Summary of the Round Table

The Biosynthetics Round Table Summit was held on December 8th, 2020. With 149 attendees and 261 industry professionals from 36 countries registered for the Biosynthetics Round Table Summit, this was the largest Biosynthetics Round Table Summit ever.

Speakers and moderators included:

- Brad Boren, Norrøna Sport, Biosynthetics Round Table Chair
- Sophia Opperskalski, Textile Exchange, Biosynthetics Round Table Lead
- Claire Bergkamp, Textile Exchange, COO
- Liesl Truscott, Textile Exchange, European and Materials Strategy Director
- Ralph Lerner, Virent, Senior VP Commercial Development
- Bob Rozmiarek, Virent, Co-Chair Biosynthetics Working Group 1
- Claudia Richardson, Allbirds, Co-Chair Biosynthetics Working Group 1
- Benjamin Hansen, Target, Co-Chair Biosynthetics Working Group 2
In our Round Table Summit, we:

- shared Textile Exchange’s Climate+ strategy and the vision to reduce GHG emissions (CO2 equivalents) related to materials used in the textile industry by **45% by 2030** compared to 2020 levels to limit global warming to 1.5°C.
- saw that synthetic fibers contribute to the majority of all GHG emissions related to fibers used in the textile industry and that it is thus crucial to reduce GHG emissions related to synthetics to achieve the Climate+ goals.
- heard that replacing fossil-based synthetics with biosynthetics has the potential to limit global warming but that they must be sourced and managed responsibly to realize this potential and to avoid negative effects on other impact areas.
- shared our vision of a **100% virgin fossil-free synthetics textile industry** that protects and restores the environment while enhancing lives (i.e. substitution of virgin fossil-based synthetics with biobased, recycled, and potentially CO2-based synthetics, powered by 100% renewable energy).
- shared our 2030 vision to reduce GHG emissions (CO2 equivalents) related to synthetic materials used in the textile industry by **45% by 2030** compared to 2020 levels.
- specified the purpose of the Biosynthetics Round Table to inspire and equip people to accelerate the transition to biosynthetic materials in the global textile industry aligned with our vision.
- shared updates on the work of our two Working Groups incl. the White Paper and the aboutbiosynthetics.org microsite.
- heard that all feedstocks have advantages and disadvantages, so the focus should be not on finding a perfect feedstock, but on committing to the continuous improvement of the best available option for that technology and sourcing region.
- heard that a variety of sustainability standards for biomass has already been developed and can be used for biosynthetics.
- heard that biosynthetics are part of the broader sustainability journey towards a regenerative and circular future.
- heard that the transition needs bold goals and investments.
- heard that while it is important to continuously improve the sustainability profile of biosynthetics, we should not wait for the perfect solution. It’s the Decade of Action and we should start to phase out fossil-based carbon now.
- heard about the importance of metric and science-based decision making (LCA+)
- learned that the Bioplastic Feedstock Alliance (BfA)/WWF works on very similar questions for bioplastics as we do for biosynthetics and that cross-sectoral learning and information sharing can be very beneficial.
- heard in our discussion that there are still various questions around biosynthetics that need to be answered to accelerate the transition
- invited everyone to **join the Biosynthetics Round Table** as we need strong partnerships for the goals.

Over the next year we will:

- convene the (bio)synthetic textile community through regular meetings and the Textile Exchange HUB
- partner with the Preferred Fiber and Materials Matrix team to assess biosynthetics (LCA+)
- partner with the Climate+ strategy team for a global biosynthetics baseline and progress measurement (volumes x GHG emissions)
- finalize the White Paper
- update the microsite
- monitor and support pilot and scaling initiatives
- monitor and support initiatives advocating for favorable policies

THANK YOU to our Biosynthetics Round Table Summit 2020 sponsors Dupont Sorona and Virent as well as all speakers and attendees!