Thank You to Our 2021 Sponsors

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2021 Recap

The 2021 Textile Sustainability Conference was our largest event to date with more than 200 speakers and over 1,900 people registered from 45 countries! For the third year in a row, the Textile Sustainability Conference was recognized as being carbon neutral through a partnership with South Pole.

Virtual Conference Access

The virtual conference platform will remain accessible until the end of February 2022. All registered attendees can watch the conference recordings “on-demand” by using the dropdown in the main Agenda page to view a specific day. Speaker presentations are available within the Aventri system within the individual session descriptions.

1. Enter the virtual conference platform here.
2. Login with the email that you registered with.
3. Your password is your unique conference reference number.

Round Table Summary Reports

Summary reports of each of the round table summits are available to download here:

- Animal Fibers Round Table
- Biosynthetics Round Table
- Home & Hospitality Round Table
- Manmade Cellulosics Round Table
- Organic Cotton Round Table
- Recycled Polyester Round Table
- Responsible Leather Round Table
- Sustainable Cotton Round Table

Graphic Recordings

Graphic recordings were created at several of the sessions and round table summits by Graphic Harvester, Carlotta Cataldi. These visuals have been compiled and are available to view here:

Download PDF
The Ryan Young Climate+ Awards

The Ryan Young Climate+ Awards recognize leaders driving progress towards a lower impact textile industry with organic, recycled and regenerative solutions. Winners include “Climate Leaders” Rebecca Burgess of Fibershed, Prama Bhardwaj of Mantis World, Helene Smits of Recover™ and Margot Lyons of Coyuchi, as well as “Rising Stars” Annabelle Hutter of SäntisTextiles and Landon Nash of Tact & Stone. The annual awards have been established in memory of the late Ryan Young, Textile Exchange’s Chief Operating Officer from 2017 to 2020, and the driving force behind the organization’s Climate+ Strategy.

The awards were presented to the winners by Helena Young, Ryan Young’s wife, science educator, and climate change activist. The recipients have been honored for their work in driving progress towards the defining goal of Textile Exchange’s Climate+ Strategy: a 45 percent greenhouse gas reduction in the textile fiber and material production phase by 2030.

Read more about the awards

Climate Leader • Rebecca Burgess, Fibershed.

Rebecca Burgess is the Executive Director of Fibershed, an organization based near San Francisco, California. Burgess has been recognized by Textile Exchange as a Climate Leader for her work with growers, scientists and textile brands to research, demonstrate, and operationalize “climate-beneficial” cotton and wool. These fibers come from regional and regenerative farming systems that draw carbon from the atmosphere into the soil.

Climate Leader • Prama Bhardwaj and team, Mantis World.

Mantis World is the first printwear company in Europe to introduce organic cotton to its market. The company has been making casual apparel for babies, kids and adults for over two decades. CEO and Founder Prama Bhardwaj is recognized by Textile Exchange as a Climate Leader for converting all the brands’ cotton to organic six years ahead of schedule, certified to numerous standards. In addition, Ms. Bhardwaj is the chair of the Textile Exchange Pan-Africa Sourcing Working Group.

Climate Leader • Helene Smits and team, Recover™.

Based in Spain, Recover™ focuses on scaling the production and adoption of recycled cotton fiber in the textile industry. It turns discarded fabric into fiber for apparel and home textiles using a high-tech, low impact separation process.

Climate Leader • Margot Lyons and team, Coyuchi.

Coyuchi, a California-based manufacturer of home textiles and apparel made solely from organic fibers, is the first Recover™ partner to supply its own materials to be recycled through its “2nd Home Take Back” program. The two teams have been jointly recognized by Textile Exchange as Climate Leaders.

Rising Star • Annabelle Hutter, Säntis Textiles.

Säntis Textiles offers products made from 100 percent recycled pre-and post-consumer cotton waste. Serving as Global Creative Director while also studying sustainable textiles management, Hutter has been recognized by Textile Exchange as a Rising Star for her close work with leading fashion brands regarding the company’s RCO100 recycled cotton, and her own “Born on Saturday” brand of hand-made 100 percent recycled cotton tote bags and t-shirts, created to educate people in Southeast Asia about circularity in the fashion industry.

Rising Star • Landon Nash, Tact & Stone.

Tact & Stone is a menswear company making a range of apparel from button-down shirts to pants and blazers. From the start, it has only used certified organic and recycled fibers and materials while pursuing circularity with a take-back program launching by end of this year. Nash, CEO and Founder, is recognized by Textile Exchange as a Rising Star, and wants to prove that consumers do not have to sacrifice quality or style for sustainable products.
Global Fibre Impact Explorer

Along with Google and WWF, we announced the results of a first case study on a digital tool being built to help fashion brands understand the environmental risk and impact of their fibre sourcing. Developed with luxury fashion house Stella McCartney, it informs the brand’s sustainable sourcing strategy on the ground in Turkey through previously opaque and inaccessible data.

In order to assure widespread industry access and continued development, we aim to provide global fashion brands and sourcing teams access to the platform in 2022.

The Global Fibre Impact Explorer (GFIE) assesses risk by fibre and region, drawing together data and analysis across a multitude of environmental impact factors, including air pollution, biodiversity, climate and greenhouse gases, forestry, and water use and water quality. Results in the tool will provide brands with recommendations for targeted and regionally specific risk reduction activities, such as opportunities for positive interventions with farmers, producers, communities, and those in the surrounding landscape to drive improvements.

Watch Claire Bergkamp, COO of Textile Exchange, in conversation with Maria McClay, Director Google Cloud Fashion & Beauty, Google and Laila Petrie, CEO, 2050 here.

Discover More about the GFIE
Exhibiting Companies

ALGI
Armstrong Spinning Mills
Asahi Kasei Corp. Bamberg Div.
Bbetter Cotton
Biria Cellulose
Bluesign Technologies ag
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Chargaux Luxury
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Dibella India
DuPont Biomaterials
Eastman Nala
Ecotextile News
Egedeniz Textile
Furmark
GSCS International Ltd
Higg
Hohenstein
Indidy
Infreichains
InfResST Co., Ltd
Interloop
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ISKO
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Quantis
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Sappi
Sateri International
Shanko Wool Company
Sustainable Apparel Coalition
Takihyo Co., Ltd
Thai Acrylic Fibre Co., Ltd.
The Schneider Group
The Movement
Trustrace
U.S. Cotton Trust Protocol
USB Certification
VF Corporation
Zeynar Mensucat San. ve Tic. A.S.
We were delighted to have Dr. Jason Hickel as the keynote speaker for the 2021 Textile Sustainability Conference. Jason is an economic anthropologist, author of “Less is More: How Degrowth will Save the World,” and a Professor at the Institute for Environmental Science and Technology at the Autonomous University of Barcelona. His research focuses on global inequality, political economy, post-development, and ecological economics. In addition to his academic work, Jason writes regularly for The Guardian and Foreign Policy and contributes to a number of other online outlets, including Al Jazeera and Fast Company.

His keynote addressed the impacts of inequality and resource extraction, new forms of value creation, and how we can decouple growth from business status quo. Registered attendees can watch a recording of the session in the virtual conference platform: https://na.eventscloud.com/ereg/ve2/index.php?eventid=603723

Sponsored by Kipas Textiles & Säntis Textiles
PLENARY 1: Climate+

In the opening plenary, attendees were given updates about Climate+ Strategy, and a reality check that there is not a strong correlation between setting strong climate goals and reducing greenhouse gas emissions (finding from the newly released “Friction Points in Fashion & Textiles” report).

Attendees then learned about resources, such as the “Roadmap to Net-Zero”, which can help to collectively align towards our target of reducing emissions in the fiber and material production by 2030, and other actions we can take to create transformational change in the textile area.

* Claire Bergkamp, COO, Textile Exchange
  * Beth Jensen, Climate+ Strategy, Director, Textile Exchange

PLENARY 2: Leveraging Partnerships in the Industry

In this plenary, we heard from leading organizations along the textile industry supply chain who are working together to streamline efficiency, avoid duplicate work, and accelerate change. On this second day of conference, we gave a voice to our partners who headed several of the day’s sessions and learned how we go further and faster together by leveraging collective action.

* Claire Bergkamp, COO, Textile Exchange
  * Ashley Gill, Standards & Stakeholder Engagement, Senior Director, Textile Exchange
  * Amina Razvi, Executive Director, Sustainable Apparel Coalition
  * Cara Smyth, Founder, Responsible Business Coalition
  * Federica Marchionni, CEO, Global Fashion Agenda

PLENARY 3: State of Textiles

The Textile Exchange COO Claire Bergkamp reversed the roles and interviewed key industry journalists in an insightful conversation about the current state of textiles. In the second half of the plenary, listeners were introduced to the Global Fibre Impact Explorer, a textile industry traceability tool created by Google and WWF in collaboration with Stella McCartney, and that will now be hosted by Textile Exchange.

* Claire Bergkamp, COO, Textile Exchange
  * Sarah Kent, London Editor, Business of Fashion
  * Emily Chan, Sustainability Editor, Vogue
  * Maria McClay, Director, Google Cloud
  * Laila Petrie, CEO, 2050

PLENARY 4: Investing in Change

In this plenary, Textile Exchange CEO La Rhea Pepper conversed with Chipotle and their partner Loomstate, an organic cotton brand. We heard how the global foodservice brand Chipotle is investing in sustainable agriculture, not only in terms of ingredients, but also in regard to their uniforms and brand apparel.

In the second half of the plenary, we learned about a successful case of collaboration, The Delta Framework, and how the coffee and cotton industries came together to define standards in sustainability reporting in these commodity sectors.

* Claire Bergkamp, COO, Textile Exchange
  * Alan McClay, CEO, Better Cotton
  * Ashley Gill, Standards & Stakeholder Engagement, Senior Director, Textile Exchange
  * Ashley Erickson, Brand Experience Lead, Chipotle Mexican Grill
  * Scott MacKinnon Hahn, Founder, Loomstate

PLENARY 5: Scaling Solutions

In this session we heard about all the tools and programs that can be used to scale solutions, including standards and impact incentives, benchmarking, preferred fibers and materials matrix and a shared measurement system (such as TrackIt).

It was also announced that two brands, H&M and Ralph Lauren Corporation, will pilot the Leather Impact Accelerator, an important start to accelerate impact at the farm level. In order to scale solutions, collaborative leadership is necessary.

* Claire Bergkamp, COO, Textile Exchange
  * Sean Cady, Vice President, Global Sustainability and Responsibility, VF Corporation
Overview

The 2021 Textile Sustainability Conference came at a decisive time in the climate conversation. Our world leaders had recently departed from Glasgow after the highly anticipated COP26, and just the month before, the first part of COP15 – the Convention on Biological Diversity – had been held virtually.

As a result, our discussions coincided with heightened calls for an integrated response to climate change and biodiversity loss. In the fashion and textile industry, this only increased awareness as to the important stake that we as a sector have in both. The availability of raw materials for fibers and fabrics depends on the wellbeing of our ecosystems and we need cohesive sustainability strategies to ensure the resilience not just of our businesses, but the planet too.

Our five days in Dublin were focused on transforming this awareness into action. The Textile Sustainability Conference brought together leaders from across the industry to discuss how to transform siloed solutions into a holistic movement. Together, we covered everything from the essential role of degrowth strategies to achieve carbon reduction, to the need for greater equity in fiber and material supply chains. At the same time, we celebrated the innovative new tools and technology that will help us to coordinate a data-driven response.

If we want to make transformative change, we need thoughtful partnership and dedicated resources aimed at reimagining systems, challenging habitual behaviors, and moving away from individual action that provides incremental improvements. We hope that you will walk away from the week recognizing the need for bold, shared and collective commitments instead.

Key Takeaways

We must work together to expand our portfolio of responsible materials.
While degrowth strategies are essential to achieving climate reduction goals, there are scalable solutions in place, such as textile to textile recycling, that eliminate the need to extract raw material resources to make new goods. It is well beyond a starting point, and it is time we lean into partnership and industry alignment to take giant steps forward.

We need landscape-level solutions that are collaborative and integrated.
When it comes to land-based raw materials, we have a big opportunity to collaborate to tackle climate change and biodiversity loss. By matching fiber and raw material priorities to important sourcing locations, brands and producers can start to work on a landscape level. Meanwhile, all new initiatives must look at the science to understand where conservation is most effective at representing all species and ecosystems as global temperatures continue to increase.

We can, and should, go further than global biodiversity agendas.
The Convention on Biological Diversity’s “30x30” draft target promotes the idea of conserving at least 30% of land and waters by 2030. Companies should not only look for ways to support this agenda, but to go beyond it. Science-Based Targets for Nature and its AR3T approach (Avoid, Reduce, Restore, Regenerate and Transform) provides a framework to help them take their commitments further.

We’ve got to rebalance the equity in our fiber and materials supply networks.
In the fashion and textile industry, we need to further our understanding about indigenous tradition to learn more about what happens on the ground with fiber production. In turn, we can create more harmonized climate strategies that work in unison with our production partners.

We should align tools, resources and capacity to move the industry forward.
Evolving materials standards can drive more impact and efficiency in fiber and material production, but we need tools to help those on the ground. Geospatial data, for example, can play a key role going forward in supporting certified farmers and farm groups with meeting the requirements of our Responsible Animal Fibers standards, in turn delivering a positive impact on biodiversity.

We can leverage innovative technology to catalyze industry action towards shared targets.
Alongside helping us to determine provenance and proof of impact, technology plays a key role in coordinating collective action. That’s where our newly launched Shared Measurement System – a collaborative platform to report on Climate+ – comes in. Going forward, we are looking at how we can evolve our use of technology for provenance, proof of impact and ultimately coordinate collective action for Climate+. 
Textile Exchange Round Tables drive collective action for core fibers and materials programs. Recordings of the 2021 Round Table Summits can be accessed below or via the virtual conference platform:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Round Table Summits</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<td>Organic Cotton Round Table</td>
<td>Friday, November 19</td>
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Media Coverage

Google launches fashion supply chain platform

Google has launched a tool called `Circular Impact Explorer`, which is designed to help fashion brands understand the environmental risk of their supply chains. The tool is based on the PageRank algorithm and uses data from social media, news articles, and documents to create an index of the environmental impact of different materials.

The tool can be used to identify high-risk materials and recommend alternative materials to reduce the environmental impact of a product. It also provides detailed information on the supply chain of each material, including sourcing, processing, and disposal.

The tool is available to all Google users and can be accessed through the Google web console. It is still in beta testing, so it may not be fully functional or accurate yet. However, it is a promising tool for helping fashion brands make more sustainable choices.
Climate action starts at the source of the materials we choose.

That’s why at Textile Exchange, we’re guiding a global community of brands, manufacturers and growers towards more purposeful production from the very start of the textile supply chain.

Our goal is to help the global textile industry achieve a 45% reduction in the emissions that come from producing fibers and raw materials by 2030. To get there, we’re keeping our focus holistic and interconnected, accelerating the adoption of practices that improve the state of our water, soil health and biodiversity too.

For real change to happen, everyone needs a clear path to positive impact. So, we set out to inspire and equip leaders within the fashion and textile industry with resources and guidance that make choosing responsible materials the accessible default.

We believe that approachable, step-by-step instruction amplified by collective action can change the system. We’re helping to do just that through our certified standards, industry-wide benchmarking and unique platform to advance proven solutions.

TextileExchange.org

The SAC is a global, multi-stakeholder non-profit alliance for the fashion industry. It’s made up of more than 250 leading apparel, footwear, and textile brands, retailers, suppliers, service providers, trade associations, non-profits, NGOs, and academic institutions working to reduce environmental impact and promote social justice throughout the global value chain.

The Coalition has developed the Higg Index, a suite of tools that standardizes value chain sustainability measurements for all industry participants. These tools measure environmental and social labor impacts across the value chain. With this data, the industry can identify hotspots, continuously improve sustainability performance, and achieve the environmental and social transparency that consumers are demanding. By joining forces as a Coalition, we can address the urgent, systemic challenges that are impossible to tackle alone.

ApparelCoalition.org
Thank You

We’d like to express our sincere thanks to all conference speakers for sharing their wealth of knowledge with our community.

A special thank you to Carlotta Cataldi for the inspiring graphics that are shared within this report and to our conference moderator, Phil Hadridge.

Thank you to all Textile Exchange Members and attendees who participated virtually in the conference, making it memorable and meaningful for many people from around the world.

Last but certainly not least, thank you to our 2021 Conference Sponsors. Your support made this year’s conference possible!

Virtual option will be made available in addition to the in-person conference. More announcements coming in early 2022!

Please contact Conference@TextileExchange.org for any questions and follow us @TextileExchange for 2022 updates!