



Textile
Exchange

Fiber and Materials Matrix Survey Guide

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Cover photo: Alejandra Orosco

Introduction

Purpose of this document

This guide provides an overview of the Fiber and Materials Matrix survey, as well as practical guidance for programs on completing the questionnaire.

It also includes an explanation of the scoring, applicability of survey questions, and supply chain tiers. It is for use alongside the Methodology document.

Key supplementary resources

- [Glossary](#)
- [Methodology](#)

About the tool

The Fiber and Materials Matrix is an interactive tool that allows the owners of raw material sustainability programs to assess their performance in a standardized way and toward a shared goal. It also supports brands in making informed material sourcing decisions.

The tool provides essential context about raw material sustainability programs within the same fiber category. Its survey criteria are tailored to the material category, and it is **not** designed to compare different types of materials, such as cotton, wool, and polyester. The assessment always applies to one given program, as opposed to an organization that has multiple programs, standards, or branded fibers.

The core pillars assessed within the tool are *Climate, Nature, People, Animals, and Governance*. More detail on these pillars can be found in the “Structure” section of this document.

The Fiber and Materials Matrix survey requires each response to be supported by publicly available information (evidence), published by a program. Private information about a program will not be assessed in the scope of this tool.

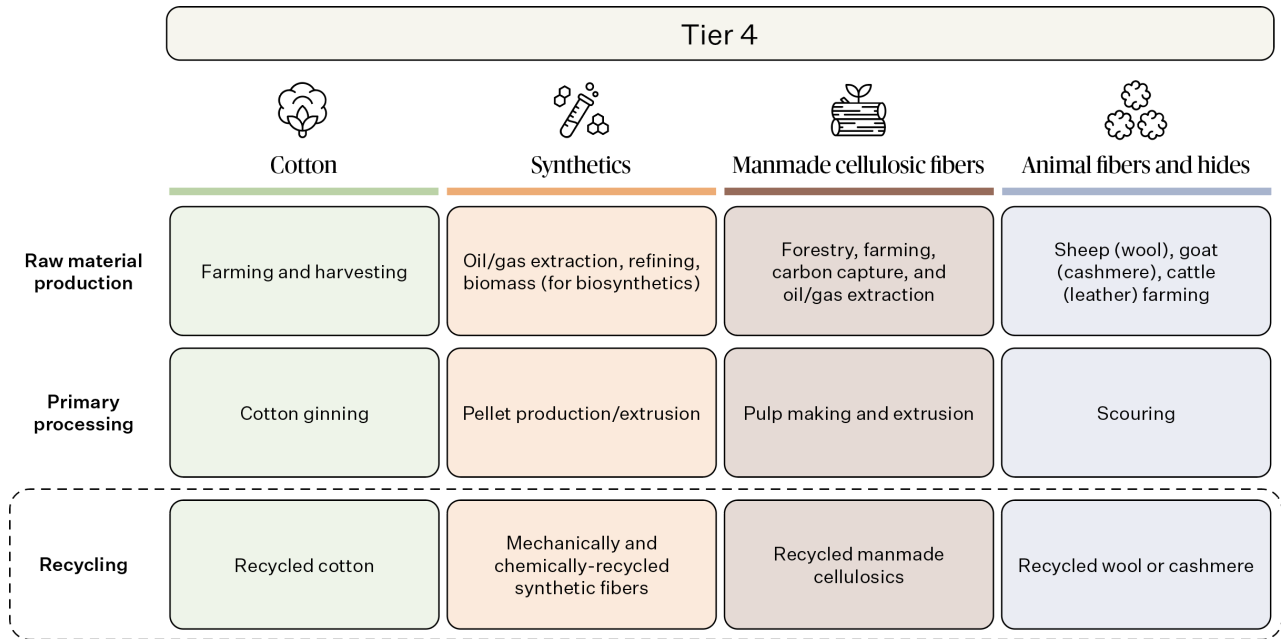
Scope of the tool

The Fiber and Materials Matrix scope covers the extraction, processing, and production of raw materials (commonly referred to as Tier 4 of textile supply chains). Our [Supply Chain Taxonomy](#), published with the apparel alliance, provides further details on how supply chain tiers are defined.

The tool also includes chain of custody-focused standards systems, which demonstrate how a feedstock can be tracked throughout the supply chain and often cover the primary processing requirements.

The scope of the Fiber and Materials Matrix does not extend beyond Tier 4. For organizations that operate across Tiers 0-3 of the supply chain tiers, only their Tier 4 programs are eligible for assessment.

Supply chain tiers and processes in scope



The Fiber and Materials Matrix survey applies to raw material sustainability programs that cover the processing stages set out in the graphic above. To participate in the FMM survey, a program must be commercially available and not a pilot program.

If you have a question on whether your program is in scope, please reach out to matrix@textileexchange.org.

Structure

The Fiber and Materials Matrix consists of five pillars: *Climate, Nature, People, Animals, and Governance*. Each pillar contains the impact areas outlined in the table below:






Pillar	Impact Area	Summary
Climate	Climate	Evaluates how programs measure, monitor, and reduce emissions, as well as the climate change mitigation and adaptation techniques in place and the protection of carbon stocks.
	Resource Use & Waste	Evaluates how programs are working towards reducing waste and increasing the value of waste that does arise.
Nature	Biodiversity	Evaluates how programs manage biodiversity, minimize harm through operations, and create beneficial outcomes.
	Soil Health	Evaluates how programs manage soil and implement practices that have beneficial outcomes for soil health.
	Land Use Change	Evaluates how programs manage land, prevent deforestation and land conversion, and restore or remediate damaged areas.
	Forest Management	Evaluates how programs manage forests in production. This includes how they minimize disturbances to ecosystems and protect ancient or endangered forests. This impact area is only applied to forest management programs.
	Chemicals & Toxicity	Evaluates how programs manage and monitor chemical usage.
	Freshwater	Evaluates how programs protect water quality and conserve water resources.
People	Policy Identify & Assess Cease, Prevent & Mitigate Track & Communicate, Remediation	Evaluates a program’s approach to implementing human rights due diligence. The structure and content of this section is aligned with the OECD’s Due Diligence Guidance.
Animals	Animal Welfare	Evaluates how programs manage animal welfare against The Five Domains framework, including topics such as nutrition, living environment and handling.
Governance	Organizational Governance Program Governance – Chain of Custody of Model LCA (Representativeness and Completeness)	Evaluates how a program is managed and engages with stakeholders.

Applicability

The Fiber and Materials Matrix is designed to allow a breadth of programs and fiber types to be included. However, not all of the indicators are relevant to a material type or production process.

For example, only fibers with farm, forest, or animal-derived feedstock will be assessed against *Biodiversity*, *Soil Health*, and *Land Use Change* indicators, given that these focus on production practices and do not apply to recycled inputs. On the other hand, indicators including *Type of Waste Used as Feedstock* and *Amount of Waste Used as a Feedstock* are only applicable to recycled programs.

This table shows which impact areas apply to each material type:

Materials + Stage of Tier 4		Cotton (Farm)	Animals (Farm)	MMCF (Farm/Forest)	Cotton (Gin)	Synthetics (Extraction)	Synthetics (Extrusion)	Animals (Scouring)	MMCF (Pulp/Fiber)	Recycled (ALL)
 Climate	Climate	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Resource use and waste	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
 Nature	Biodiversity	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
	Soil Health	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
	Land Use Change	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
	Forest Management	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
	Freshwater	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
 Animals	Chemicals & Toxicity	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Animals	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
 People	Policy	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Identify & Assess	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Cease, Prevent & Mitigate	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Track & Communicate	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Remediation	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
 Governance	Organizational Governance	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Program Governance	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Programs are only assessed and scored against the relevant indicators based on the type of program and material.

Paired programs

The Fiber and Materials Matrix assessment is always based on a single program, and not on an organization with multiple programs, standards, or branded fibers.

This means that if an organization conducts the self-assessment individually for multiple programs, it will receive an individual score for each program, as opposed to one score for the organization as a whole.

In certain cases, farm or feedstock-level programs may be paired with processing, facility-level, or chain-of-custody-based programs. Where this is the case, the feedstock and processing practices are assessed in isolation against the applicable indicators (see above). The scores are then combined to

give an overall score for the combination of programs and displayed on the Fiber and Materials Matrix website.

If a program focuses on primary processing, it will be possible to select upstream programs that are linked to it where relevant, such as selecting a program that applies to the feedstock.

Two examples are provided below. If this applies to your program, please select the type of feedstock used.

Farm/Feedstock	Processing	Applicability of impact areas and survey questions
Forest Stewardship Council Certified	Lenzing’s Tencel Lyocell	The tool assigns the relevant impact areas to either the feedstock or processing. In some cases, the impact areas and questions will apply to both supply chain tiers.
EU Organic, Fairtrade	Global Organic Textile Standard	

Scoring

There are qualitative and quantitative indicators in the Fiber and Materials Matrix. Qualitative questions make up the majority of the framework and are scored by matching criteria to program documentation (requirements and/or evidence of outcome). These include management indicators, such as *Biodiversity Management* or *Soil Health Management*.

Quantitative lifecycle assessment (LCA) indicators come from the Higg Materials Sustainability Index (MSI). There are four LCA indicators used in the Fiber and Materials Matrix across three impact areas:

Impact Area	LCA Indicator
Climate	Global Warming Potential
Climate	Abiotic Resource Depletion
Freshwater	Water Scarcity
Chemicals & Toxicity	Eutrophication Potential

Whether qualitative or quantitative, each of the indicators is given a score out of 100. Qualitative indicators are based on the survey questions about management programs relating to the impact areas.

Quantitative (LCA) indicator scores are derived through the normalization of the LCA scores. Normalized LCA data is useful as it ensures that information is comparable.

Textile Exchange maps LCA values to programs. For example, in an organic cotton program, the organic cotton emissions factors from the MSI are used in the quantitative part of the assessment.

If a program cannot be mapped to an MSI LCA value, a score of 0 will be given for the quantitative indicators. This is because there is no evidence that the LCA emissions factors for the program are better than conventional equivalents. For example, a program that produces organic wool would receive a score of 0 for the LCA indicators as there is currently no “organic wool” value in the MSI.

If your program has conducted an LCA study that is not listed in the Higg, it will be recognized and scored in the LCA section that can be found in the *Governance* pillar. For those without a program-specific LCA, an analysis of the relevant Higg MSI emissions factors will be assessed in this part instead.

Textile Exchange will regularly update LCA mappings as more LCA studies and values become available.

If you think that your program has an incorrect MSI LCA value attributed to it, please reach out to matrix@textileexchange.org.

Score weighting

Each indicator (survey question) is weighted within its relevant impact area. To highlight the importance of managing environmental and social impacts, the management indicators are weighted about three times more than the other indicators in each impact area.

Where relevant, quantitative (LCA) indicators are given the same weighting as the non-management indicators within an impact area (see example below):

Water Risk Management (Quantity and Quality)	50%
Comprehensiveness of Water Strategy (Quantity)	17%
Comprehensiveness of Water Strategy (Quality)	17%
LCA indicator: MSI Water Scarcity	17%

The values above are rounded to the nearest decimal. Each impact area contributes to the total pillar score.

Self-assessment instructions

Registration and login

The Fiber and Materials Matrix self-assessment window will be open for submissions from the second week of April to the second week of June 2025.

Step 1: Registration

Organizations in scope (see page 3), that have not yet registered can complete [this form](#) to register.

Step 2: Activation

Textile Exchange will review your registration and activate your account, after which you will receive your login credentials from matrix@textileexchange.org when the survey goes live or within a week during the survey submission period.

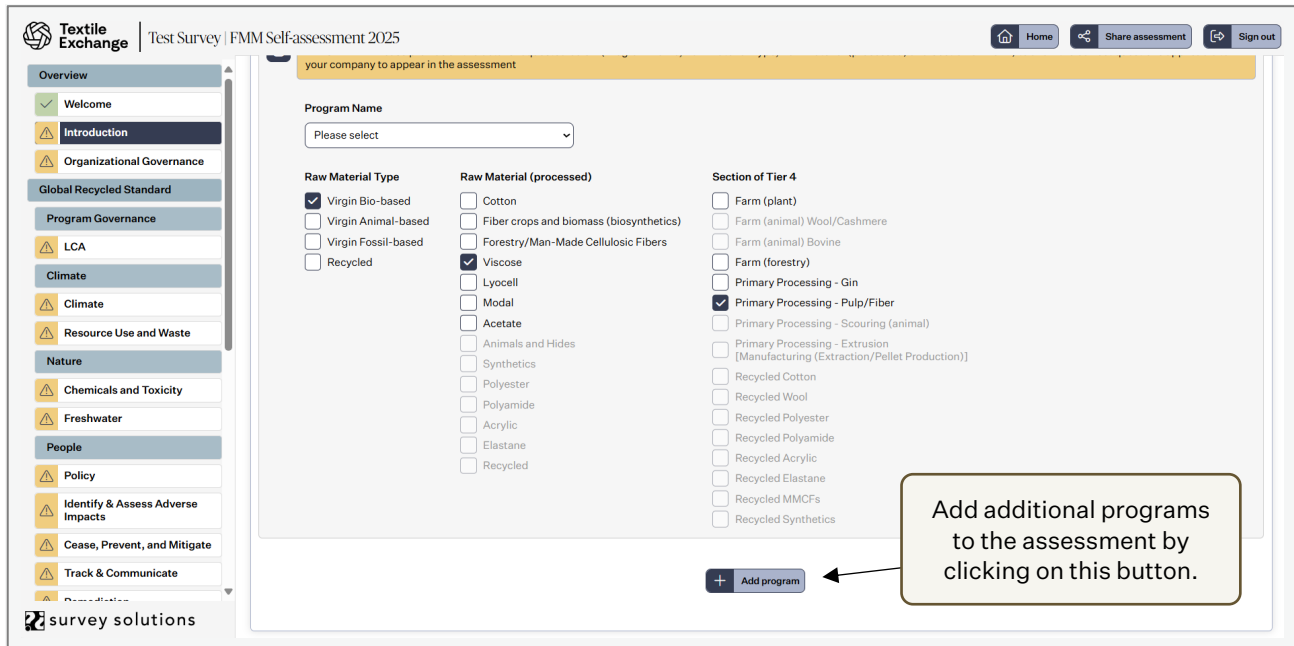
The screenshot shows the login interface for the Textile Exchange Data Reporting Portal. At the top, the Textile Exchange logo and the title 'Data Reporting Portal' are displayed. Below this, there are two main login options. On the left, under the heading 'Please enter your login details below', there are two input fields: 'Your email address' (with an envelope icon) and 'Your password' (with a lock icon). Below these fields is a dark button with a right-pointing arrow and the text 'Sign in'. Below the 'Sign in' button is a link: 'If you have forgotten your password, please click [here](#)'. On the right, under the heading 'If you have a Microsoft account, please click on the button below', there is a dark button with the Microsoft logo and the text 'Sign in with Microsoft'. Below this button is a note: 'Single sign-on may need to be first enabled by your IT admin'. In the center between the two options is the word 'OR'. At the bottom right of the page, it says 'powered by' followed by the Survey Solutions logo and the text 'survey solutions'.

Step 3: Get started with self-assessment

You can start completing the self-assessment with the login credentials shared in Step 2. Start the survey by clicking on “FMM Self-Assessment 2025.”

Organizations that own more than one sustainability program can access all their programs in the same survey.

See in the graphic below at the bottom of the screen, on how to “add program”.



In case of any questions related to program selection feel free to reach out to us at matrix@textileexchange.org.

Getting started with the self-assessment






Left navigation panel: As you open the FMM Self-Assessment, you will notice a navigation panel on the left. This includes sections of the survey that apply to you, including the pillars to complete for *Climate*, *Nature*, *People*, *Animals*, and *Governance* (where applicable).

Overview section: While the overview section is the same for all organizations, the program-specific pillars and impact areas will appear once the dynamic table in the “Introduction” section is completed (explained below).

Welcome: The “Welcome” page provides details on the structure, purpose, and scope of the FMM.

Introduction and applicability: The “Introduction” section is where organizations should identify the type of material and indicate the program(s) that their organizations own and would like to include in the self-assessment. For each program, select the “Program name” from the drop-down menu. Then choose the “raw material type,” specify the “raw material” and the “Tier 4 section.” This will allow the system to find applicable pillars and impact areas for each program and display them on the left navigation panel. To assess more than one program, please “add programs” as required.

Pillar and impact area: Each main section is called a **pillar**. These include *Climate*, *Nature*, *People*, *Animals*, and *Governance*. These pillars are made up of smaller sections called **impact areas**. For example, the *Nature* pillar has six impact areas: *Biodiversity*, *Soil Health*, *Forest Management*, *Land Use Change*, *Chemicals & Toxicity*, and *Freshwater*. In other cases, a pillar might only have one impact area, such as *Animals*.

 Climate	 Nature	 Animals	 People	 Governance
Climate* Resource Use & Waste	Biodiversity Soil Health Land Use Change Forest Management Chemicals & Toxicity* Freshwater*	Animal Welfare	Policy Identify & Assess Cease, Prevent & Mitigate Track & Communicate Remediation	Organizational Governance Program Governance LCA (Representativeness and Completeness)

* Indicates that an LCA quantitative indicator is part of an impact area

Indicator and criterion: Survey questions are also referred to as “Indicators.” Several indicators are counted together to form an impact area. Each answer choice within a question is a **criterion**, which is accompanied by supporting details and guidance on how to meet each one.

Navigating the survey platform

Guidance throughout the survey: Hover over the “i” button to the left of each criterion to view supporting details. You will also find underlined text with definitions as you hover over them.

Resource library: The Resource library (see screenshot below) will take you to key documents, including the survey guide, methodology etc., for your better understanding of the survey.

Share or download survey questions: If you wish to share the survey with your colleague(s), you can do so by clicking the “share” button on the top right corner of the survey portal. Alternatively, after you have completed the “Introduction” section, you can also “download” an excel version to share with colleagues. For example, if you need to collect answers from different departments.

While survey progress will be auto recorded in the portal, users also have the option to download their survey to excel format for reference or sharing internally within their organization.



User settings: If you wish to add your colleague(s) to complete the survey, you can do so by going to the “User settings” on the top right-hand-side of the navigation.

Alternatively, you can use the share or download features explained above if you need to collect answers from different departments/ colleagues.

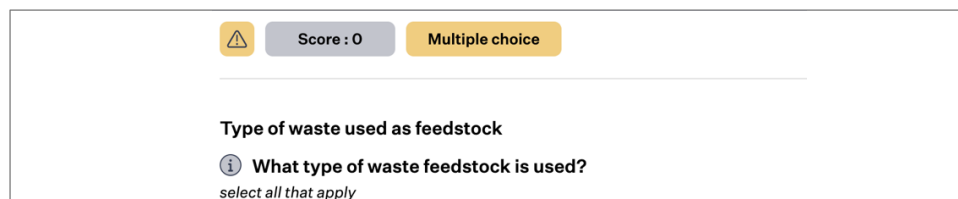
Support: For any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us at matrix@textileexchange.org

Type of questions

The survey comprises of the following types of questions:

- **Single choice:** You can select the single most applicable option.
- **Multiple choice:** You can select as many responses as possible and points will be awarded based on the number of criteria met.
- **Partial progressive:** For these questions, Level 1 criteria must be fulfilled before selecting further criteria. In this version of the tool, after Level 1 criteria are selected, users can interact with and respond to the remaining criteria (response options). In this way, a “foundational” procedure/requirement is mandatory while maintaining flexibility in the response.

Each question in the survey has a tag indicating type of question (from the three listed above). On answering the questions, **indicator scores** will be visible based on the selection in the “Score” grey box just above it, on the left-hand side. See the image below.



Pre-filling functionality

Organizations completing the self-assessment for multiple programs owned by them can pre-fill answers from the first completed program. Be sure to update prefilled answers as needed to avoid data errors.

To prefill your answers for this section from another program, select the program from the dropdown and click the 'Prefill answers' button

▼

Prefill answers

Evidence requirements

Publicly available evidence must be provided for each response to a question and will be reviewed by a third party to ensure the criteria is met. Evidence can be uploaded to the platform and must meet the following requirements.

- **Be public:** Evidence must be publicly available on the program or organization’s website or elsewhere in the public domain. Only web links will be accepted as evidence.
- **Be relevant:** Evidence must clearly come from the assessed organization or program. Unlabeled evidence (e.g. no name or logo) will not be accepted.
- **Be credible:** Evidence must be a formal, complete document. Evidence such as screenshots where there is no indication of how it fits into the wider program documents will not be accepted.
- **Be current:** The Fiber and Materials Matrix assesses *current* practices. Future commitments to revising practices are not acceptable. Higher points will not be awarded if a program intends to change its criteria to meet a higher performance level.

Please provide evidence to support your answer choice(s)

Publicly accessible website address	Specify page number, section and sentence from source document	

+ Add item

Some examples of commonly used documents that could be provided as evidence include (but are not limited to):

- Principles and criteria documents
- Policies and standard operating procedures (SOPs)
- Program manuals
- Theory of change documentation
- Annual reports
- Impact reports
- Assurance and verification procedures

This is a non-exhaustive list that may be relevant as a starting point. Other types of evidence can be submitted if they meet the requirements outlined above.

We recommend providing a URL link to the correct document to specific responses (answers) and specifying details, including page number or paragraph. This will ensure evidence is provided correctly and ease the review process.

Expected time commitment

The time needed to complete the Fiber and Materials Matrix self-assessment will vary from one organization to another due to several factors, including the following:

- **Resources allocated to complete the self-assessment:** Each organization allocates resources differently, such as time and number of staff responsible for completing the self-assessment. This may affect how quickly you complete it.
- **Number and type of programs to be assessed:** The number of programs will also affect the amount of time required to complete the self-assessment. The duration will be according to the number of programs each organization owns and chooses to assess. Assessments are based on material and stage of production within Tier 4, which may influence both length and content. For example, an organization completing the wool assessment will require the (additional) animal welfare section, which does not apply to some other raw material programs such as cotton.

We recommend allocating at least a few days to a week for each program survey. This will give you enough time to complete the entire assessment depending on the number and type of programs.

Results and claims

When the self-assessment is complete, program’s assessments will be reviewed by a third party organization to generate accurate and reliable results.

The results will be published on the [Fiber and Materials Matrix website](#). If any program wishes not to be listed, the organization owning the program can inform Textile Exchange in advance. There is question in the “Introduction” section of the survey, where organizations can indicate their preference.

✓
Single choice

Do you consent to your FMM results being made public?

select the option that applies

Yes, I consent ?

No, not at this time

To be determined

The results are not intended for any type of environmental or social impact claims. Textile Exchange does not permit marketing claims to be made on the basis of the Fiber and Materials Matrix results. Being listed in the Fiber and Materials Matrix does not mean that a program is “preferred,” it only means that it has been assessed under the Fiber and Materials Matrix framework.

Reporting cycle

The indicative reporting cycle for 2025 is outlined below.

- **The survey opens on the second week of April 2025 and will close on the second week of June 2025.**
- Completed surveys are received and assessed by an independent third-party organization that will be responsible for reviewing the responses and the publicly available information submitted to make sure that the evidence satisfies the response selected. Note that no scores are finalized until the third party review is complete and are issued by Textile Exchange.
- Results are expected to be published in Q4 of 2025.