

# Recycled Polyester Round Table

## October 12, 2017, Washington D.C.



Polyester is a manmade fiber, synthesized from petrochemical products by a process called polymerization. Polyester is the most widely used fiber in the apparel sector. As with other fibers, Textile Exchange believes polyester should be made with the most sustainable feedstocks available. In the case of recycled polyester (rPET), preferred feedstocks include plastic bottles, post-industrial waste and post-consumer textiles.

rPET is promoted by Textile Exchange as a preferred fiber due to its environmental savings highlighted by LCA data, the HIGG MSI and Made-by Environmental Benchmark and its ability to be certified to various industry standards including the Global Recycled Standard. The Textile Exchange rPET Working Group proposes that virgin polyester be replaced by rPET, that the market outlines and develops the required products, and that work is done to allow the industry to reach economies of scale.

The Recycled Polyester Round Table is a new, annual multi-stakeholder meeting, held as part of Textile Exchange's annual Textile Sustainability Conference alongside the popular Organic Cotton Round Table. Coordinated by Textile Exchange's on-going rPET Working Group, the 2017 meeting will bring together interested stakeholders from across the industry for updates and discussions on key issues in the sector, and to plan the group's next steps.

### Preliminary Agenda

Timing	Activity
10:00 – 10:30	<b>Background on Recycled Polyester (rPET) and status on Circular Polyester (cPET)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Goals/SDGs – Karla Magruder, Fabrikology<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Replacing virgin w/rPET (cPET)</li><li>rPET availability (cPET)</li><li>Growing demand to achieve a competitive market price</li><li>Uptake/challenges</li><li>Potential to change to Preferred Synthetic Fibers</li><li>Circle Economy collaboration</li></ul></li><li>Relationship to virgin<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Environmental</li><li>Social</li><li>Economic</li></ul></li><li>rPET Working Group Resources – Traci Kinden, Circle Economy<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Terms and Definitions</li><li>FAQs</li><li>Supplier chart</li><li>Market requirements</li></ul></li></ul>

Timing	Activity
10:30 – 11:15	<p><b>Breakouts</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Price (supplier focus) – led by Menachem Katz, Consultant <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Growing demand to achieve a competitive market price</li> <li>Supplier chart</li> <li>New goals</li> <li>Communication</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Market Requirements (brand focus) – led by Ada Suneson, PVH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Market requirements</li> <li>Supplier chart</li> <li>New goals</li> <li>Communication</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. rPET Microsite discussion - led by Merrilee Avila, Nike <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Terms &amp; Definitions</li> <li>FAQs</li> <li>Availability/Supplier Landscape</li> <li>Brand Demand – common brand yarn specs</li> <li>Link to GRS standard</li> </ul> </li> </ol>
11:15 – 11:30	<p><b>2018 Combined Goals</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Measurable new goals</li> <li>Plan for 2018</li> </ul>
11:30 - 11:45	<p><b>Commitment Letter</b></p>
11:45 - 12:00	<p><b>Wrap up &amp; preparation for report out to main room</b></p>



Textile Exchange is a global non-profit that works closely with our members to drive industry transformation in preferred fibers, integrity and standards and responsible supply networks. We identify and share best practices regarding farming, materials, processing, traceability and product end-of-life in order to reduce the textile industry's impact on the world's water, soil and air, and the human population.

<http://textileexchange.org>