47
more member companies than 2016

937
certified units over 2016

25%
growth in conference attendance from 2016
About

Textile Exchange

Textile Exchange, founded 15 years ago, is a global membership-based non-profit whose 260+ members represent leading brands, retailers and suppliers in the textile industry from more than 25 countries. The organization works to create leaders in the sustainable fiber and materials sector by providing learning opportunities, tools, insights, standards, data, measurement and benchmarking. Textile Exchange’s work builds a community that creates positive impacts on water, soil, air, animals, and the human population.

Textile Exchange works closely with its members and with leaders across the textile sector to accomplish five principal goals.

1. Drive an increase in the adoption of preferred fibers.
2. Increase integrity throughout the value chain via the adoption of standards and certifications.
3. Enable collective impact and action across the industry.
4. Raise awareness about the positive, meaningful changes accomplished.
5. Use the Sustainable Development Goals as a common vocabulary and reporting framework.

By accomplishing these goals, we believe we can catalyze transformative change that will result in a more sustainable, responsible textile industry.

Mission: Textile Exchange inspires and equips people to accelerate sustainable practices in the textile value chain. We focus on minimizing the harmful impacts of the global textile industry and maximizing its positive effects.

Vision: We envision a global textile industry that protects and restores the environment and enhances lives.

Our Approach

We Convene A Powerful Community

With more than 260 members—including Nike, Target, Patagonia, H&M, Inditex, Kering, C&A, PVH, prAna, Marks & Spencer, Lenzing, Esquel and VF—the quality and global reach of our membership has meaningfully accelerated the use of preferred fibers and increase the adoption of standards and certifications in the global textile industry.

We Collect Critical Industry Data and Insight

Our Preferred Fiber and Materials Benchmark program enables brands and retailers to measure and manage usage of preferred fiber and materials, track consumption year-over-year, and benchmark against the rest of company’s fiber and materials portfolio. The program provides tools to help companies make more sustainable sourcing decisions.

We manage and promote integrity through leading industry standards

Our suite of industry standards—which includes organic, recycled, responsible down and responsible wool content claims—works to support and verify product claims, establish best practices and, ultimately, provide brands with a means to reduce reputational risk, meet CSR goals and communicate confidently with their customers about their products.
Dear Friends,

In 2017, Textile Exchange celebrated 15 years of being the leading collaborative organization in the textile and apparel industry. To commemorate the milestone, we celebrated at a special 15th Anniversary event during the kick-off to our annual conference in Washington, DC - There was even line-dancing... just like we did at our first conference!

While we’ve experienced several changes since our inception in 2002, one thing that hasn’t changed is our ultimate vision of transforming the global textile industry into one that protects and restores the environment and enhances lives.

Our Inspirational Vision – simply – is about people. Wherever we find ourselves within the textile community we have the opportunity and responsibility to positively impact people’s ability to have freedom from poverty and freedom to enjoy clean air and clean water.

The Strategic Vision – through innovation, collaboration, and alignment – is to turn individual action into collective action. No one company or individual can do this alone, we must do this together!

The Tactical Vision is the daily work of implementing the actions that lead to transformative change – having a strategy, making the business model work for the entire supply network, adopting more preferred fibers along the way, and creating consumer awareness.

This vision is made possible through a powerful community of more than 260 Textile Exchange members – join these industry leaders in helping us Create Material Change.

Wherever we find ourselves within the textile community we have the opportunity and responsibility to positively impact people’s ability to have freedom from poverty and freedom to enjoy clean air and clean water.

La Rhea Pepper
Managing Director

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2017 By the Number

- **Number of active members**: 260+
- **Published industry reports**: 9
- **Record-breaking conference, with 40 sponsors, 118 speakers and 525 attendees!**: 1
- **Companies participating in benchmarking and reporting on increased usage of preferred fibers**: 97
- **Fiber Challenges Accepted**: 80+
- **Active standards with 6,344 sites certified around the world**: 6
- **Events hosted in multiple cities across the globe**: 60
The Textile Exchange team hosted, spoke at or participated in 22 events in 9 countries in 2017.

Canada

- World Ethical Apparel Roundtable, Nov. 13-14
  - Participated
- SECOND ONE

United States

- Outdoor Retailer | Salt Lake City, Utah, Jan. 9-12 / July 26-27
  - Participated
- Responsible Wool Brand Training | New York City, Feb. 21
  - Hosted
- Organic Week | Washington, DC, May 23-25
  - Participated
- Texworld USA | New York City, July 17-19
  - Participated
- West Coast Workshop: Focusing on Fiber Strategy | LA, Sep. 20
  - Hosted
- Fall Field Day by Texas Organic Cotton Marketing Coop, Oct. 3
  - Participated
- 2017 Textile Sustainability Workshop | Washington, DC, Oct. 9-11
  - Hosted
- Preferred Fiber and Materials Round Tables, Oct. 12
  - Hosted

Argentina

- Responsible Wool Brand Training | Trelew, Feb. 21
  - Hosted
Textile Exchange hosted **13 Online Events** in 2017, resulting in over 1,000 people attending live and almost 2,500 having registered and received access to the archives.
2017 Program Highlights

The following pages provide insight into the significant achievements associated with each of Textile Exchange’s key initiatives during 2017.

Membership Program

In an ongoing effort to ensure that Textile Exchange provides value through its Membership, a survey was conducted in early 2017 asking for feedback from our Members. The response was overwhelming and insightful, showing us where our work is succeeding in meeting the needs of the industry and where there is opportunity for improvement. A couple of the clear outcomes from the survey were to have more opportunities for engagement and dialog and to lead the industry to action.

Textile Exchange took this feedback to heart and expanded opportunities for action through Round Tables and Working Groups, as well as, investing in technology to further facilitate member engagement that will be realized by the end of 2018.

Textile Exchange also welcomed a new Director for the program when Celeste Lilore joined the organization in October. Get to know Celeste at an upcoming event or contact her via email – she can’t wait to hear from you.

2017 Conference

The focus of the 2017 Textile Sustainability Conference was United By Action: Catalyzing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Textiles. Textile Exchange’s annual global conference, held near Washington D.C. on October 9-13, boasted a record attendance of more than 500 people participating from 37 countries and 328 different companies. With 116 speakers, the 2017 conference was not only inspiring and eye-opening, but the place to be for the latest research and state-of-the-art solutions in textile sustainability. A full recap of the conference can be found here. Don’t miss the 2018 conference taking place in Milan, Italy - October 22-24.

Textile Exchange Industry Engagement

Puerto Rico Cotton Fund | During the 2017 Textile Sustainability Conference, The Smallholder Farmers Alliance (SFA) along with Yanna Muriel Mohan, Farmer and Agricultural Manager of Visit Rico, delivered a heart-wrenching message to attendees about the devastating impact of Hurricane Maria on organic smallholder farmers in Puerto Rico. The Puerto Rico Cotton Fund was launched and over $30,000 dollars were pledged to go towards immediate help. A special thanks to SFA, for the partnership with the Textile Exchange community – we’re proud to be part of the solution for this region! Find out more here.

SDG Action | Textile Exchange committed to creating a target call to action for the textile industry around adopting the United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The 17 SDGs are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity. The supply networks of brands and retailers are addressing these issues head on, as well as the countries where they source from. The SDGs serve as a global framework that can help transform the textile and apparel industry and we’re proud to be leading the charge. You can learn more about this on our SDG Resource Page here.
### Integrity and Standards

Key highlights from Integrity and Standards:

- **The Recycled Claim Standard (RCS)** and the **Global Recycled Standard (GRS)** were updated. The updates solidify the RCS and GRS as the leading standards for recycled materials in the apparel industry and ensure continued growth in other industries, including metal, plastics, electronics, packaging and beyond. Read the press release [here](#). Learn more about the standards [here](#).

- The **Global Recycled Standard (GRS)** received Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recommendation for federal procurement. The [recommendations list](#) includes carpet, resilient flooring, and furniture categories; Textile Exchange remains hopeful that it will include apparel in the future.

- Several new **certification bodies** became authorized to certify to the Textile Exchange Standards. A complete list of authorized certification bodies is available at [www.textileexchange.org/integrity](http://www.textileexchange.org/integrity).

Total certification units in 2017 was 6,344. The breakdown per standard includes:

![2017 Certification Units](image)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Standard</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RCS</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRS</td>
<td>695</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RCS</td>
<td>801</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RWS</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCS</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Textile Exchange standards include:**

- The **Responsible Wool Standard (RWS)** was adopted by the Argentine wool industry in 2017, representing the first time Textile Exchange and one of its standards is being recognized at a national level to facilitate the adoption of improved sustainability practices. A key focus for the year was growing adoption of the standard through the supply chain with a number of tools developed and trainings held both in person and online. A continued commitment from brands and retailers was also seen in 2017: the RWS was incorporated into sourcing policies, commitments were made and targets were set – visit [www.responsiblewool.org](http://www.responsiblewool.org) to see more.
Fiber and Materials:

Key highlights from Fiber and Materials platform, include:

• The first-ever **Out of the Box - Thought-leader Interview Series** was released. This series featured a collection of interviews that were taken during the Organic Cotton Round Table meetings held in Hamburg and released throughout 2017. The collection can be accessed [here](#).

• The **2017 Benchmark program** saw a 14% increase in participating companies over 2016’s participation numbers and a 76% increase over 2015’s.

• The Benchmark data fed into the release of the **2017 Organic Cotton Market Report**, the **2017 Preferred Fiber and Materials Market Report**, and the all-new **Insider Series** that showcases leadership throughout the textile and apparel industry.

• The **Quick Guide to Organic Cotton** was also released in 2017 along with Textile Exchange Member-Only webinars that took a deep dive on current issues that were surrounding organic cotton. The Quick Guide is an overview of the impacts of organic cotton, including frequently asked questions and supporting facts.

• Textile Exchange added resources to its portfolio of Preferred Fiber and Materials on biosynthetics because of their potential to reduce the textile industry’s dependence on fossil fuels and shrink its carbon footprint, while producing innovative, high performance materials. The resources added include a **Quick Guide to Biosynthetics** along with a companion site, [aboutbiosynthetics.org](http://aboutbiosynthetics.org).

• Over 270 people participated in the **Organic Cotton Round Table** meeting on October 12 that followed Textile Exchange’s annual conference in Washington D.C. – a record attendance! This highly interactive, action-oriented day gave attendees the chance to learn more about, and get involved in the various activities of Textile Exchange’s Round Tables and Working Groups. The highlights from this meeting can be accessed [here](#), including highlights of the Organic Cotton Innovation Award and Preferred Fiber and Materials Hands-on Lab!

• Textile Exchange organized an **rPET Commitment**, where more than 45 renowned textile, apparel and retail companies—including major brands such as adidas, Dibella, Eileen Fisher, Gap Inc., H&M, IKEA, Lindex, MetaWear, Target and Timberland—by the end of 2017 had committed or agreed to support an increase in their use of Recycled Polyester (rPET) by at least 25% by 2020. Follow its continued success [here](#).

• Textile Exchange was involved in the launch of the Sustainable Cotton Communique, which was started by The Prince’s International Sustainability Unit (ISU). The creation of the **2025 Sustainable Cotton Initiative** calls for companies to commit to using 100% sustainable cotton by 2025 and demonstrates the demand for more sustainable cotton across the sector.

• Textile Exchange partnered with Glasgow Caledonian University’s The Fair Fashion Center to develop a **Blended Cotton Challenge** and a resource page to support participants of The Fair Fashion Center’s Blended Cotton Challenge, which provides more information about organic and transitional cotton (sometimes also called ‘cotton in transition’).

• In partnership with Kering, Textile Exchange published two comprehensive guides on the organic cotton trade in order to provide a blueprint for companies sourcing organic cotton, and incorporating it into their supply chains. These reports are **A World Beyond Certification: A best practices guide for organic cotton trade models** and **Organic Cotton: A Fiber classification guide**.
2017 Financial Overview

Income Sources

- Grants and Program Funds: $353,008
- Membership: $670,830
- Conference: $384,890
- Certification Fees: $968,405
- Consulting and Trainings: $2,170
- Other: $18,248

Total: $2,397,553

Expenses

- Membership Services and Communication: $337,419
- General and Administrative: $567,952
- Conference: $309,695
- Farm Engagement/ Fiber & Materials: $652,938
- Industry Integrity: $641,539
- Learning Center and Events/ Supply Chain: $31,331
- Fundraising: $86,495

*Total: $2,627,371

*Carryover 2016 program funds were utilized in 2017.
Our success is a true measure of our most valuable and intangible assets of all - people.

Textile Exchange Board of Directors

See full biographies, photos and contact information at https://textileexchange.org/board/

Governance Board
Barruch Ben-Zekry, VF Corporation
Tricia Carey, Lenzing
Cara Chacon, Patagonia
Paolo Foglia, ICEA
Jeffrey Hogue, C&A
Mitsuya Inagaki, Kowa Company
Karla Magruder, fabrikology
Elayne Masterson, Esquel Group
Ben Mead, Hohenstein Institute
Cheryl Millard-Nut, Nike Inc.
Mark Prose, Control Union
Shona Quinn, Eileen Fisher, Inc.
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Andreas Streubig, Otto Group
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Jerry Wheeler, Ecocentric Brands
Marci Zaroff, Under the Canopy

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Narasimha Donthi, Chetana Society
Eric Ducoin, Sustainable Cotton
Subindu Garkhel, Fairtrade Foundation
Sevilla Granger, Gap, Inc.
Edward Hertzman, Sourcing Journal
Ferdi Kaygusuzer, Egedeniz Tekstil
Adam Mott, Consultant
Sreeranga Rajan, Dibella
Pamela Ravasio, European Outdoor
MeiLin Wan, Applied DNA Sciences
Alison Ward, CottonConnect
Amy Williams, California College
Eric Wilmanns, Brown & Wilmanns

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Prama Bhardwaj, Mantis World
Mani Chinnaswamy, Appachi Cotton
Helen Crowley, Kering
Anna-Karin Dahlberg, Lindex AB
Avinash Karmarkar, Pratibha Syntex
Ben Ramsden, Resonance
Heinrich Schultz, OrganiMark
Amit Shah, Spectrum
Aydin Unsal, Egedeniz Textiles
Bruno Van Steenberghe, Greenlama
SPRL
Tong Yeung, Mecilla
Textile Exchange Staff + Ambassadors

See full biographies, photos and contact information at https://textileexchange.org/staff/.

Stuart Adams, Wool Ambassador  
Jana Busch, Materials Program Assistant  
Carlotta Cataldi, Graphic Recorder & Events Facilitator  
Caterina Conti, Independent Consultant  
Betty Cortina-Weiss, Marketing Consultant  
Hanna Denes, Senior Manager of Standards  
Lisa Emberson, Materials Platform Coordinator  
Atila Ertem, Country Manager Turkey and Central Asia  
Ashley Gill, Senior Manager of Industry Integrity  
Anne Gillespie, Director of Integrity and Standards  
Amish Gosai, South Asia Manager  
Terry Hyde, Administrative Coordinator  
Nicole Lambert, Data Analyst  
Payton LaRocque, Program and Project Manager  
Céleste Lilore, Director of Industry Engagement  
Rita Luppino, Communication and Events Manager  
Sandra Marquardt, Special Projects  
Brittany Moore, Communications Coordinator  
Silvio Moraes, Ambassador Latin America  
Sophia Operskalski, PFM Strategy Consultant

La Rhea Pepper, Managing Director  
Stefanie Pokorski, Integrity and Standards Coordinator  
Joy Saunders, Consultant  
Simone Seisl, Special Project Consultant  
Evonne Tan, Creative and Analytics Specialist  
Silvere Tovignan, Regional Director, Africa  
Sharon Whitley, Financial Administrator  
Liesl Truscott, Director of Eurpean and Materials Strategy  
Lee Tyler, Senior Manager of Standards Assurance  
Donna Worley, Director of Communications and Public Relations  
Allen You, Ambassador China  
Amber Young, Financial and Program Coordinator  
Ryan Young, Director of Strategy and Program Development  
Valentina Zarew, Ambassador Australia and New Zealand
# 2017 Textile Exchange Members

- AATCC (American Association of Textile Chemicals and Colorists)
- AB Lindex
- Adidas Sourcing Ltd.
- Aid by Trade Foundation (ABT)
- Alante Capital
- Alexander McQueen (AMQ)
- Alterra Pure
- Anandi Enterprises
- Appachi Eco-Logic Project
- Applied DNA Sciences (ADNAS)
- Armstrong Spinning Mills (P) Ltd.
- Arvind Limited
- Arvind Limited Farm Project
- Asahi Kasei Corporation
- ASOS.com
- ATB
- Aventura Clothing/Sportif USA
- Azureland Organic Co., Ltd.
- Beechfield Brands Limited
- Bennett and Company
- Bergman/Rivera SAC
- Better Cotton Initiative (BCI)
- Biocoton (India) Pvt Ltd
- Bluey Australia Pty Ltd.
- Boll & Branch LLC
- Bottega Veneta
- Brown and Wilmans Environmental, LLC
- Burberry
- C&A Buying
- C&A Foundation
- Canopy Planet
- Carhartt, Inc.
- Catholic Relief Services
- Change Agency
- Chargeurs Wool
- Chetana-Vikas
- ColorZen
- Columbia Sportswear Company
- Concept III International
- Control Union Certifications
- COPROEXNIC
- Cotton SA T/A the Sustainable Cotton Cluster
- CottonConnect
- Country Road Group
- Coyuchi, Inc.
- Cradle to Cradle Products Innovation Institute
- CVS (Thailand) Co., Ltd.
- Darlington Fabrics Corporation
- David Jones
- Deer Creek Fabrics, Inc.
- Desigual
- Dibella
- Dird Group
- Disgustingly Organized
- Dunelm (Soft Furnishings) Ltd.
- Eagle Creek
- Eastpak
- Eco Culture Manufacturing.com
- Ecoalf Recycled Fabrics
- ecoCentric Ltd.
- Eddie Bauer
- Egedeniz Tekstil A.S.
- Eileen Fisher, Inc.
- Elaine Delgado
- Eshika and Aditya Cott Fiber
- Esprit Europe Services GmbH
- Esquel Group
- European Outdoor Group (EOG)
- evrnu
- Fabrikology International
- Fair Fashion Center - GCU New York
- Fashion Takes Action
- Fast Retailing Co., Ltd
- Fiberactive Organics, LLC
- FITI Testing & Research Institute
- Fjallraven International AB
- Forum for the Future
- FUTUREADi
- Futuremade Group LLC
- G-Star Raw CV
- Gallant International Inc.
- Gap Inc.
- Gebr. Elmer & Zweifel GmbH
- Geetanjali Woollens Pvt. Ltd
- Giotex Ltd.
- Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS)
- Green Zone Recycling
- Grund America LLC
- Gucci
- Guilford Performance Textiles
- H&M Hennes & Mauritz AB
- Haglofs Scandinavia AB
- Hallotex S.L.
- Hanky Panky
- Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation
- Hemp Fortex Industries Ltd.
- hessnatur stiftung
- Himalayan Wild Fibers
- Hohenstein Institute
- House of Fraser
- House of Future, Inc.
- HUMANA Kleidersammlung GmbH
- Hussain Mills Limited
- ICEA
- Imbotex Srl
- Imperial Stock Ranch
- Indigenous Designs
- INDITEX S.A
- Indorama Polyester Industries PCL
- Intrinsic Textiles Group
- JanSport
- Japan Organic Cotton Association (JOCA)
- Joong Ang Textile Co., Ltd.
- Kabini Organics Farmers Producers Company, Ltd.
- Kathmandu Ltd.
- Kering
- KID Interior AS
- Kipling
- KnowledgeCottonApparel
- Koala Sleep Pty Ltd.
- Kowa Company, Ltd.
- KOZM
- L.L. Bean, Inc.
- La Siesta GmbH
- Lands’ End
- Lee
- Lenzing Fibers
- Loftex
- Loomstate
- Louise Paris Ltd.
- Lucy
- lululemon athletica
- LVMH
- Mantis World
- Marc O’Polo International GmbH
- Marks & Spencer
- Materials Innovation Lab (MIL)
- Mayamiko
- Mecilla Puhan Farmers Association
- MetaWear
- Mountain Equipment Co-op (MEC)
- MQ Holding Ab
- Muji Global Sourcing Pte Ltd
- Nan Ya Plastics Corporation (NPC)
- Napapiri
- NativeEnergy
- Natur-Tec India Pvt. Ltd.
- Naturepedic
- NatureUSA
- Neutral.com ApS

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New Wave Group S.A.
Nike, Inc.
Nishi Senkoh Co., Ltd.
Noble Ecotech
Norrona Sport AS
NSF International
Nudie Jeans Marketing AB
Organic Cotton Accelerator (OCA)
Organic Cotton Colours, SL
Organic Trade Association (OTA)
Organimark
Orimpex Tekstil Ltd. Sti
OTIS College of Art & Design
Otto Group
Outdoor Industry Association / OIA
Outdoor Sports Valley (OSV)
Outknown (OK)
PACT Apparel/Wearpact
Panoco Trading Co. Ltd.
Patagonia
Paul Reinhart AG
Pettenati Centro America SA de C.V.
Piec & Co.
prAna
Pratibha Syntex Pvt. Ltd.
Pre Organic Cotton Program, operated by ITOCHU Corporation and KURKKU Co.
Puma AG
Punarbhavaa Sustainable Products (PSP India)
PVH Corporation
Ralph Lauren Corporation
Ramblers Way
Rare
Re:Down LLC
re:newcell AB
Re.Sustain
Recover/Hilaturas Ferre
Recyctex Co., Ltd.
Reef
REI
Remei AG/bioRe
RESTORE Clothing
Riders by Lee
Rock & Republic
Rural Advancement Foundation International (RAFI)
Sanko Tekstil Inc.
Sateri
Schneidinger AG
SCS Global Services
Shin Fuji Company Limited
SKFK
Smallholder Farmers Alliance
Smartwool
Soil Association
Source Atlantique, Inc.
STI Solutions, LLC
Sourcing Journal Online
South Asian Sourcing Private Limited
Spectrum International Pvt. Ltd.
Spiber Inc.
Stanley and Stella SA
Stardust Materials
Stella McCartney (SMC)
Suminter India Organics Pvt. Ltd.
Summit Company B.V.
Super Spinning Mills Ltd.
Sustainable Apparel Coalition (SAC)
Sustainable Cotton Project
Sustainable Furnishings Council (SFC)
Tact & Stone
Taiga Apparel (PVT) Ltd
Target
Taylor Home & Fashions Limited
Tchibo GmbH
Tejidos Royo
Texas Organic Cotton Marketing Coop (TOCMC)
Textile Development Unit, Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment - Tanzania
The North Face Inc.
The Prince of Wales's International Sustainability Unit
The Renewal Workshop
The Timberland Company
Theory
Toad & Company
Transfer Tech Co., Ltd.
Triaz Group
Under the Canopy
Unifi, Inc.
Vans
Varner Retail
Veja fair trade SARL
Vertical Knits SA DE CV
VF Corporation
Vreseis Ltd.
We aRe SpinDye
WestPoint Home
Wildlife Friendly Enterprise Network
Williams-Sonoma, Inc. / Pottery Barn / West Elm
Woolworths Holdings
Woolworths SA
Wrangler
zLabels Platform Services GmbH & Co. KG