



**Textile
Exchange
Conference**

EVENT OVERVIEW

October
28–31, 2024

Pasadena Convention Center
Pasadena, California

THE CASE

for change

2024

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In numbers

1,349

in-person attendees

447

online attendees

121

industry expert speakers

69

exhibitors

ABOUT THE EVENT

ABOUT THE EVENT

A **GLOBAL** OPPORTUNITY FOR *collective learning* BETWEEN OVER *1,790 participants* FROM ACROSS THE FASHION, APPAREL, AND TEXTILE SUPPLY SYSTEM.

From October 28–31 2024, we welcomed **1,349** in-person attendees to the Pasadena Convention Center in California for the 2024 Textile Exchange Conference, alongside **447** attendees who joined us online.

This year's event brought together changemakers from all around the globe and every stage of the supply system to change how we source and produce materials today.



ABOUT THE EVENT

AN urgent mandate TO INTEGRATE
BEST PRACTICES FOR *climate* AND
nature INTO BUSINESS OPERATIONS
TO BUILD FUTURE RESILIENCE.



Under the theme **The Case for Change**, the 2024 Textile Exchange conference focused on why taking action for climate and nature is an investment into business resilience.

Over the three-day agenda, we looked at how the shift to more sustainable practices can be an investment into our future resilience, and what it's going to take to collectively drive system-level transformation.

CAS

for
change

TextileExchange.org

OCTOBER
28-31, 2024

ABOUT THE EVENT

A week of conversations **SPANNING
MATERIAL SUSTAINABILITY, FROM
REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE
TO RECYCLING, FROM IMPACT
DATA TO LEGISLATION.**



In the 2024 agenda, discussions spanned regenerative agriculture, recycling, impact data, legislation, certification, and more — guided by leaders from expert organizations, non-profits, and global brands with learned experiences to share.

WHAT PEOPLE SAID

“TEXTILE EXCHANGE’S ANNUAL CONFERENCE IS A *pivotal gathering* OF FASHION, TEXTILE, AND APPAREL INDUSTRY LEADERS, *united* IN TACKLING THE CLIMATE CRISIS.”

– FASHION FOR GOOD

More words from our community



Gudrun Messias
Director Global Sustainability Direction @ adidas

Thank you **Textile Exchange** for hosting another great conference and excellent field trips! 3 days full of insights and good peer-to-peer conversations. Looking forward to seeing you all next year.

Posted on LinkedIn

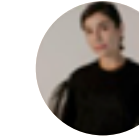


Fashion for Good
115k followers

The **Fashion for Good** team is heading to the **Textile Exchange** Conference 2024!

Textile Exchange's annual conference is a pivotal gathering of fashion, textile, and apparel leaders, united in tackling the climate crisis. This is where supply chain experts, financial backers, and hands-on practitioners collaborate to confront industry challenges and shape impactful, practical solutions.

Posted on LinkedIn

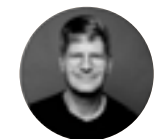


Mariana Gatti
Social-environmental-cultural strategy and action

Last week was a busy one at the **Textile Exchange** Conference 2024, speaking and listening about materials connections with people, place, culture, and nature.

Thank you **Textile Exchange** and your wonderful team for generously hosting us, and creating such potent connections.

Posted on LinkedIn



Philipp Meister
Global Fashion and Chemicals Lead at Quantis

Dreamteam at **Textile Exchange**. It was so great to meet many of our collaboration partners and see your progress especially in

- innovation (next gen materials)
- the nature journey (**Science Based Targets Network (SBTN)**)
- digitalisation of footprinting at scale

Looking forward to continue the journey with you and accelerate the sustainable transformation. See you soon again!

Posted on LinkedIn



Maria Sbiti (She/Her)
Director of Responsible Innovation at PANGAIA

Thank you the **Textile Exchange** team for bringing us together and giving us a valuable chance to take the pulse on our progress in shifting to preferred materials, helping us focus on the collective efforts that will make the greatest difference.

Posted on LinkedIn



Rachel Van Metre Kibbe
Founder & CEO | Circular Fashion, U.S. Manufacturing...

What an honor and privilege to be invited to present **ACT (American Circular Textiles)** circular textile policy work in Pasadena, California this week.

Posted on LinkedIn



naturalintelligencefarming It is an absolute honour to have been invited to the **@textileexchange** conference to receive the Ryan Young Climate and Nature Impact Award for 2024!

Posted on Instagram



ecofashion.corp It's a wrap! Huge thank you to **@textileexchange** for an incredible conference filled with inspiring content and meaningful connections! We're proud to be part of an event that not only drives the conversation on sustainability but creates impactful business opportunities.

Posted on Instagram



Recover
22k followers

This month's **Textile Exchange** Conference in Pasadena, Los Angeles, was an important event in the ongoing transformation of the textile and apparel industry towards sustainable materials and practices, and Recover™ was proud to take part.

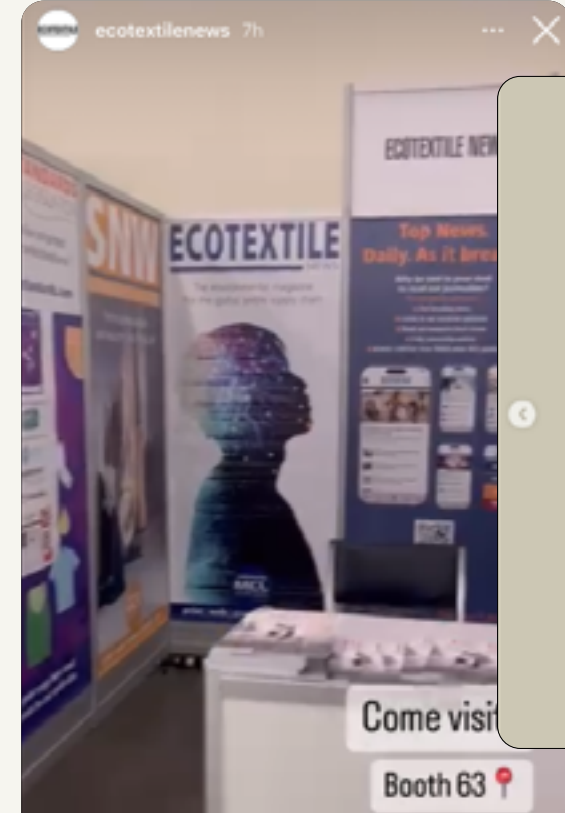
Posted on LinkedIn

Social media highlights



unwrinkling 🌟 That's a wrap on @textileexchange 2024 🌟 thanks to all 1300 or so of you who gathered in person (plus 400+ more online) to scheme about climate and nature goals and how to get your organizations in line with them.

It can be easy to overlook in a pretty venue in conference mode but this work is truly life or death for so many communities and ecosystems — may our effort and commitment to changing these supply chains for the better reflect that 🌱



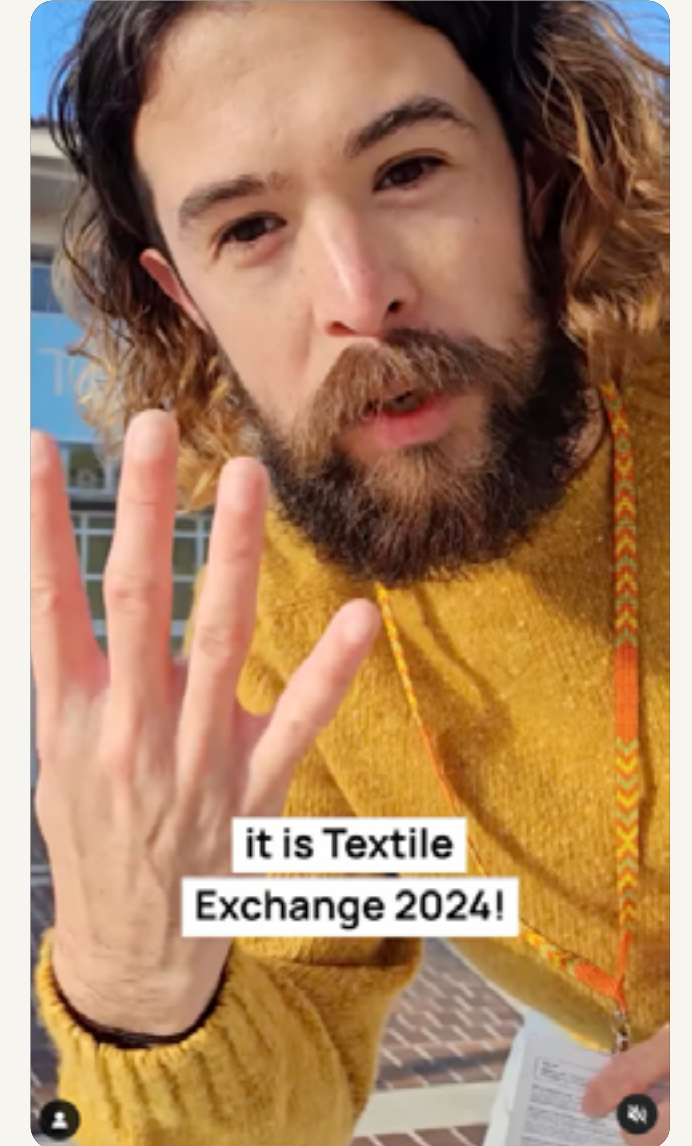
"THE WAY WE SHOULD APPROACH *storytelling* IS BY UNDERSTANDING THE *motivation* FOR WANTING TO TELL THESE STORIES."

Samata Pattinson
BLACK PEARL



rachelarthur 1 w
Another incredible trip, this time to speak in Pasadena. Thank you so much team @textileexchange - what a week.

#sustainability @sustainablefashion #textiles #textileexchange #fashion #climateaction #conference #event #speaking #postgrowth #reimagininggrowth



iam_samata 🌟 Expressing heartfelt thoughts can be overwhelming, especially on topics we're deeply passionate about.

Storytelling's core, for me, lies in understanding why we share our narratives. People are being inundated with stories and I think it's becoming harder and harder to discern between authenticity and people who purely want to generate commercial revenue.

At the @textileexchange Conference we discussed how authenticity can lead to deeper, more meaningful interactions, while inauthenticity leaves us feeling hollow and disconnected.

In a world full of brands and storytellers with varied motivations—from preserving legacies to expanding resources—trust and cultural respect are crucial.

What I took away from the discussion? The reminder that to make culture the heart of our storytelling, we must be honest, listen before we speak, and acknowledge that the entire ecosystem around a product matters.

True stories transcend simple transactions.

be



aditimayer 🌟 The ✨reconnecting materials to people, place, & culture ✨ agenda continues 🌟

This year at the @textileexchange conference, I had the opportunity to (1) speak on storytelling and the state of sustainability communications, and (2) moderate a series of discussions with farmers worldwide as part of their Producer Spotlight.

From female farmers in Brazil leading agroforestry projects in the Amazonian biome (producing organic cotton for brands like @veja!), to a mother and son duo in Western Australia behind @naturalintelligencefarming regenerating the land (producing for brands like @stellamccartney!)

Shout outs the sustainability spaces whose approach to measuring impact goes beyond carbon emissions, but centers social and ecological dimensions. Thank you for having me! 🙌

#textileexchange #sustainablefashion #regenerativeagriculture #textileexchangeconference2024



Opening Plenary
Resilience and Responsibility: Shaping a Collaborative Future

"ULTIMATELY, CHEAP COMMODITIES require CHEAP LABOUR. EVERYONE IS BEING squeezed ALONG THIS VALUE CHAIN BECAUSE WE ARE NOT MAKING CLOTHING WITH ENOUGH value EMBEDDED INTO IT."

Liz Ricketts
The Or Foundation Ghana

Day 1 was inspiring. Discussing the need for real, added value along the supply chain.



Engagement in numbers

313

LinkedIn mentions

140

Instagram mentions

3,062,077

media impressions

159,707

LinkedIn impressions

88,113

Instagram impressions

13

published articles

+1,601

new LinkedIn followers

+814

new Instagram followers

7

newsletter mentions

ON THE STAGE

HOST

Whitney Bauck



For the second year running our host was Whitney Bauck. Whitney is an award-winning climate and environment journalist who reports on food systems and agriculture for The Guardian and edits the print magazine at climate and culture publication Atmos. Her work has also appeared in the New York Times, the Financial Times, the Washington Post, Bloomberg, Grist, New York Magazine, MIT Tech Review, Slate and more.

Whitney has held fellowships from the Solutions Journalism Network and the Metcalf Institute, and was a Covering Climate Now Journalism Award winner in 2024. She was previously the senior sustainability editor at Fashionista. You can find more of Whitney's work on [social](#) or via her [newsletter](#).

OPENING

Claire Bergkamp



“WE’RE NOT AN ORGANIZATION THAT *shies away* FROM A *hard problem*.”

CLAIRE BERGKAMP
TEXTILE EXCHANGE

Read more in the media →

ECOTEXTILE
NEWS

Textile Exchange event opens with rallying cry



[Read the full article](#)

As changemakers from all corners of the globe and every stage of the supply system filled the Civic Auditorium in the Pasadena Convention Center in California, Textile Exchange's CEO Claire Bergkamp opened the event with an urgent call to action, underscoring the critical timing and significance of this year's theme, The Case for Change.

PLENARY SPEAKERS

The Or Foundation, Patagonia, and Business of Fashion on embedding value

The first plenary began with a reality check about global textile waste, making an indisputable case for real, long-term change in how we produce clothing and textiles. Moderated by Sarah Kent, Chief Sustainability Correspondent at The Business of Fashion, the session explored the need to build a circular system where value is embedded in clothing.

Liz Ricketts of The Or Foundation shared that Ghana's Kantamanto Market alone receives 15 million garments weekly, with 40% destined for waste, impacting both ecosystems and communities. Patagonia's Matt Dwyer acknowledged the complexity of these changes, emphasizing that "complicated problems require complicated solutions" and the necessity of addressing the environmental impact of waste head-on. Together, the speakers highlighted the pressures on supply chain stakeholders — including textile recyclers — to take on short-term risks without guaranteed returns. By challenging assumptions, establishing legislation, and respecting those affected by these impacts, they underscored the urgent need for a fashion and textile system that truly values the clothes it makes — from the materials used to where they end up at the end of their useful life.

Read more in the media →



Textile Exchange: Patagonia, Or Foundation Ghana on the Push for Circularity

[Read the full article](#)



PLENARY SPEAKERS

Andrew Winston on the financial risk of inaction



Day two's morning's plenary opened with sustainability expert Andrew Winston, who underscored why building resilience into business models is crucial in the face of escalating climate risks. Highlighting data from Swiss Re, he noted that over half of the world's economy is dependent on biodiversity. He emphasized that sustainable action isn't just a moral decision but a financial necessity, and there's proof that it can be done: today, wind and solar continue to outpace fossil fuel investments.

The following panel delved into the practical challenges associated with this line of thinking, from navigating ROI complexities to balancing ambitious GHG targets with growth goals. Leaders discussed the importance of integrating sustainability across all business operations, focusing on long-term gains over immediate returns.

“WE NEED *net positive* BUSINESSES THAT GO ABOUT *solving* THE WORLD’S PROBLEMS, *not* CREATING THEM.”

ANDREW WINSTON
WINSTON ECO-STRATEGIES

Read more in the media →

VOGUE
BUSINESS

Who will fund fashion's sustainable future?



[Read the full article](#)

PLENARY SPEAKERS

Katharine Wilkinson on the power of motivated people



To open the last day of our conference we heard from Katharine Wilkinson, the bestselling author and strategist behind The All We Can Save project who is known for her blend of storytelling, science, and empathy. As an advocate for deep and sustained climate action, she emphasized the critical role of human connections and community in fostering meaningful engagement.

In a subsequent discussion with Sarah Needham, Textile Exchange's Senior Director of Engagement and Partnerships, both leaders highlighted the challenges inherent in this work while encouraging attendees to view uncertainty as a pathway to innovation and transformation. By re-evaluating our motivations and energies, we can cultivate a collaborative environment that strengthens our efforts to tackle climate challenges. Ultimately, it served as a call to action for all to invest in relationships and the human infrastructure we need to build a more resilient future.

PLENARY SPEAKERS

Material producers on equitable partnership

The afternoon's plenary focused on the complexities of creating resilient and fair supply chains for sustainable materials, exploring how both the risks and rewards of production can be equitably shared across all levels. By examining partnerships that span from farmers and waste collectors to producers and brands, the discussion highlighted the importance of building stronger, more balanced systems that benefit everyone involved.

Panelists addressed the need for a long-term perspective, recognizing that a shared commitment can help the industry navigate its many challenges. The importance of educating consumers on the true value of sustainable products also emerged as a critical point, aiming to shift perceptions beyond the appeal of low costs toward a more meaningful understanding of quality and impact. In turn, this embedded value contributes to an increased respect and recognition of those on the ground.



WHAT WE LEARNED

Lessons from day one

Alongside the plenary sessions, the Textile Exchange conference brings together leaders into interactive breakout groups focusing on key subjects. Here are some of the key takeaways from each day.



“THERE’S NO *benefit* MORE *tangible* TO A GROWER THAN A *financial* BENEFIT.”

– Henry Tallott, *The New Zealand Merino Company*

“WE HAVE PENDING LEGISLATION THAT WE HAVE TO *all comply with*, AND THAT REQUIRES *credibility* IN THE MATERIALS THAT GO INTO OUR PRODUCTS.”

– Sean Cady, *VF Corporation*

[Watch the day one recap video →](#)

Building resilience is crucial for sustainable material production.

Across multiple sessions, resilience — whether environmental, financial, collective or individual — emerged as a central theme from day one. Producers and industry leaders discussed the multifaceted nature of resilience and emphasized strategies like biodiversity investment, sustainable water management, and context-specific farming practices. This resilience is vital not only for enduring climate volatility but also for sustaining livelihoods.

Impact data needs nuance and context.

Effective data collection is key to driving impact, but it must be tailored to the specific landscapes, material types, and local contexts of each supply system. Textile Exchange is working on several LCAs, which will provide detailed data across a range of fibers, setting a scientific benchmark for environmental impact assessments. However, both speakers and attendees recognized the limitations of this methodology, including the cost and complexity involved, and noted the importance of combining quantitative metrics with qualitative, context-specific insights to guide meaningful action.

Creating an enabling environment boosts supply and demand.

Day one’s sessions also touched repeatedly on the need for industry-wide collaboration to boost the supply and demand for sustainable materials. Speakers explored the power of partnerships, shared investments, and collective action to meet sourcing goals and foster an environment where preferred materials become more accessible across the value chain. Industry leaders highlighted the importance of creating an “enabling environment” which supports a shift toward materials that yield positive environmental and social outcomes.

Adaptable standards drive real-world impact.

Building on discussions from the morning, the afternoon sessions reinforced the need for sustainability standards that are flexible, accessible, and regularly updated to reflect industry shifts and ground realities. With producers sharing first-hand experiences, a clear thread emerged that collaboration across industries, regions, and value chains is essential to make certification more inclusive and impactful.

Proactive policy engagement is vital to a sustainable future.

Ongoing legislative changes, particularly in the EU and US, were discussed as drivers re-shaping industry requirements and influencing the way we work. Textile Exchange’s own involvement in policy advocacy aims to strike a balance between ambition and feasibility, ensuring that the industry remains aspirational and grounded in the realities of material production.

Lessons from day two

Alongside the plenary sessions, the Textile Exchange conference brings together leaders into interactive breakout groups focusing on key subjects. Here are some of the key takeaways from each day.

“IF WE JUST *expect* SOMEONE AT THE TOP OF THE SUPPLY CHAIN IS GOING TO BE WILLING TO PAY A *little more*, AND THAT THAT’S GOING TO *trickle down* TO THE GROWER OR PRODUCER, THAN WE’RE *kidding ourselves*.”

– Jack Kittinger, Conservation International

“REGULATION IS *transformative*. IN 5 TO 10 YEARS, THE WHOLE SUPPLY CHAIN WILL BE REGULATED. EVERYONE, EVERY COMPANY — NO MATTER THE SIZE — NEEDS TO *engage* AND *make themselves heard* BY POLICYMAKERS.”

– Clémence Hermann, Zalando

[Watch the day two recap video →](#)



Innovative financial mechanisms are essential for supporting farmers and material producers.

Creative financial solutions emphasize that sharing financial risk can enhance resilience in the supply chain. Recognizing the complex and regional nature of farm management decisions, innovative multi-year partnerships are critical for sustainable transitions in agricultural practices.

Businesses can create significant value from existing resources and improve textile recycling efforts.

By reimagining how existing materials are utilized, companies can foster a circular economy that minimizes waste and maximizes resource value. Effective recycling of textile waste requires purposeful collaboration among supply chain actors to enhance collection, sortation, and transportation processes, ensuring that usable waste is efficiently routed to recyclers.

Recognizing the value of resilient natural ecosystems can lead to financial models that channel funding into positive initiatives.

There is a growing acknowledgment of the inherent value found in healthy ecosystems and their ability to support agricultural practices. By developing financial mechanisms that incentivize the regeneration of natural resources, businesses can support those working on the ground to improve biodiversity and soil health. We also need robust methods for measuring nature impact, ensuring that data can help make sure the crucial efforts of farmers and practitioners can be recognized and rewarded.



Active engagement with government policy is important for both large and small businesses.

Such engagement can drive progress and innovation while helping organizations navigate new regulations and compliance challenges. By demystifying policy and fostering a culture of engagement, companies can better align their strategies with public initiatives that support sustainable practices.

The transition to sustainable practices requires significant investment but can lead to long-term profitability.

While the initial costs of adopting sustainable practices may be high, the establishment of stable systems often results in greater efficiency and reduced operational costs over time. As companies invest in resilience and sustainability, they are likely to see returns that enhance their overall profitability in the long. Plus, the financial risk of inaction could jeopardize competitiveness and market position, causing supply chain instability too.



Lessons from day three

Alongside the plenary sessions, the Textile Exchange conference brings together leaders into interactive breakout groups focusing on key subjects. Here are some of the key takeaways from each day.

“THE BASELINE SHOULD BE THAT WE ARE NOT PAYING FARMERS *less* THAN THEIR *cost of production*. THE FACT THAT WE’VE NORMALIZED THAT IS *not okay*.”

– Lauren Bright, Fibershed

“THE WAY WE SHOULD APPROACH STORYTELLING IS BY *understanding the motivation* FOR WANTING TO TELL THESE STORIES.”

– Samata Pattinson, BLACK PEARL

[Watch the day three recap video →](#)



Internal buy-in at every level is crucial for driving sustainability and climate goals.

For lasting impact, companies must embed climate and social values into their core practices, supported by leadership, engaged employees, and collaboration across departments. By embedding these values throughout, organizations can create a foundation for long-term change that’s felt in every product and partnership.

Multifaceted collaboration is essential for meaningful change in the textile industry.

Across sessions, speakers emphasized that no single brand or entity can meet their sustainability goals alone; collaboration must span brands, suppliers, communities, and even policymakers. Concrete examples were shared, showing how joint initiatives on climate and social outcomes are reshaping accountability, embedding shared value, and ultimately driving progress faster than individual efforts could.

True embedded value is derived from lasting social and environmental benefits.

By focusing on projects that uplift farming communities, speakers underscored that sustainability means not only compliance with regulations but also improving lives on the ground. In real-world examples, regenerative practices were shown to benefit both the soil and the farmers’ livelihoods, reinforcing that successful sustainability requires centering the voices and needs of local producers in the process.

Reframing sustainability narratives from problems to solutions can mobilize greater industry engagement.

In sessions exploring the impact of narrative, experts shared how solution-oriented storytelling that celebrates progress, highlights the day-to-day experiences of producers, and makes the climate challenge relatable is helping the industry engage audiences more effectively. This reframing provides a window into the lives of producers and workers, bringing stakeholders closer and fostering a deeper connection with sustainability goals.

Expanding textile circularity is critical to creating a fully closed-loop system.

A critical aspect of creating value is examining the resources we use. How can we derive value from materials that already exist, rather than relying solely on new inputs? What technology and solutions do we need to uplift in order to make value a continuous cycle, as old products are recycled into new ones. By backing innovations in textile-to-textile recycling and new feedstock options, as well as aligning with policy changes and fostering cross-sector partnerships, the industry can make significant strides toward true circularity.

OTHER KEY MOMENTS

Unveiling the much-anticipated Materials Matter Standard

One of the key moments of the 2024 conference saw Textile Exchange formally present the much-anticipated Materials Matter Standard, which focuses on connecting climate and nature outcomes with practices at the start of the supply chain.

After releasing the pilot version of the standard and carrying out pilot testing throughout 2024, Textile Exchange unveiled its unified standard system under its new name and logo.

The Materials Matter global certification model is deeply connected to the unique contexts of producers and processors, as well as their local communities and landscapes. It is the culmination of Textile Exchange's work to strengthen its focus on impacts on the ground, putting climate, nature, and the producers and animals that produce our fibers at the heart of the system.



Read more in the media →



Textile Exchange Debuts 'Materials Matter' Standards

[Read the full article](#)

FASHIONUNITED

Textile Exchange introduces Materials Matter Standard

[Read the full article](#)

ECOTEXTILE NEWS

Textile Exchange unveils unified standard

[Read the full article](#)

Celebrating the Climate and Nature Impact Awards winners

The 2024 Textile Exchange conference also saw the recognition of the Climate and Nature Impact Awards winners, which recognizes four projects and a climate leader for their contributions to advancing sustainability in the fashion, apparel, and textile industry. The awards were presented at a dedicated breakfast ceremony attended by key industry stakeholders and leaders. The recipients receive a one-year membership at the Friend or Supporter level for their organization, along with a complimentary ticket to next year's conference.

This year, the **Ryan Young Climate Leader Award** went to *Natural Intelligence Farming*, led by Ian and Di Haggerty. Over the past 30 years, their work has embodied a profound respect for natural systems, highlighting the intricate connections between soil microbes, plants, animals, and humans. Through these regenerative practices, they've achieved remarkable outcomes in food, fiber, and human health at both depth and scale.

The **Climate** award went to *Manteco*, who works to create premium quality textiles made from recycled post-consumer wool garments and pre-consumer scraps. It maintains a focus on circularity and is recognized for its creativity, research, investments and scientific approach to innovative textile solutions and sustainability.

The **Nature** award went to *Bergman Rivera*, whose mission is to empower farmers to be economically sustainable by giving them the tools to grow crops that are profitable and bringing them out of poverty. Their work to further the transition of conventional cotton farming to organic and regenerative, while creating more stability and equity across supply chains, is a great example of how we can take care of people and planet when we come together.

The **Innovation** award went to *Keel Labs*, a female-founded, next-generation material company harnessing the power of the ocean to create textile solutions. They have created a 100% bio-based fiber, made from an abundant biopolymer found in seaweed called Kelsun, a promising example that material innovations can be scalable and is primed for an impactful future.

Materra received the **Collaboration in Action** award. Materra builds solutions to grow and source more climate-resilient, transparent, and equitable cotton. Working with and for farmers, it designs and implements custom cotton farming and sourcing programs — including regenerative cotton — for fashion and textile brands.



naturalintelligencefarming It is an absolute honour to have been invited to the [@textileexchange](#) conference to receive the Ryan Young Climate and Nature Impact Award for 2024!

Posted on Instagram



keel.labs We are excited to announce that Keel Labs has been named Innovation Project of the Year in the 2024 Climate & Nature Impact Awards at Textile Exchange!

Posted on Instagram

Read more in the media →



Textile Exchange unveils climate award winners

[Read the full article](#)

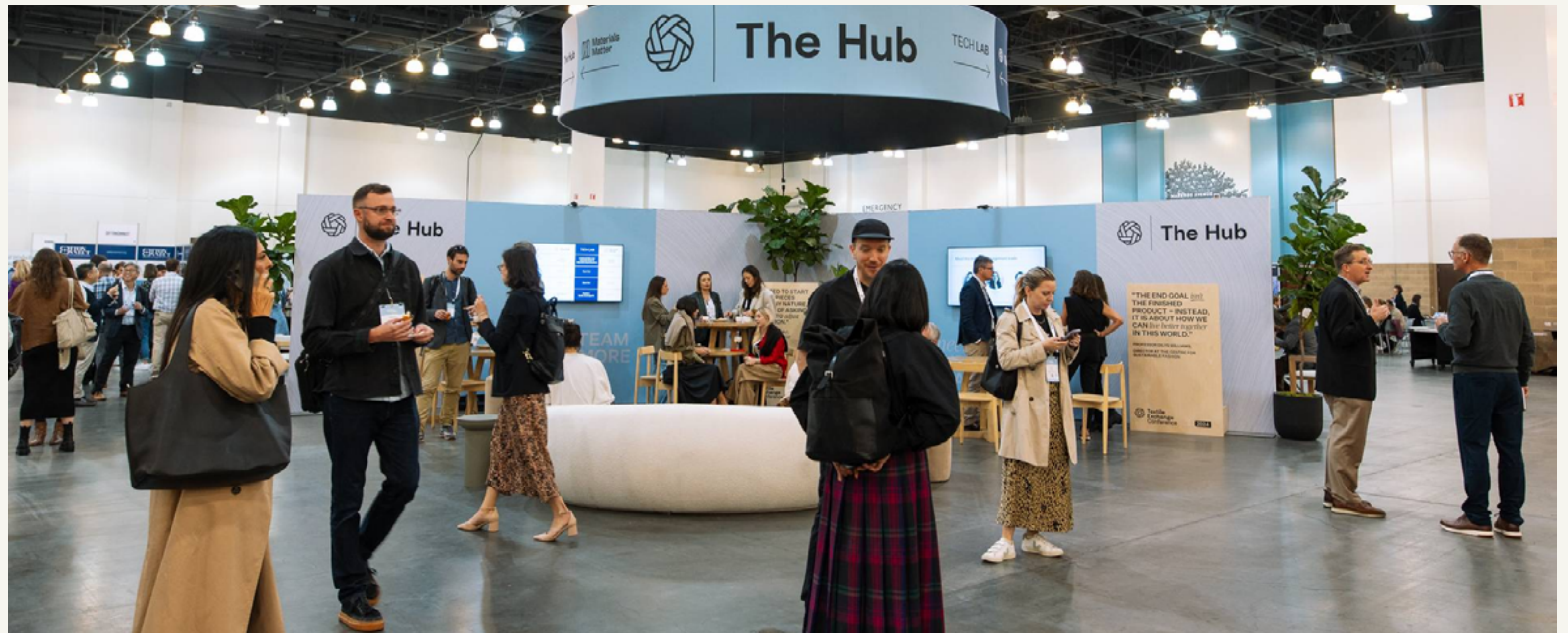


Textile Exchange Honors Keel Labs, Manteco for Climate Commitments

[Read the full article](#)

Curating a thriving exhibit hall of nearly 70 industry innovations

Each year, the exhibit hall at the Textile Exchange Conference features leading organizations and changemakers from across the industry, showcasing solutions and tools designed to drive sustainability forward. From groundbreaking materials to traceability platforms, each booth at the 2024 conference highlighted practical ways to address the climate crisis and transform supply chains. Here, attendees gained hands-on insights into the latest technologies and initiatives, making connections, exchanging ideas, and shaping partnerships. Whether exploring regenerative practices, understanding advancements in recycled fibers, or diving into data-driven decision-making tools, the exhibit hall made space for innovation and collaboration in action.



Bringing the supply chain together at our round table summits

Round Table General Assembly



This annual meeting gathered round table members from all round table communities. Textile Exchange’s 2024 prioritization was presented, along with its six priority materials — cotton, sheep wool, bovine leather, MMCFs, polyester, and nylon. The group also discussed the upcoming transition to 2030 material commitments as the 2025 challenges for recycled polyester and sustainable cotton close out. These commitments incorporate learnings from the 2025 challenges and the Deforestation-Free Call to Action for Leather, as well as stakeholder feedback to reflect the unique needs of key target groups, material categories, and landscapes.

Synthetics Round Table Summit



Attendees from the Recycled Polyester and Biosynthetics Round Table communities came together to reflect on 2024’s key milestones, including highlights from their quarterly meetings and insights from the Future of Synthetics report. The session also outlined the evolving roadmap for the Synthetics Round Table, reviewed progress toward preferred synthetics over the past year, and facilitated solution-building exercises focused on the industry’s priorities for the next 12–18 months. Featured speakers included representatives from Syre, Samsara Eco, Mitsubishi Corporation, and Goldwin.

Cotton Round Table Summit



Attendees representing farmers, suppliers, cotton programs, brands, and other stakeholders convened to collaborate on key topics such as cotton tools, sourcing commitments, and Textile Exchange’s Regenerative Agriculture Outcome Framework. Textile Exchange’s Cotton Lead Debra Guo shared the team’s long-term vision for cotton, highlighting 2025 priorities that include launching a public consultation on the Organic Content Standard, exploring recognition pathways for organic and other preferred cotton within the Materials Matter Standard, unveiling its cotton Life Cycle Assessment work, and setting 2030 commitments. Featured speakers included Cannon Michael, CEO of Bowles Farming Company, and Parkhi Vats from ICAC.

Getting attendees out into the field

On the last day of our conference, attendees had the chance to get out into the field and visit material production sites. Field trips are an integral part of our conference agenda, because we believe that learning can't happen solely within the walls of our plenary rooms — there's no substitute for getting out on the ground and seeing innovation and challenges in action.

In 2024, attendees chose from a range of trips designed to provide first-hand insights into what more sustainable materials production and processing might look like. From regenerative farming to closed-loop recycling, these experiences were a chance to connect with the people and places making a difference.

Recycling Facility Tour and Circularity Workshop

Looptworks has been dedicated to eliminating global textile waste through closed-loop recycling solutions for the past 15 years, and on the occasion of the Textile Exchange conference, it opened its doors to participants. Looptworks recently opened the only US based system able to recycle both pre- and post-consumer textiles from multiple material types, including blends, with multiple solutions, all under one roof in a zero waste to landfill model.

Cotton Farm Experience

Participants visited a sixth-generation Californian farm to learn more about conventional and organic production, and Bowles Farming Co's participation in programs including Better Cotton, USCTP, and regenagri.

Farm to Fabric

This interactive tour of a working US knitting mill took participants into the historical context and present-day realities of cotton systems in California and shared about the Climate Beneficial™ Verified (CBV) cotton program.

Fiber Fragmentation in Textile Wastewater

ZDHC, The Microfibre Consortium and Materevolve hosted a multi-site field trip at a plastic pollution lab and wastewater treatment plant. Attendees saw practical applications and effective strategies to mitigate environmental impact and adhere to emerging sustainability standards in wastewater management and textile systems design.



Getting attendees out into the field

Second Chances: People and Apparel

Participants visited Homeboy Threads, a certified social enterprise of Homeboy Industries, a rehab and re-entry program for formerly gang-involved and previously incarcerated individuals. Homeboy Threads specializes in the essential yet often overlooked work of sorting, grading, and pre-processing of pre- and post-consumer textiles to bring circularity and sustainability aspirations to life, giving second chances to both people and apparel.

FSC Forest Tour

This tour of a FSC-certified forest in Ukiah, California provided an in-depth look into sustainable forestry practices, focusing on biodiversity, climate change adaptation, deforestation mitigation, supply chain transparency, and social upliftment initiatives.

Merino Sheep in Ojai

This trip involved learning first-hand about local Merino sheep operations, regenerative agriculture, soil health, and Fibershed's Climate Beneficial™ goals. Attendees learned about the value of farm-to-fashion material supply networks.



PROJECTS AND PUBLICATIONS

An immersive photo exhibition

Over the last three years, Textile Exchange has been working with photographers all around the world to help tell the vital stories behind the materials in our clothing and textiles. Our aim has been to document production projects and initiatives with sustainability at their core, showing the beauty that arises when people and ecosystems are put first.

Bringing all of these photographs together, the Material Worlds exhibition at the 2024 Textile Exchange Conference was all about deepening our collective understanding and imagining a future where this way of making materials becomes the norm.

A special thanks to the world-renowned documentary photography agency *Magnum Photos* for its ongoing collaboration, helping us bring these stories to life through our annual joint competition.



A magazine about material production

We also released the second annual edition of Unwoven magazine at the 2024 conference. An editorial project by Textile Exchange, the publication aims to pull apart and reconstruct perceptions of clothing and textiles today by deepening our understanding of the materials that make them, and the stories, questions, and concepts behind them.

Often seen as the starting point for further creative development, this second edition reframes raw materials as the culmination of years of dedication and know-how instead. From herders who have honed their ability to care for animals through changing seasons, to growers with an unmatched understanding of the soil that sustains them, to innovators redefining what happens to textile waste — this issue tells their stories. At its heart are three essential actions that shape the future of sustainable material production: caring for land and livestock, cultivating crops, and converting the old into new.



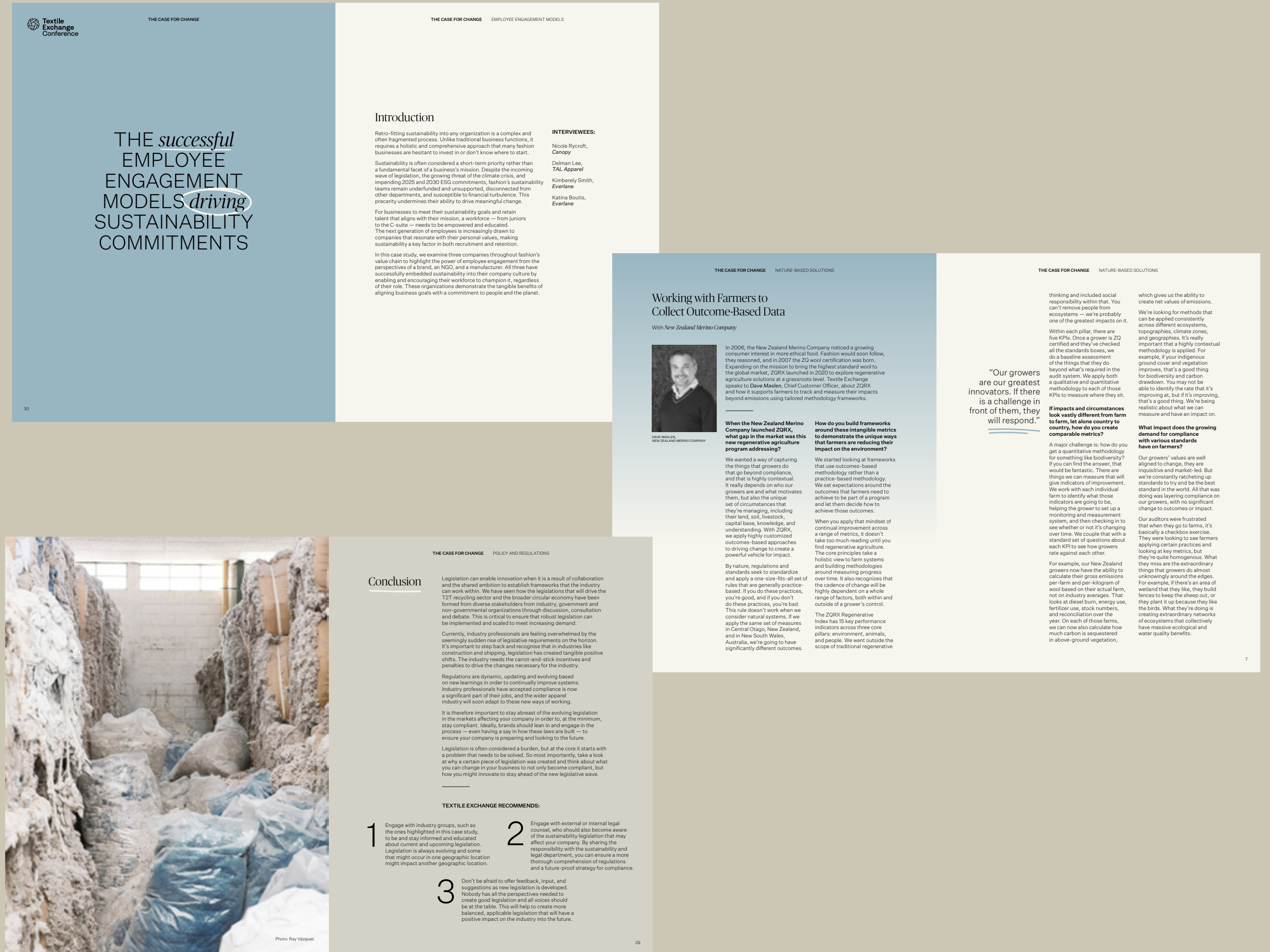
Case studies from industry changemakers

We want everyone who attended the Textile Exchange conference, as well as our wider community who couldn't join us, to come away with concrete takeaways that reinforce the business case for more sustainable production systems. That's why we curated *The Case for Change: Case Studies from Industry Changemakers*, a supplementary publication featuring five in-depth case studies centered around critical opportunities for collective learning and progress.

From holistic impact models to employee engagement to partnerships balancing the supply-demand paradigm, we take inspiration from our industry and beyond. By making space for solution-oriented approaches, we aim to concretize the notion that meaningful change is both achievable and already underway.

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A special thank you to our title sponsor Ambercycle

Based in Los Angeles, Ambercycle founders Shay Sethi and Moby Ahmed were driven by the idea that textile recycling technologies were outdated and sought to develop a process that could separate and regenerate mixed materials at a molecular level.

Ambercycle's first commercially available fiber, known as cycora®, is made from post-consumer and post-industrial waste polyester that has been transformed into a virgin-grade material. Initially focused on technology development, the company is now scaling up and working on a soon-to-be-launched commercial facility.

[Read the our interview with co-founder Shay Sethi](#)



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