



## 2020 Annual Report



### 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 (CO<sub>2</sub> 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.**

**Business Office:** 511 South 1st St, Lamesa, Texas, USA • +1.806.428.3411 • [TextileExchange.org](https://TextileExchange.org)

# Foreword

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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 (CO<sub>2</sub> 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,





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 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 than 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.

# 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.

\* Estimated



111

companies accepted the 2025 Sustainable Cotton Challenge

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 cellulose (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



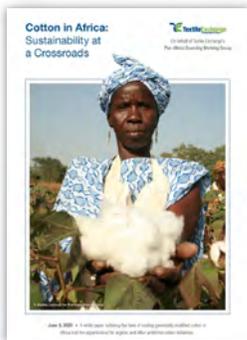
Release of the **2020 Preferred Fiber and Materials Market Report**.



Release of the **2020 Organic Cotton Market Report**.



Release of the second annual **2025 Sustainable Cotton Challenge Report**.



Release of the **Sustainability at a Crossroads (Africa) report**.



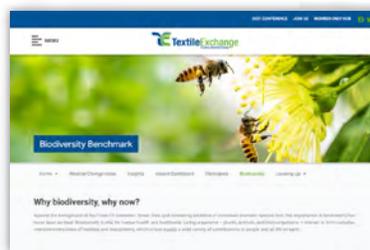
Launch of the **Responsible Mohair Standard (RMS) Version 1.0**.



Revision of the **Responsible Wool Standard (RWS) Version 2.0**.



Release of the **Organic Content Standard (OCS) Version 3.0**.



Launch of the **Biodiversity Benchmark**, as part of the Corporate Fiber & Materials Benchmark program.



Launch of the **Leather Impact Accelerator**.

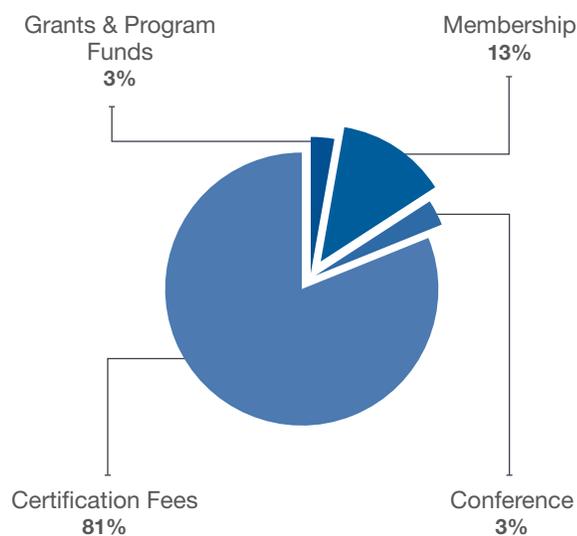
# Financial Overview

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.

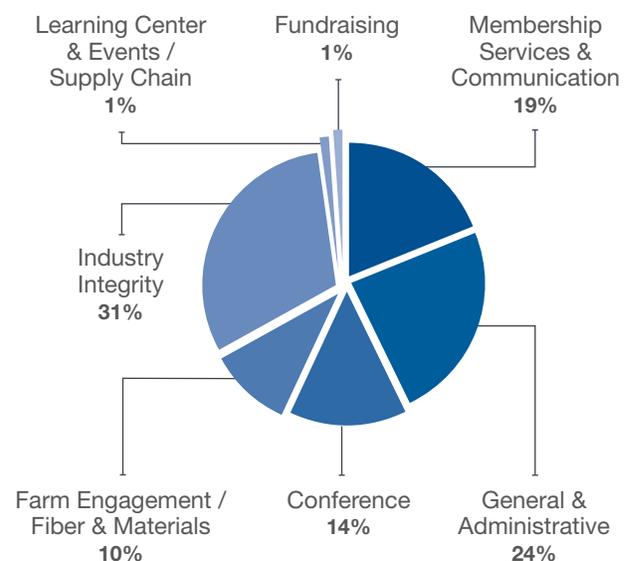
Membership saw a blockbuster year despite – or perhaps in response to – the pandemic, growing 24 percent to 508 companies. Almost 100 new companies have joined each of the last two years alone. Our members come for the facts and stay for the community – we have an 88% retention rate, the envy of many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



## Expense Sources



## 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

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**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

**Perna 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

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**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