Materials Matter

The pathway to positive impact

Textile Exchange Conference 2022 Summary
Introduction
From November 14-18 2022, 984 attendees came together in person at our Textile Exchange Conference 2022, and 829 people joined our virtual offering. Our collective goal for the week was to map out what we’re calling the pathway to positive impact. This includes reducing our industry’s emissions enough to help limit global warming to 1.5°C, as well as delivering beneficial outcomes for soil health, water, and biodiversity.

A conference set in Colorado Springs

Located on the traditional territories of the Ute, Arapaho, and Cheyenne peoples, Colorado Springs is the second-most populated city in Colorado, set on an elevation of 6,035 ft (1,839 m) at the base of the Southern Rocky Mountains.

We acknowledge that the land on which the City of Colorado Springs stands is the homeland and unceded historic territory of many Native American Nations. Indigenous people continue to contribute to the existing culture of the Pikes Peak region, with members of over 100 Tribal Nations living and thriving here today. Acknowledging the events of the past is crucial in honoring the truth of our collective histories and demonstrating our respect for the original inhabitants of modern-day Colorado Springs, their ancestors, and their future generations.

As we move towards our vision of a global fashion and textile industry that gives back more than it takes from the planet, we acknowledge the importance of learning from Indigenous communities, who have always held a regenerative relationship with the earth. This means acknowledging past and current racial injustice within the systems we work in, properly crediting the roots of practices such as regenerative agriculture, and remaining committed to developing initiatives within these areas in full financial partnership with Indigenous peoples.

Our host, celebrated environmentalist Leah Thomas

This year’s conference host, Leah Thomas, is a celebrated environmentalist based in Los Angeles. Leah uses her passion for writing and creativity to explore and advocate for the critical yet often overlooked relationship between social justice and environmentalism.

With this intersection in mind, Leah founded and launched the non-profit Intersectional Environmentalist, a platform and resource hub that aims to advocate for environmental justice, provide educational resources surrounding intersectional environmentalism, and promote inclusivity and accessibility within environmental movements.

Access the virtual platform

Registered attendees will have access to the virtual platform for 90 days following the conference. The link to access the system is: crowdcomms.com/tec2022

You will need the email address you registered with to log in.
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15

Day one

Status on Progress and Systemic Challenges
Shining the spotlight on systems change

The first full day of our 2022 conference saw us shine a spotlight on the system change that needs to happen for the industry to stay within our planetary boundaries in a resource-constrained world. We asked questions like, do we need to measure success differently? Is success as measured by volume and top-line growth even feasible, or do we need to redefine growth and adapt business models to create value differently? And what will be the drivers of this transformation: legislation, investors, or civic engagement and customers?

We were joined by speakers from Apparel Impact Institute, Allbirds, Article One Advisors, Kering, Morgan Stanley, Ohana Public Affairs, Regenerate America, The Microfibre Consortium, TNPD, UNECE, Unifi, VF Corporation, Vogue Business, Zalando, and 7Weaves to focus on where we are as an industry in terms of progress and where we still need to speed up the pace.

This year’s conference host, Leah Thomas, framed the day by inviting attendees to keep the concept of “radical imagination” at the forefront of reflections and conversations during the week. The founder of non-profit Intersectional Environmentalist and author addressed the importance of imagination in defining, creating, and building the systems we need at the foundations of the industry for it to hold a truly sustainable relationship with the planet.

We need to move from being islands of good to being forces for change, because partnership is the new leadership.

– La Rhea Pepper, CEO, Textile Exchange

20 YEARS OF TEXTILE EXCHANGE
Key takeaways

Climate change is real, and it’s happening now. Our day started with two moving speeches from Keith Ladzinski, EMMY Nominated Director and National Geographic Contributor, and Syeda Faiza Jamil, Programme Director at Pakistan Environment Trust. Both brought their own perspectives on the impacts of climate change that can already be observed around the world, bringing together their stories in one clear takeaway: climate change isn’t a problem for tomorrow. Action needs to start today.

We can no longer look at climate, nature, and community through separate lenses. While climate and emissions reductions are often at the forefront of sustainability strategies and targets, today’s agenda highlighted that it is impossible to decouple this from the risks to nature to which our industry contributes. Together, we looked at how brands can prioritize biodiversity beyond the sourcing gate and ensure due diligence in supply chains.

Data is a powerful ally to guide our decisions, but we need to frame it with on-the-ground experience. As Textile Exchange’s COO Claire Bergkamp expressed, in the session Responsible Use of Data, “There really is no substitution for going out into the field and seeing what is happening on the ground. Only then can you put data in the frame of reality and start to see where things don’t add up.”

We need legal and financial frameworks that increase accountability. As in industry, we need policy to level the playing field, and financial incentives to drive business in a direction of travel that aligns with our planetary boundaries. Sessions explored how policy and non-financial disclosure can regulate the industry but defining what these systems should look like will require input from stakeholders across the sector.

Transparency and disclosure will be key—but it’s not a one size fits all solution. Transparency and disclosure will be key to building integrity into the way the industry works, but we need to step carefully. Full transparency requires the buy-in and cooperation from all players in the supply chain—it should be a shared goal, and attention should be paid to ensure that no one is harmed or put at a disadvantage by disclosure.

There are things we don’t know, but we can’t delay action on the things we do know. There are no silver-bullet solutions for systems change, and there are still plenty of gaps in what we know. But there are things we do know, and we need to act now. We shouldn’t let the need to close data gaps become a distraction that ultimately delays action. We have the information, experience, and insights out there to make decisions—it’s about being transparent about the data available and collectively committing to improving it.

“There really is no substitution for going out into the field and seeing what is happening on the ground. Only then can you put data in the frame of reality and start to see where things don’t add up.”

– Claire Bergkamp, COO, Textile Exchange

RESPONSIBLE USE OF DATA

TEXTILE EXCHANGE CONFERENCE 2022 SUMMARY
Day two

Solutions and Key Levers
Day two of the Textile Exchange Conference 2022 started with a strong message: it’s time to stop thinking in silos when we build solutions. And that’s true on two levels.

As addressed in our opening plenary, Industry Transformation, we need to fully integrate climate action into the way we do business. That means finding financial and risk reduction incentives to move the climate agenda forward and embedding it into the work of everyone across the company—not just sustainability or leadership teams. And at the same time, it means being mindful that increased pressure to take action doesn’t fall on those further down the supply chain.

Secondly, we can no longer address impacts on climate, water, soil health, biodiversity, land use, and communities in silos. Changes that affect our ecosystems are interconnected, and the way we solve for one of them is likely to alter the balance of another. Plus, we need to angle our actions with places and geographies in mind, finding common ground in our landscapes and breaking down divisions between brands, supply chain partners, farmers, and producers.

There were speakers from Alliance for Water Stewardship, FashMash, Gap, H&M, INIA, Quantis, Scheffer, Soil Health Institute, Sustainable Apparel Coalition, The Nature Conservancy, and The North Face.

You can inadvertently do more harm to a community if you don’t understand the context.

— Nicole Moses-Milner, Director of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging, J.Crew Group
**Key takeaways**

**Climate change is a business risk and should be acted on accordingly.** Our first plenary of the day spoke to the need to make a business case for climate action—backed up by the finances to drive it forward. That means we need to integrate impact into the day-to-day deliverables of everyone in our companies or organizations and redefine KPIs based on impact over finance.

**Solution building needs stakeholders from all backgrounds, geographies, cultures, and stages of the supply chain.** Solution-building can’t happen in silos. Instead, it requires input from diverse perspectives and experiences. The issues we face as an industry affect stakeholders differently and building truly strong foundations for the future requires input from everyone to avoid unintended consequences associated with sudden change.

**It’s time to start taking scalability seriously.** For known solutions like textile-to-textile recycling and regenerative agriculture, it’s time to understand what scalability really means. We need paths forward that take price and feasibility into account. Plus, increasing the amount and availability of data to support infrastructure and scaling will be critically important.

**Risk and reward must be shared across everyone involved—from company employees, to supply chain partners, to producers.** There are no silver-bullet solutions for systems change, and it comes with both risks and rewards. Putting the pressure on farmers and supply chain partners won’t lead us to sustainable transformation—instead, it’s about ensuring that those at the beginning of the supply chain are rewarded and valued for positive change that impacts the entire industry.

**Impacts can depend on place, culture, and nature, and solutions must take context into consideration.** Solutions that work in one landscape, ecosystem, culture, or community might not work in another. As we work to drive the Climate+ agenda forward, we need to consider that how we act on soil health, water risks, and nature degradation all differ based on where we are working. To address these impacts efficiently, supply chain transparency will be critical.

**Challenges are nuanced, but the path forward lies in finding common frameworks that we can all get behind.** There are numerous forward in the challenges we face, and that means we need to work with place-based data and local targets. However, the solution lies in building common frameworks that guide analysis and decision-making, while helping us prioritize. It’s about creating ways of working that we can all get behind.

"It will take less time to get used to new ideas when they financially benefit you."

– Christine Goulay, Founder of Sustainabelle Advisory Services

PLENARY: INDUSTRY TRANSFORMATION
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17

Day three

How to Implement Solutions
Addressing the operational aspects of change

Today we looked at the operational aspects of change. How can we implement the solutions discussed on day two in our businesses? How can we fill data gaps, increase transparency, build relationships, and work together? And what does best practice really look like on the ground?

Our day started with a profound reminder of the connection between our industry and the natural world—as well as the responsibility that comes with it. We heard from Suzanne Simard, Professor of Forest Ecology at UBC, in conversation with Maia Wikler, Journalist, PhD Candidate, and Filmmaker at Maia Wikler Productions. Together, they addressed our role in protecting and tending to nature, and the power of storytelling to help us communicate about climate.

The rest of the day was dedicated to learning from each other and sharing experiences. We focused on swapping competition for collaboration, and closing the gap between brands, supply chain partners, and raw material producers. We all face the same challenges, and only by working together can we amplify our impact.


We also held two film screenings, Walking Two Worlds directed by Maia Wikler, and Fashion Reimagined, featuring designer and Creative Director of Mother of Pearl, Amy Powney.

“Relationships build an ecosystem, just like relationships build society.”

– Suzanne Simard, Professor of Forest Ecology, UBC

IN CONVERSATION ABOUT FOREST STEWARDSHIP
Key takeaways

**Implementing solutions calls for strong relationships.** The responsibility for gathering data, improving data quality, designing for longevity and circularity, and investing wisely falls on all of us. We face a global challenge which, by definition, involves everyone. Tackling it must therefore involve everyone as well.

**It's time to close the gap between brands, producers, and suppliers.** This level of connection will be fundamental to a more sustainable future. Those at the end of the supply chain, such as brands and retailers, need to have a direct, long-term commitment to those at the start.

**While many solutions require traceability, we can start investing in impact already.** The kind of connection and commitment required to move us forward will make supply chain mapping a top priority. But we need to start taking action right away. For brands, this might mean leveraging tools like impact incentives to increase the production of materials grown using more sustainable practices, outside of their own supply chain.

**We need to work collaboratively in key locations and regions.** For brands, making significant progress means looking at the sourcing locations they share with others. This will be integral for a future in which companies’ individual material sourcing efforts and investments can evolve into collective, landscape-level action for supply security and nature.

**Best practice means adopting a stewardship approach, going from less bad to more good.** Subtle improvements associated with doing less harm aren’t going to get us to our Climate+ target. We’re calling on companies to invest in regenerative, restorative projects that are developed in full financial partnership with farmers, Indigenous communities, and researchers. Ultimately, we want to accelerate landscape-level solutions that break down silos and build lasting commitments.

“The only way you get to influence anything is by getting to know the people that make up the value chain. Whether it’s a farmer choosing to move away from synthetic fertilizers [...] or a factory deciding to make the switch to renewable energy, at some level, it’s always about a person making a decision.”

— Claire Bergkamp, COO, Textile Exchange

A CONVERSATION ON LEADERSHIP: LOOKING AT THE NEXT 20 YEARS
Session spotlights
Responsible Use of Data

Claire Bergkamp of Textile Exchange, Meredith Boyd of Unifi, Inc. and Brad Boren of Norrøna, spoke about the current state of data in fashion and sustainability, challenges and lessons learned and foundational best practices for how to responsibly use data in communications and engagement with consumers.

Data is key to tracking progress and measuring targets, but we cannot use it in isolation without context. Also, data itself is important but knowing the process of how that data came about is even more important.

From the session, we also learned that although presently available data is not perfect, this data can still be communicated to consumers if an honest dialogue takes place, telling them of the data’s shortcomings. In order to more accurately show a product’s environmental impact, there is also a need for data on the longevity of products and what happens after the end-of-life phase of a product. In communicating a product’s impact to customers, quantitative and qualitative information can help paint a more complete picture of a product’s environmental impact rather than focusing on one metric. Using regenerative agriculture as an example, if you’re only focusing on carbon storage, you are missing the full systems picture of biodiversity, soil health, and more.

“...

We need to figure out ways to look at the longevity of product use, how long it’s been designed for, and let the customer know all the shortcomings. The problem with not having data is that there is a just a price, and nothing else. It’s important to show some type of footprint that there is an additional “cost.” We need to have the consumers learn with us.

– Brad Boren, Chief Sustainability Officer & Director of Innovation, Norrøna Sport

Industry Transformation

In this plenary, Textile Exchange CSO Ashley Gill and the Founder of Sustainabelle Advisory Services, Christine Goulay, discussed how we can meet our industry target of reducing greenhouse gases by 45% by 2030.

In order to get there, one action is to make a business case for climate action—backed up by the finances to drive it forward. On the ground, that translates to finding financial and risk reduction incentives to move the climate agenda forward and embedding it into the work of everyone across the company—not just sustainability or leadership teams. It also means integrating impact into the day-to-day deliverables of everyone in our companies or organizations and redefine KPIs based on impact over finance. In other words, we need to fully integrate climate action into the way we do business.

Christine also took the audience through different types of innovation (incremental, disruptive, radical) that can be leveraged towards meeting this goal, and how it is important to help innovators learn how to work with brands, and to flow capital to those solutions that meet needs, investing in the best, and not being driven by short term gain. Material substitution and slowing down the growth of using new materials is also key to achieving this change.

At the same time, we’ve got to be mindful that increased pressure to take action doesn’t fall on those further down the supply chain. It is a full-systems effort.
The Role of Diversity and Inclusion in Accelerating Sustainability

Sustainability strategies cannot be complete without prioritizing diverse voices, and many of the current sustainability solutions are not designed in collaboration with the communities they serve. In this plenary, three experts in diversity and inclusion from various professional backgrounds addressed how we can achieve inclusive, collective climate action. Leading the discussion was Sandra González, a sustainability professional committed to a people-centered approach who is among the GreenBiz 30 under 30 promising young leaders in sustainability for 2022. Sandra spoke with Kenya Wiley, a policy counsel and professor focused on fashion law, technology, and social justice, and Neil Montgomery, climate activist and founder of the social enterprise Sovereignty Company.

Underrepresented people in sustainability and fashion such as Indigenous communities and farmers of color, have valuable perspectives in solutions building, but are not often included in corporate sustainability strategies or relevant legislation. Within a company setting, there is a greater chance of diversity of employees if sustainability, DE&I, and HR teams come together and stay connected instead of working in silos. Companies should take the extra effort to loop candidates in who have been on the ground in these spaces to give their own perspectives in solutions building. It’s important to note that this all starts with the support and diversification of the C-suite, management and corporate board as initiatives can move forward only with their backing.

Government policy can also be an opportunity to ensure equity of diverse perspectives in farming and fashion in legislation. Fashion has an incredible influential power that should be used positively to reflect these diverse voices in the sector.

Regenerative Cotton Farming: Supporting US Farmers

The J.Crew Group and the Federation of Southern Cooperatives talked about their partnership to bring an equitable regenerative farming program to US cotton farmers. They spoke about their journey together, lessons learned and current progress made towards their goal.

Originally, they set out to improve soil health and incentivize farmers to transition to certified regenerative cotton farming. Along the journey, they asked themselves: How can we incorporate diversity into this goal? This led them to their partnership with the Federation of Southern Cooperatives, a network of black farmers, land owners, and cooperatives mainly operating small family-owned farms, who struggle to prosper alongside large, heavily-resourced farms in the southeastern US. The goal of the partnership is to offer a regenerative agriculture certification for these farmers to participate in, and by doing so, also increase the resilience of their land in the face of climate change effects.

Supporting these farmers can even be seen as a type of environmental protection since these small farms often have biodiverse pieces of land with forest, vegetables, and commodity crops (like cotton) growing side-by-side. Without these farmers managing this land, developers could take it away, along with the biodiversity it holds. While many large farms are subsidized by USDA programs, the small farms do not have resources to sign up for them. Relationships with these communities can help break these barriers and connect people to available resources.

The brand shared their key learnings throughout this process which included that there is no one size fits all approach to working with a community. In order for a relationship to prosper, it is vital to understand the context and history of that community.
The Brand and Producer Connection

Anne Gillespie, Director of Impact Acceleration gave an overview of how impact incentives work, using the Leather Impact Accelerator (LIA) of the bovine leather supply chain in Brazil as an example. She then introduced Samantha Fahrbach, Sustainability Lead for Nature from Ralph Lauren and Charton Locks, COO of Produzindo Certo to share their real-life experiences from participating as partners in the Leather Impact Accelerator pilot program.

Charton connected farmers to the brand, inviting them to participate in the pilot program which incentivizes farmers to implement best practices and not deforest their land. In a country where 6% of the land is primary forest, and where deforestation is legal, it is necessary to have some systems in place to incentivize protecting forests while also being able to secure a livelihood.

Both the brand and supplier agreed that impact incentives so far have worked well, enabling those already meeting good practices to maintain those standards, and those not there yet to get there as fast as they can. The Brazilian ranchers participating in the pilot program responded well to the impact incentives and training for best practices, both in terms of land management and animal welfare.

Through programs like this, brands become a relevant stakeholder for farmers. While brands value engaging with producers, producers also value that brand connection and want to build those relationships further. The LIA can be a tangible way to implement impact and build up those relationships. Also due to LIA, the first bovine animal welfare standard in Brazil has been created.

We know that traceability and transparency are important... but we know that, at the same time, we need action and impact now... that ability to start to incentivize impact immediately is another reason we got involved.

– Samantha Fahrbach, Sustainability Lead for Nature, Ralph Lauren

Conversation on Leadership: Looking at the Next 20 Years

Our closing plenary looked ahead to the next 20 years of Textile Exchange, under the leadership of Chief Organizational Officer Claire Bergkamp, who will step into the role of CEO as of January 2023. Our current CEO La Rhea Pepper will transition to Catalyst and Co-Founder, allowing her to pivot into an advisory and catalyst role for the industry.

Through an interview with Whitney Bauck, Climate Reporter, Claire told us key learnings from her past experiences that she will leverage in her next stage of leadership. In order to effectively make change, it is critical to get to know the people who make up the value chain and create a joint understanding about the future all parties want to see. Data of course is important, but it is equally as important to get to know the people who make up the system, as it all boils down to people making decisions at some level.

She also noted the importance of resilience and optimism as we move into a time in which climate change is no longer a distant future, but a very present reality. That means harnessing the power of the Textile Exchange community, and the value the organization brings by giving brands, supply chain partners, and producers a safe space to engage and talk and solve problems together through peer-to-peer learning.

Looking ahead, under Claire’s leadership, we’ll continue our mission to inspire and equip the industry, helping to create alignment and collective, connected, action. The future promises to be solution-orientated and relationship-focused, providing common ground as we adapt together and set the foundations for the future.
Round table summits
Bringing stakeholders together from across the sector

What cotton farming practices can boost soil health? How can we use synthetic fibers more responsibly? And how can we ensure our leather and manmade cellulosic fibers are forest-friendly?

We asked all these questions, and more, in our annual in-person round table discussions at the Textile Exchange Conference. Over the course of the week, over 1000 participants joined summits across our round tables to roll up their sleeves and work together to drive collective, connected action.

Together, we discussed pressing barriers, proposed solutions, and demonstrated what’s possible in achieving our Climate+ target of a 45% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from fiber and raw material production. We addressed cross-cutting topics like regenerative agriculture, impact data of custody, traceability, verified claims, our ecosystems, and the livelihoods of the people across our supply chain.

Cotton Round Table Summit

• We must all move towards regenerative practices to achieve our Climate+ goals and outcomes.

• Brands can accelerate this transition to regenerative and/or organic cotton through direct investment and new partnerships with shared economic goals and incentives.

• Moving the cotton industry and key players along the continuum can protect the livelihoods of farmers, secure raw material supply, de-risk the supply chain, and build resilient ecosystems.

Manmade Cellulosic Fibers Round Table Summit

• There is a need to educate the industry on the impacts and outcomes of sustainable forest management through collective action, and quantifying the associated benefits to water, biodiversity, carbon, and social impacts on the ground at feedstock level through biophysical monitoring and data collection.

• The industry needs to align on a common definition and understanding of deforestation so that we can better identify the barriers, opportunities, and solutions to eliminate deforested feedstocks from the supply chain and ensure only sustainably harvested feedstocks are used.

• Forestry doesn’t include just trees and forests, but also ecological biodiversity, environmental justice, and economic wellbeing. We need to consider geographical indicators to enable certification and engage local communities and their knowledge in the decision-making process.

• There are gaps in traceability and transparency due to complex supply chains, making it harder to engage suppliers in certification. All stakeholders within the supply chain need to be invested in traceability and certification efforts to meet the needs of emerging policy developments such as Extended Producer Responsibility, product transparency, and Digital Passports.

Animal Fibers and Leather Round Table Summit

• Cattle production and therefore, bovine leather, is a key driver of deforestation. We have a huge opportunity and responsibility in the textile industry to do our part to support farmers to protect their forests.

• For regenerative agriculture there is no “one size fits all” solution, and all solutions must include social responsibility and animal welfare.

• We can’t protect and enhance what we don’t understand. Natural Capital Accounting is a way to bring that understanding and value ecosystems as well as crops and livestock.

Synthetics Round Table Summit

• The Round Table must be the driving force for action in scaling textile-to-textile recycling. We can only achieve our goals by working together, but we can no longer only talk about the challenges— it’s time to find solutions.

• If we do not solve for recycled polyester, we will not achieve the 45% GHG reduction target.

• While we must not let challenging topics like fiber fragmentation prevent the transition to recycled polyester, we must continue to research and innovate in these areas to fill the gaps in knowledge.
New tools, resources, and initiatives
As an organization, a big part of our mission is to inspire and equip our community as they move along this collective direction of travel. And although a week of insightful conversations has come to a close, our work doesn’t stop there. We’re committed to ensuring that, going forward, every stakeholder has the information they need to make decisions and plan out their priorities.

That’s why over the course of the week, we launched a spectrum of tools, resources, and initiatives designed to do just that. From increasing supply chain visibility to improving access to quality data and creating spaces to share learnings, we’re building the frameworks and systems that will help us accelerate action.
Launching at the start of 2023, Textile Exchange’s Trackit™ will help brands map their supply chains for raw materials certified to our standards. It offers two paths: Digital Trackit™, or dTrackit™, brings together the data stored across our certification bodies to create a single source of truth, without any changes to the process. Electronic Trackit™, or eTrackit™, harnesses innovative technologies to offer even more granular traceability through the use of electronic tokens.

Discover Trackit™

Climate+ Dashboard

We can’t be confident of reaching our Climate+ goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 45% by 2030 if we don’t track our progress. The Climate+ Dashboard allows us to do that, giving us a way of looking at fiber and material production data against a 2019 baseline and calculating the associated GHG emissions and water impacts. We’re working on expanding this to include soil health and biodiversity too.

Discover the Climate+ Dashboard

Shared Measurement System

The Shared Measurement System (SMS) is Textile Exchange’s technology platform that helps the industry to move away from manual collection and analysis of data in isolated systems to automated processes and an integrated system to build transparency and guide decision-making. We’re ready to share this ground-breaking system with the industry through an ecosystem of interactive tools, detailed below.

Discover SMS

Certified Company Finder

We’ve built a list of certified companies, materials, and products based on the latest data provided by active certification bodies. The Certified Company Finder shows whether a company is certified and helps brands in sourcing certified materials. Companies should contact us if they want to use this data to provide validation or verification services.

Discover the Certified Company Finder

Materials Dashboard

Our Materials Production Dashboard shares key statistics on the global fiber and material production landscape, as well as detailed volume data for different material categories. The tool supports the industry to measure progress in its transition to more sustainable fiber and materials production, as well as addressing opportunities and challenges as they arise.

Discover the Materials Dashboard

Transaction Authentication Tool

We’ve developed a single source of truth for all valid transaction certificates issued from active certification bodies since October 2022. This tool allows you to check if the transaction certificate you are holding is authentic by entering the required information and matching the return values. You can also lodge an inquiry if you cannot find your certificate or if the return values do not match.

Discover the Transaction Authentication Tool
REPORT
Fiber Pathways: The Road to a 45% reduction

Our latest report, “Fiber Pathways: The Road to a 45% Reduction,” provides clear guidance on actions to take and areas to focus on by strategic fiber type: polyester, cotton, viscose, and wool. We uncover what we know as an industry, what we need to solve for, and which specific solutions we need to pilot, advance, and commercialize. This report is designed to help us view this critical work in its proper context, approaching climate action with the whole system—including the communities affected—in mind.

Read the report

INITIATIVE
Regenerative Agriculture Community of Practice

After publishing our Regenerative Agriculture Landscape Analysis report in January 2022, we became acutely aware of the need for the apparel, fashion, and textile industry to convene in real time around the topics of regenerative agriculture and soil health. The Regenerative Agriculture Community of Practice is a central space for all those involved in regenerative activities—from programs to brands, supply chain partners, growers, and the scientific community—to come together around the common goal of land restoration and soil regeneration.

Share what you need from this community in our survey

INITIATIVE
Deforestation-Free Call to Action for Leather

The Deforestation-Free Call to Action for Leather will be launched in collaboration with the Leather Working Group in March 2023. Together, we are challenging brands to commit to sourcing all their leather from verified deforestation-free supply chains by 2030 or earlier. We have designed a roadmap to include immediate action for them to support the protection of forests while helping them to take the steps towards deforestation-free sourcing.

Learn about the Deforestation-Free Call to Action for Leather

INITIATIVE
Upcoming LCA studies

In a commitment to improving the impact data available to the fashion, apparel, and textile industry, we announced our upcoming scope of work for 2023 to produce new LCAs for cotton, polyester, and leather. We also detailed our commitment to incorporating this data into a wider methodology for assessing impact, which we call LCA+. As well as utilizing more regional data, this approach goes beyond looking at emissions to include soil health, biodiversity, and water use.

Learn about the Deforestation-Free Call to Action for Leather
Photography and film
Reframing textiles in a photography exhibition with Magnum Photos

From the clothing we put on our bodies to the fabrics that fill our homes, textiles touch our lives every day. They connect us to people and places, emotions, and experiences—but this connection is often missing from the stories we tell. That’s why, in partnership with Magnum Photos, we launched a competition calling on early career photographers to rebuild the visual narrative between textiles and people, place, culture, and nature.

This inaugural year of the competition resulted in over 7,000 photographs submitted from over 360 photographers from more than 60 countries, making this a truly global competition. The winners work was exhibited at the Textile Exchange Conference between the Broadmoor Hall and the Bartolin Hall.

Winner: Anass Ouaziz, Morocco

Anass Ouaziz was born in Marrakech and raised in Beni Mellal. He has long found the sublime in the mundane even before he became a photographer back in 2015.

Anass considers photography to be an exercise in observation, and that stories emerge by simply paying attention. For him what comes out from these seemingly insignificant moments is a celebration of the beauty of the everyday. The extraordinary in the ordinary.

As our overall winner, Anass Ouaziz will receive an £8,000 commission as well as mentorship with a Magnum photographer.
Runners-up: Cecilie Nicoline Rasmussen, Denmark, and Yichen Zhou, China

As runners-up, Cecilie and Yichen will receive a £4,000 commission and coaching sessions with the Magnum Photos team. The winning entries will also be showcased in an original exhibition at the Textile Exchange Conference this November.


Cecilie Nicoline Rasmussen is currently living and working in Copenhagen. Danish by nationality, she grew up in Oman, where she relied on observing body language and tiny details of her surroundings to interact in a different cultural discourse. Through this and looking at family albums of people back home, is how she became fascinated with the possibilities of what photography as a medium has to offer.

Yichen Zhou is an artist working with photography, video, performance, and installations. Her performance-based work explores her identity as part of a new generation of Chinese artists and points to the challenges of living in a world where she finds multiple cultures and values in conflict.
Exploring the concept of community through film

In the hallway between the Bartolin Hall and the Broadmoor Hall, we screened three films that explore the Textile Exchange story and the perspectives of our global network.

“Our Story,” is a short video produced with UK-based storytelling agency Earthrise Studios. It explores the concept of community and collectivity, looking at how Textile Exchange has created a common vision across the industry. The film tells our story through three poignant voices: Krelyne Andrew, General Manager of Sustainability at SAPPi, Riyaz Haider, Founder and CEO of BioSustain Tanzania Limited, and Jeanne Carver, Founder/President of Shaniko Wool Company.

“Farmers Voices” is a compilation of the on-the-ground perspectives of fiber producers around the world. It hears directly from our farmers about their challenges and inspirations, asking what they need from the industry in order to help them continue to put sustainability at the core of their everyday work.

“Members Voices” brings together from our community of members from around the world in celebration of 20 years of Textile Exchange. It highlights the power in bringing people together, sharing clips from figures at all stages of their journeys with us, united in the common goal of sourcing more sustainable fibers and materials.
Ryan Young
Climate+ Awards
Recognizing industry leaders in collective climate action

During Textile Exchange’s 20 years celebration, the Ryan Young Climate+ Awards were held in honor of our former Chief Operating Officer the late Ryan Young, who led the development of Textile Exchange’s Climate+ vision in 2019. “Climate Leader” awards were given to those who embody Ryan’s collaborative spirit and leadership and commitment to climate reduction goals.

Shreyaskar Chaudhary, CEO of Pratibha Syntex, received this award in the individual category due to his undertaking of sustainability initiatives from the farm to finish, putting effort in every scope and committing to ambitious goals, thereby inspiring others.

The Artistic Milliners cotton team was recognized for their work in building strong partnerships through the Milliner Cotton Initiative, which together with WWF, has resulted in projects to improve soil health and promote better land management practices, as well as the creation of mobile apps used by farmers and ginners to facilitate collecting transaction data.

The J.Crew Group Sustainability & DEIB Teams were recognized as a pioneering force in regenerative agriculture through a collaborative approach centered around building strategic partnerships with various organizations such as the Federation of Southern Cooperatives, supporting Black farmers across the south, and with Regen Agri, to bring the regenerative certification to the US.

The “Rising Star” award, given to an individual showing initiative, action and leadership in sustainability beyond their career experience level, was awarded to Donna Chan, the Regenerative Transformation Manager for Made for Good RX, a subsidiary of The New Zealand Merino Company.

This year, for the first time, we also gave out an award to celebrate “Lifetime Achievement,” acknowledging the career-long achievements and industry leadership of Peter Bartsch, who spent almost a decade as Lenzing Group’s Vice President of Corporate Sustainability.
News and social
Coverage of the conference

From November 14-18 over 900 attendees came together in person at our Textile Exchange Conference 2022, and 700+ people joined our virtual offering.

Our collective goal for the week was to map out what we’re calling the pathway to positive impact. This includes reducing our industry’s emissions enough to help limit global warming to 1.5°C, as well as delivering beneficial outcomes for soil health, water, and biodiversity.

As an organization, a big part of our mission is to inspire and equip our community as they move along this collective direction of travel. And although a week of insightful conversations has come to a close, our work doesn’t stop there. We’re committed to ensuring that, going forward, every stakeholder has the information they need to make decisions and plan out their priorities.

Textile Exchange thanks you for your ongoing support, and share with you our coverage highlights from our conference this year.
Textile Exchange channels – Instagram: day one recap

Textile Exchange Day one of the Textile Exchange Conference 2022 in Colorado Springs saw us shine the spotlight on systems change that needs to happen for the industry to stay within our planetary boundaries in a resource-constrained world. The day saw us questioning our current systems.

Do we need to measure success differently?

Is success as measured by volume and top-line growth even feasible, or do we need to redefine growth and adapt business models to create value differently?

What will be the drivers of this transformation: legislation, investors, or civic engagement and customers?

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What happened in Pakistan is not going to stay in Pakistan. Europe has already witnessed severe heatwaves and wildfires in the recent past. Small island nations are at risk of being completely submerged. We are being impacted globally by the climate crisis, and I really believe the people in this room have the power to stop this in its tracks.

– Syeda Faiza Jarril, Pakistan Environment Trust

CLIMATE CRISIS: A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

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Textile Exchange channels – Instagram: day two recap

textileexchange Day two of the Textile Exchange Conference 2022 started with a strong message: It’s time to stop thinking in silos when we build solutions. And that’s true on two levels.

As addressed in our opening plenary, Industry Transformation, we need to fully integrate climate action into the way we do business. That means finding financial and risk reduction incentives to move the climate agenda forward and embedding it into the work of everyone across the company—not just sustainability or leadership teams. And at the same time, it means being mindful that increased pressure to take action doesn’t fall on those further down the supply chain.

>You can inadvertently do more harm to a community if you don’t understand the context.

- Nicole Moses-Miller, Director of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging, J.Crew Group

Regenerative Cotton Farming – Supporting US Farmers, "You can inadvertently do more harm to a community if you don’t understand the context."

Solution building needs to include perspectives from stakeholders from all backgrounds, geographies, cultures, and stages of the supply chain, bringing together diverse perspectives and experiences.
Textile Exchange channels – Instagram: day three recap

Here are three things we learned on day three of the Textile Exchange Conference:

- Direct long-term commitment is also key to driving change. You need a long-term vision that you can communicate to your stakeholders to give everyone the confidence to get involved, make changes, and move forward with you.
- In order to drive transformation and support positive impact, collaboration is key. This can be collaboration with different teams within the same company, collaboration with farmers and processors in the supply chain, and collaboration with other brands. Find others who share your values and work together.

Relationships build an ecosystem, just like relationships build society.

- Suzanne Simard, Professor of Forest Ecology, UBC

In conversation about forest stewardship

We started with a profound reminder of the connection between our industry and the natural world—as well as the responsibility that comes with it. We heard from Suzanne Simard, Professor of Forest Ecology at UBC, in conversation with Maia Wikler, Journalist, PhD Candidate.
Media coverage – Vogue Business

Textile Exchange founder La Rhea Pepper is stepping down as CEO, effective January 2023, and will be succeeded by Claire Bergkamp, who has been COO since 2020, when she joined the organisation from her longtime post heading sustainability at Stella McCartney.

The succession plan — which was established internally as part of Bergkamp’s move to Textile Exchange — is being implemented as the organisation attempts to ramp up its reach in the industry. The non-profit, founded in 2002, has been at the forefront of fashion’s focus on raw materials as part of its expanding environmental efforts.

Read the full article here →

SUSTAINABILITY

With new CEO, Textile Exchange looks to accelerate impact

Founder La Rhea Pepper is stepping down and Claire Bergkamp, who built Stella McCartney’s sustainability department, will take her place.

At the top of her agenda: asking the hard questions.

BY RACHEL CERNANSKY

November 16, 2022
COLORADO SPRINGS – The 20th annual conference of the Textile Exchange industry organisation has opened with impassioned speeches for greater collaboration in the battle to reduce the sector’s impact on climate change.

Nearly 900 people – and another 700 virtually – representing 560 companies and organisations are attending the event at the Broadmoor Event Centre in the US city of Colorado Springs.

In her opening speech to the conference, Textile Exchange CEO LaRhea Pepper told delegates how she considered the key roles of the organisation as being to “inspire and equip” the industry to reduce its impacts.

Read the full article here →
Social media coverage – Instagram Stories: Leah Thomas
They say to never meet your heroes, but this week amongst the red rocks and sage brush of Colorado, I met mine - Suzanne Simard. A brilliant woman whose unwavering dedication to understand ancient forests and advocate for them, has been a beacon of light for so many. She put her life on the front lines of science, with exposure to radiation and toxic herbicides, she would later fight for her life with cancer.

Often, she was the only woman in male dominated spaces of forestry, science and academia, scoffed at for
Social media coverage – Twitter Posts

La Rhea Pepper is stepping down as CEO at @TextileExchange and Claire Bergkamp - the original driving force behind StellaMcCartney’s sustainability dept - is stepping in. #textileexchange #coloradosprings

I’m happy to share with you the display of my work as the Materials Matter ‘22 competition winner, from @TextileExchange in collaboration with @MagnumPhotos.

Hi from the @TextileExchange conference, where reminders of the connection between climate change and the fashion industry are everywhere.
Attending companies
Exhibiting companies
AADHAVA APPARELS
AltMat
Andean Pastoral Livelihood Initiative / CALOR
ARMSTRONG SPINNING MILLS (P) LTD, TIRUPUR, INDIA
Axita Cotton Limited
Bemberg (Asahi Kasei corp.)
Better Cotton
Birla Cellulose
Bureau Veritas Consumer Products Services, Inc.
Chargers (NATIVA)
COLOURizd Ltd.
Control Union
CottonConnect
CovationBio
Debrand Services Inc
Re:Down
Elevate Textiles
Far Eastern New Century Corporation
Green Story
GSCS International Ltd.
Hemp For Tex Industries Ltd
Higg
IndiDye Natural Color Company Ltd
Infi nitie Fiber Company
Inresst Co., Ltd
ISKO
ISKUR TEKSTIL ENERJİ SAN. VE TIC. A.Ş.
Leather Working Group
Lenzing Fibers, Inc.
Monarch Flyway
MTI USA
Nala™ from Eastman natifc AG
Neo-Concept
OnceMore
PEFC International
Pilo
Punarbhavaa Sustainable Products
Quantis
Recy ber Textile Systems SL
REO-ECO RECYCLE TECH
Retraced
SANKO
Säntis Textiles
Sateri
SAYA Fiber
South Pole
springtex
Südwolle Group GmbH
Sulochana Cotton Spinning Mills Pvt., Ltd
Swatchbook, Inc
Swin Technologies AB (TrusTrace)
Terra Genesis
The Biodiversity Consultancy
The LYCRA Company
The Microfibre Consortium
The ZDC Foundation
Toyota Tsusho Corporation
TrusTrace
U.S. Cotton Trust Protocol
UL Solutions
USB Certification
Usha Yarns Limited
ZC Zeynar
ZDHC
Recover Textile Systems SL
REO-ECO RECYCLE TECH
Retraced
SANKO
Säntis Textiles
Sateri
SAYA Fiber
South Pole
springtex
Südwolle Group GmbH
Sulochana Cotton Spinning Mills Pvt., Ltd
Swatchbook, Inc
Swin Technologies AB (TrusTrace)
Terra Genesis
The Biodiversity Consultancy
The LYCRA Company
The Microfibre Consortium
The ZDC Foundation
Toyota Tsusho Corporation
TrusTrace
U.S. Cotton Trust Protocol
UL Solutions
USB Certification
Usha Yarns Limited
ZC Zeynar
ZDHC
About Textile Exchange
Guiding a global community towards more purposeful production

Textile Exchange is a global non-profit driving positive impact on climate change across the fashion and textile industry. We guide a growing community of brands, manufacturers, and farmers towards more purposeful production from the very start of the supply chain.

Our goal is to help the industry to achieve a 45% reduction in the emissions that come from producing fibers and raw materials by 2030. To get there, we’re keeping our focus holistic and interconnected, accelerating the adoption of practices that improve the state of our water, soil health, and biodiversity too.

For real change to happen, everyone needs a clear path to positive impact. That’s why we believe that approachable, step-by-step instruction paired with collective action can change the system to make preferred materials and fibers the accessible default, mobilizing leaders through attainable strategies, proven solutions, and a driven community.

At Textile Exchange, materials matter. To learn more, visit TextileExchange.org.
Thank You

Creating momentum through community

Thank you to our community of in-person and virtual attendees, speakers, sponsors, exhibitors, members, and everyone else who joined us at our conference to build momentum towards urgent climate action.

In the face of a global challenge which, by definition, affects all of us, we see unparalleled potential in convening stakeholders from across the supply chain. Building solutions lies in bringing perspectives together, and we greatly appreciate the input of everyone who contributed to this event.
Our 2022 sponsors