Our 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.

Our vision

We envision a global textile industry that protects and restores the environment while enhancing lives. By 2030, we aspire to guide the textile industry to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions (CO₂ equivalents) by 45 percent from a 2020 baseline.

Our strategy

Our strategy is to accelerate climate action in the textile industry by providing trusted data and reporting, market-based solutions, and a community that can do what no single company or organization can do alone.

In 2020, Textile Exchange included 59 TEam members and ambassadors/consultants in 19 countries around the globe.
Foreword

2020 marked 18 years for Textile Exchange, and with it came a pivot from focusing mostly on education to one focusing on taking collective action to address the role of the textile sector in both causing and mitigating climate change. From the field to finished products, textile production practices too often lead to the destruction of our fragile atmosphere, harm biodiversity, and affect both the availability and quality of precious water.

Recognizing the International Panel on Climate Change's warning that we have just 10 years to halve emissions to avoid dangerous impacts from climate change, Ryan Young, Textile Exchange's Chief Operating Officer until late 2020, led the charge to create our ambitious new 2030 strategy: Climate+ (pronounced “Climate-Plus”).

With this strategy, Textile Exchange will be a driving force for urgent climate action with a goal of 45% reduced greenhouse gas (CO₂ equivalents) emissions by 2030 in the pre-spinning phase of textile fiber and materials production.

The “+” in Climate+ allows Textile Exchange to prioritize climate while continuing to address other impact areas that are interconnected with climate (e.g., water quality and availability, biodiversity, and soil health).

The “+” also is an acknowledgment that Textile Exchange cannot achieve this new 2030 goal on its own. Achieving the goal will require strong partnerships to accelerate the adoption of existing tools as well as enable disruptive innovation around new business models and zero carbon materials.

For years, Textile Exchange has promoted practices, standards, and resources that benefit the climate through the adoption of preferred fibers. Adopting the Climate+ strategy makes climate a deliberate priority and organizational focus for an impact area that requires immediate attention and for which we have many existing tools and resources.

Unfortunately, Ryan passed away from a brain tumor before he could see the fruits of his bold vision become reality. To build upon this vision, Textile Exchange is proud to pass the Chief Operating Officer baton on to Claire Bergkamp, former Stella McCartney Worldwide Sustainability and Innovation Director. In that role, she led the global environmental, human rights, and innovation strategy for the brand while also building a qualified, high-functioning sustainability department and team, a purposeful strategy, and an ambitious project portfolio – just the skills Textile Exchange needed to drive the Climate+ strategy.

This is the decade for change! Now is the time to accelerate the adoption of proven solutions. Claire brings insight, experience, and passion to our 2030 Climate+ Vision. I am excited she has joined us in creating material change and we and our expanding TEam look forward to working with you in the decade to come.

To 2021 and beyond,
The Strategy Pivot

2020 was the year Textile Exchange pivoted from a focus on raising awareness to accelerating adoption, delivering proven solutions to literally transform the industry.

Because less that that is not enough.

Thus, 2020 saw the organization launch a decade-long drive to slash industry emissions and practices that result in climate change. When the coronavirus prevented us from traveling, we continued our work online, educating the industry and accelerating adoption of preferred fibers.

How do we know our plan is on the mark? Companies representing the entire supply chain are:

- Joining Textile Exchange in record numbers, knowing that creating partnerships and sharing will allow everyone to rise to the challenge.
- Becoming certified to Textile Exchange’s standards in rapidly increasing numbers, recognizing that transparency, traceability, and verification are key.
- Providing extensive information to our Corporate Fiber & Materials Benchmark Program to analyze their practices and take action to improve them.
- Participating in round table discussions focused on catalyzing adoption of the steps to achieve the Climate+ goals.
- Turning to our numerous in-depth reports, knowing that Textile Exchange is the only organization tracking the uptake of preferred (and conventional) fibers across a wide portfolio of options and providing in-depth reports on the findings.
- Developing ‘impact incentives’ to reward farmers for preserving the natural ecosystem and help kickstart supply and demand.

Whether face-to-face or virtual, Textile Exchange will continue its drive to reduce the textile sectors’ impacts on climate change. Together we can make a difference.

As we work hard to address climate change and biodiversity impacts from textile fibre and material production, Textile Exchange’s expertise and guidance, as well as their platform for shared learning, will prove invaluable in our journey.”

Phil Townsend, Senior Technical Manager – Ethical Trade, Primark.
2020 by the Numbers

508 companies in 40 countries were Textile Exchange members – a 24% increase over 2019, despite it being a pandemic year.

1,250 leaders from 580 companies in 50 countries registered for the virtual Textile Sustainability Conference – the greatest number to-date.

2,400 thought-leaders participated in 11 Round Tables.

191 Benchmark participants measured their progress, a 10% increase over 2019.

29,049* facilities – a 71% increase over 2019 – became certified to seven Textile Exchange standards in 75 countries.

111 companies accepted the 2025 Sustainable Cotton Challenge.

* Estimated

But that’s not all! Textile Exchange:

- Hosted 11 virtual round tables for organic cotton, responsible down, responsible cashmere, and responsible wool, as well as recycled polyester (rPET), biosynthetics, and manmade cellulosics (MMCs).
  - Regional round tables were also hosted in Africa, China, EMENA & Central Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, South & Southeast Asia, Turkey, and the U.S.
  - Round table participation increased 300% from about 600 leaders in 2018 to 2400 in 2020.

- Developed public positions on human rights and forced labor with a focus on China.

- Had our standards accepted by Amazon’s “Climate Pledge Friendly” program which helps consumers discover and shop for products certified to sustainability standards.

- Partnered with Gap Inc. to update and promote Gap’s Preferred Fiber Toolkit which enables brands to set goals and develop internal awareness on how to design better products and set fiber strategies.
Quick Links to 2020’s Accomplishments

- Release of the **2020 Preferred Fiber and Materials Market Report**.
- Release of the second annual **2025 Sustainable Cotton Challenge Report**.
- Release of the **2020 Preferred Fiber and Materials Market Report**.
- Release of the **Sustainability at a Crossroads (Africa) report**.
- Release of the **Organic Content Standard (OCS) Version 3.0**.
- Launch of the **Responsible Mohair Standard (RMS) Version 1.0**.
- Launch of the **Responsible Wool Standard (RWS) Version 2.0**.
- Launch of the **Biodiversity Benchmark**, as part of the Corporate Fiber & Materials Benchmark program.
- Launch of the **Leather Impact Accelerator**.
Financial Overview

Textile Exchange is a non-profit, mission-based organization. We call the community to action through membership and deliver tools and resources to create positive impacts in the textile industry. Our primary revenues are generated from services and fees from our standards, followed by membership and the annual conference. Due to this revenue model, we are able to invest and leverage grant and programs funds.

Membership saw a blockbuster year despite – or perhaps in response to – the pandemic, growing 24 percent to 508 companies. Almost 100 new companies have joined each of the last two years alone. Our members come for the facts and stay for the community – we have an 88% retention rate, the envy of many organizations!

The conference continues to out-do itself, with both total revenue and number of attendees doubling over the last 5 years (since 2016), with the 2020 event having the greatest attendance ever, despite being virtual.

Income Sources

- **Grants & Program Funds**: 3%
- **Membership**: 19%
- **Conference**: 3%
- **Certification Fees**: 81%
- **Farm Engagement / Fiber & Materials**: 10%
- **Learning Center & Events / Supply Chain**: 1%
- **Fundraising**: 1%
- **Industry Integrity**: 31%
- **Conference**: 14%
- **General & Administrative**: 24%

Expense Sources

- **Membership Services & Communication**: 19%
- **Fundraising**: 1%
- **Membership**: 13%
- **Industry Integrity**: 31%
- **Learning Center & Events / Supply Chain**: 1%
- **Conference**: 14%
- **General & Administrative**: 24%

Board Members

- Inka Apter, Eileen Fisher, Inc.
- Cara Chacon, Patagonia
- Peter Chow, Esquel
- Paolo Foglio, ICEA
- Beth Jensen, VF Corporation
- Karla Magruder, Fabrikology
- Ben Mead, Hohenstein Institute
- Felix Rauer, Otto Group
- Orlando Rivera, Bergman/Rivera SAC
- Heinrich Schultz, OrganiMark
- Amit Shah, Spectrum International
- Sarah Thorson, Target
- Heidi Vaughan, Nike
- Marci Zaroff, MetaWear
### TEam Members

- Lisa Barsley  
  Materials Platform Strategy Manager
- Claire Bergkamp  
  Chief Operating Officer
- Phil Bettany  
  Graphic Designer
- Taylor Bittenbender  
  Membership Coordinator
- Audra Bright  
  Human Resources Manager
- Val Colden  
  Assurance Manager
- Caitlyn Dean  
  Data Program Support
- Hanna Denes  
  Senior Manager of Standards
- Alice Dos Santos  
  Organic Cotton Program Coordinator
- Josephina Eisele  
  Impact Incentives
- Trini Gantner  
  Standards Manager
- Ashley Gill  
  Director of Standards
- Anne Gillespie  
  Director of Impact Acceleration
- Amish Gosai  
  South Asia Manager
- Sevilla Granger  
  Program & Project Strategist/Catalyst
- Rose Johnson  
  Learning Center Manager
- Terry Hyde  
  Systems Manager
- Dawn Kearns  
  Administrative Assistant
- Kaitlyn Kellogg  
  Communications and Events Coordinator
- Jessica Garcia Lama  
  Benchmark Program Manager
- Nicole Lambert  
  Data Analyst
- Céleste Lilore  
  Director of Industry Engagement
- Rita Luppino  
  Communication & Marketing Manager
- Sophia Opperskalski  
  Standards and Innovations, Senior Coordinator
- Prema Pandey  
  Materials Program Coordinator
- La Rhea Pepper  
  Chief Executive Officer
- Katie Pearce  
  Assurance Coordinator
- Stefanie Pokorski  
  Integrity & Standards Coordinator
- Skyler Richardson  
  Events Coordinator
- Simone Seisl  
  Fiber & Materials Specialist – Focus: Man-Made Cellulosics
- Siena Shepard  
  Executive Assistant and Strategy Coordinator
- Suet Yin Siew  
  Senior Data Analyst
- Linda Sisco  
  Membership Administrative Assistant
- Evonne Tan  
  Director of Data Management & China Strategy
- Liesl Truscott  
  Director of European & Materials Strategy
- Lee Tyler  
  Director of Assurance & Operations
- Larysa Valachko  
  Leather
- Callie Weldon  
  Standards Coordinator
- Sharon Whitley  
  Financial Administrator
- Donna Worley  
  Director of Marketing, Communications & Public Relations
- Amber Young  
  Financial & Program Coordinator

### Ambassadors & Consultants

- Marissa Balfour  
  Biodiversity Specialist
- Carlotta Cataldi  
  Graphic Recorder
- Sarah Compson  
  Organic Cotton Specialist
- Brent Crossland  
  Sustainable and Regenerative – Cotton Focus
- Atila Ertem  
  Ambassador for Turkey, Egypt, Central Asia
- Simon Hammett  
  Financial Consultant
- Hong Lee  
  Assurance and China Consultant
- Sandra Marquardt  
  U.S. Ambassador/Organic Cotton Focus
- Elayne Masterson  
  Recycled Polyester Round Table
- Stefanie Maurice  
  Textiles/Benchmarking Consultant
- Silvio Moraes  
  Ambassador for Latin America
- Leonard Mtama  
  Ambassador for East Africa
- Joy Saunders  
  Integrity Specialist
- Silvere Tovignan  
  Lead Ambassador for Africa
- Kathleen Wood  
  Connected Communities & Strategy
- Lazare Yombi  
  Ambassador for West Africa
- Valentina Zarew  
  Ambassador for Australia
- Jun Zhao  
  Ambassador for Asia