materials, which are produced to globally accepted standards and are traceable through the supply chain, is a necessary part of this transition.



Maggie Kervick | Dir. of Communications & Outreach, GCNYC Fair Fashion Center

Cara Chacon | Vice President, Social & Environmental Responsibility, Sustainability, Patagonia

Roian Atwood | Director of Sustainability, VF Jeanswear, Imagewear, Central and South America

Factories, Sustainability and Brand Demand

Sourcing Journal Online's Publisher, Edward Hertzman, led a panel through the reality of sustainable investments, payoffs and the in-store results as relates to the SDGs. What have factories invested? What have been the return on factory investments? As sustainability gains traction what percent of the textile supply chain is invested? Are the consumers buying? Who's paying the sustainability bills? Is sustainable production real?... were a few of the questions addressed in this thought provoking plenary that ended the 2017 Conference.



Edward Hertzman | Hertzman Media Group
Julia Hughes | President, U.S. Fashion Industry Association
Eileen Mockus | CEO, Coyuchi

Innovation & Impact Showcases



Connect with Africa
Heinrich Schultz | Founder, OrganiMark



Transitional Cotton - The Smart
Intersection of Food and Textiles
Nova Sayers | Sr. Manager, Business
Development



Sustainable Furnishings Council
Susan Inglis | Executive Director

Preferred Fiber & Materials Round Tables



Preferred Fiber & Materials Round Tables



As we spread our net wider to cover a range of Preferred Fibers and Materials, this year, the Round Table format evolved to offer a powerful combination - both focused sessions on specific preferred fibers and materials (PFMs), plus the opportunity for the organic cotton community to come together to build regional strategies.

The PFM Round Tables day is designed to be highly interactive and action-oriented, giving attendees the chance to roll up their sleeves and bring into action the rich content shared during the preceding two days of the conference.

The day began by drawing on the opinions of five global leaders and their connection with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This was followed by Round Table meetings for Organic Cotton, Recycled Polyester, Biosynthetics, and Man-made Cellulosics, with each of these discussions tailored to the “needs” of the fiber, the key challenges facing suppliers and buyers, sustainability hotspots, barriers to growth, and solutions to invest and scale.

In the afternoon, it was all about organic cotton, this year with a regional focus, with dedicated regional strategy meetings for Africa, China, India, Latin America, and the region of Turkey, Egypt & Central Asia.

Download the full 2017 PFM Round Tables In Action report [here](#).

A Big Thank You To All Sponsors Of The 2017 PFM Round Tables, Hands-on Lab And Innovation Awards:



The PFM Round Tables Day In Numbers:

- 6th Organic Cotton Round Table global assembly
- 1st portfolio approach to the Round Table – introducing recycled polyester, manmade cellulosics, and biosynthetics
- 3rd OCRT Innovation Awards
- 271 total participants from 28 countries
- Launch of the Preferred Fiber & Materials Hands-On Lab, featuring 49 innovative companies and start-ups.
- Introduction of 5 regional Organic Cotton Strategy Meetings for Africa, China, India, Latin America and Turkey.
- Announcement of 52 Signatories of the Recycled Polyester Commitment - to achieve a 25% increase in use of recycled polyester by 2020.
- Launch of 8 new must-read reports, including our 2017 [Market Reports](#) and Insider Series plus two [Guides](#) on organic cotton published in collaboration with Kering.
- Textile Exchange and Catholic Relief Services announced plans for the 1st Regional OCRT in Burkina Faso in 2018.
- The 2nd Regional OCRT in Izmir will also take place in 2018.
- Textile Exchange’s Biosynthetics microsite had it’s 1st preview.



Preferred Fiber & Materials: Hands-on Lab and Innovation Awards



Preferred Fiber & Materials Hands On Lab



Textile Exchange this year launched its first ever Preferred Fiber & Materials (PFM) Hands-On Lab, with support from Recover, WestPoint Home, Ditto and Dibella. The idea was to complement the PFM Round Tables by bringing together a range of PFM samples - from the latest technical innovations to unique and wonderful natural fibers – with a focus on the social and environmental considerations of these materials.



The Lab kicked off with a word from our key sponsors: Helene Smits, Recover and Walter Bridgham, WestPoint Home, followed by a Q&A with distinguished guests: Carmen Gama representing EILEEN FISHER's Remade in the USA program, Erik Bang from H&M Foundation's Global Change Awards, Stacy Flynn, CEO of evrnu, and Valentina Longobardo from VEGEA introducing their new grape leather.



The Lab was open to visitors on the day of the Round Tables to browse the displays, chat at leisure to others, or relax in the WestPoint Home

Eco Lounge. Scheduled demonstrations with three innovation leaders (Carmen Gama, EILEEN FISHER, Helene Smits, RECOVER and Carol Blázquez, ECOALF) were held over lunch for a deeper dive into new business models based on removing waste from the textile equation.



The 2017 [OCRT Innovation Award](#) Ceremony was the finale of the PFM Round Tables Day, and we ended on a high after hearing this year's inspiring innovators pitch their ideas to our panel of distinguished judges, chaired by Kering's Christine Goulay.

The **winner** of the 2017 Innovation Award was **Marzia Lanfranchi**, who has just launched Cotton Diaries - an interactive documentary aiming to revive the human connection between the people who grow, make and use cotton.



The place of **runner-up** was awarded to **Tobias Meier** of ecos, who is starting a Sourcing Coalition for Organic-Fair Trade Cotton from West Africa.

Other finalists included:

- **Robert Mathew and Ram Chavan** of FabriKolor, India, who work with low-income, marginalized women to produce naturally dyed organic cotton clothing.
- **Martín Alonso** of StayTrueOrganic, Argentina, who initiated a self-sustainable biodynamic farm based on organic cotton cultivation in the native QOM community
- **Lucy Rao** of Pamba Mali Organic Cotton Initiative, Kenya - a social enterprise that believes in the power of entrepreneurship and investment in women.
- **Marci Zaroff** of MetaWear, USA - a sustainable fashion manufacturer and turnkey solution for stylish "made in the USA", fully GOTS certified custom goods.



All six finalists will join OCRT Innovation Award [Alumni](#); an exciting group of innovative thinkers from around the world. The next call for Innovation Award submissions will be issued early in 2018.

Post-conference industry tours on October 13 were hosted by:

- Better Cotton Initiative Cotton Field Trip | Scotland Neck, North Carolina
- Eileen Fisher Circular Design + Tiny Factory | Irvington, New York
- George Washington University Textile Museum + Discover D.C. Day Tour! | Washington D.C.
- Metawear: Inside Sustainable, Ethical & Fashionable Manufacturing in the USA | Fairfax, Virginia
- Unifi: Repreve Recycle Center Tour | Yadkinville, North Carolina

Puerto Rico Cotton Fund Launch

On Wednesday, October 11th, The Smallholder Farmers Alliance (SFA) along with Yanna Muriel Mohan, Farmer and Agricultural Manager of Visit Rico, delivered a heart-wrenching message to conference attendees about the devastating impact of Hurricane Maria on organic smallholder farmers in Puerto Rico. **The Puerto Rico Cotton Fund was launched and over \$30,000 dollars were pledged** to go towards immediate help including emergency micro-grants to smallholder farm families and the development of a smallholder recovery program in Puerto Rico. We will keep the fund open to the end of the year – so if you didn't have a chance to give at the conference – send us an email and we'll get you included in this great project (Conference@TextileExchange.org).

A special thanks to **Hugh Locke**, with SFA, for the partnership with the Textile Exchange community.

Learn more here: <http://textileexchange.org/puerto-rico-cotton-fund>



2017 Conference Announcements



- The [Cotton Challenge](#) issued by the Prince's Trust International Sustainability Unit expanded from 13 Brands to over 40, and we expect another 25 or more before May 2018.
- [2017 Market Reports](#), including the ever popular Preferred Fiber and Material Leaderboards.
- 15th Anniversary Special Edition [Insider Series](#), featuring stories about people making a difference in textile sustainability. This amazing group of stories is only the beginning!
- Textile Exchange [rPET Commitment](#) launched with over 45 commitments to increase Recycled Polyester (rPET) use by at least 25% by 2020.
- The [Blended Transitional Challenge](#) has also been launched.
- The [Responsible Wool Standard](#) is seeing wide-spread adoption in Argentina.
- The first ever Preferred Fiber and Materials Hands-on Lab was launched.
- The 2017 winner of the Organic Cotton Round Table [Innovation Lab](#) was selected.

Press Coverage



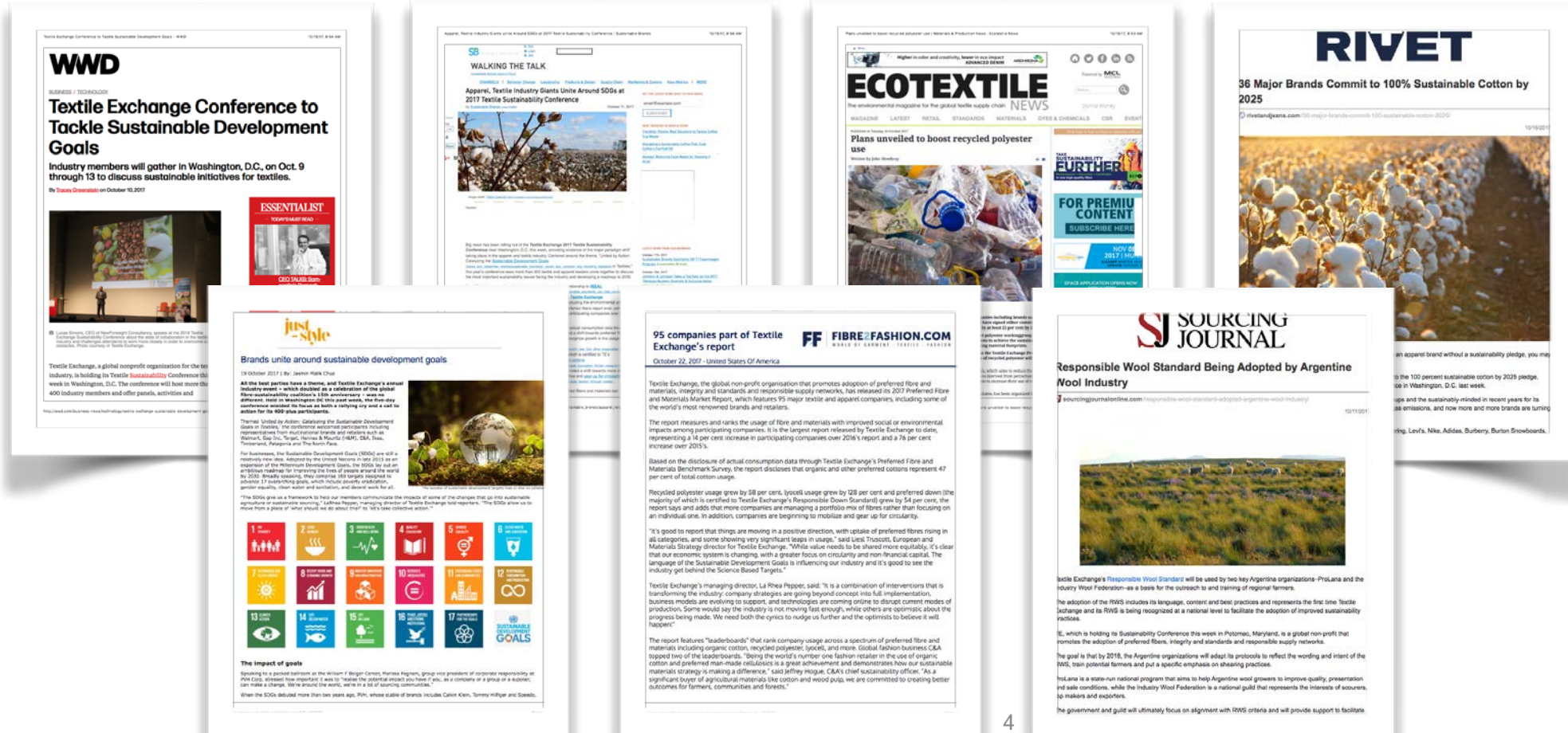
15+ MEDIA OUTLETS

43 PIECES OF COVERAGE

276M ONLINE READERSHIP

298K ESTIMATED VIEWS

3.29K SOCIAL SHARES



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Join Us in Milan, October 2018!



The 2018 Textile Sustainability Conference will be held
October 22-24th in Milan, Italy

The 2017 Textile Sustainability Conference and this Conference Overview are a result of a lot of hard work by too many people to name. Thank you to all, most especially to Textile Exchange members and attendees, who came to be engaged and participated in the conference, making it memorable and meaningful for so many.

Please contact Conference@TextileExchange.org for any questions and follow us [@TextileExchange](https://www.instagram.com/TextileExchange) for 2018 updates!
All photography contained within this report is by Erika Nizborski Photography.



Textile Exchange, founded in 2002, is a global nonprofit organization that works closely with all sectors of the textile supply chain to find the best ways to create positive impacts on water, soil, air, animals, and the human population created by the textile industry. Textile Exchange accomplishes this by providing the knowledge and tools the industry needs to make significant improvements in three core areas: Fiber and Materials, Integrity and Standards, and Supply Network. A truly global organization, Textile Exchange is headquartered in the U.S. with Staff and Ambassadors located around the world. To learn more about Textile Exchange, visit: www.TextileExchange.org.