

Can Global Fashion Align on Unified Sustainability Rules?





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S U S T A I N A B I L I T Y



Can global fashion align on unified sustainability rules?

A. Peter Tessa

The global apparel sector is undergoing significant transformations in sustainability regulations, with the European Union (EU) leading the charge. However, as the EU sets the standard with stringent requirements, the question arises: will the rest of the world follow suit, or will apparel manufacturers face disjointed regulations depending on their market?

EU's leadership in sustainable apparel regulation

Europe is at the forefront of sustainable

regulation in the apparel industry, setting ambitious targets to improve environmental and social standards. One of the landmark regulations in this space is the Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation (ESPR). According to Dirk Vantyghem, Director General of Euratex (the European Apparel and Textile Confederation), the ESPR represents a key shift in how apparel products are designed and produced. Vantyghem emphasizes that this regulation mandates higher quality in terms of durability and sustainability for any product sold within the EU, which has major implications for global manufacturers.

The ESPR's goals go beyond just reducing environmental impact. Vantyghem points out that discussions are currently underway to establish specific criteria for textiles, such as how many washes a T-shirt should withstand before it loses its quality. This is an example of how detailed and granular the new regulations are becoming. Manufacturers selling to the EU market will need to comply with such standards or risk losing access to one of the world's largest markets.

Another crucial aspect of the EU's sustainability push is the introduction of Digital Product Passports (DPPs). The DPP system will require every garment sold in the EU to carry comprehensive information about its lifecycle, including where and how it was made. This move is expected to foster transparency and standardize data across the entire supply chain, ensuring that every player, from the supplier to the consumer, can track the sustainability credentials of a product.

Challenges for global alignment

While the EU is taking significant strides, the global apparel sector is far from achieving universal alignment on sustainability regulations. In the US, sustainability efforts are growing, particularly with the proposed New York Fashion Act, which would impose stringent transparency and environmental standards. However, US regulations remain fragmented and less comprehensive than the EU's. The New York Fashion Act, if passed, would require fashion companies to disclose at least 50% of their supply chain and meet new environmental standards, but it would still leave room for divergence from the EU's more unified approach.

China and Japan are also key players in the global apparel industry, but their regulatory landscapes differ significantly from Europe. China, for example, has made substantial investments in green technology and textile recycling initiatives, but its approach remains less focused on the detailed lifecycle accountability mandated by EU laws. Japan, while committed to sustainability, has historically been slower to implement far-reaching environmental regulations, making it uncertain whether it will align closely with Europe or take a more measured approach.

Impact on apparel manufacturers

For global apparel manufacturers, the biggest challenge lies in navigating these varied regulatory frameworks. Companies that operate across multiple markets must adapt their production processes to meet regionspecific rules, which can increase costs and complexity. For instance, the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) system that the EU plans to introduce will require manufacturers to take responsibility for the waste generated by their products. While this will significantly reduce the environmental impact of fashion waste in Europe, it adds another layer of responsibility for producers already grappling with diverse sustainability requirements.

In contrast, US-based manufacturers may be able to operate under looser guidelines, at least for the time being. However, this disparity in regulations between the EU and the US could create challenges for companies trying to develop a unified global strategy. Compliance with the EU's stringent rules might require companies to produce higher-quality, longer-lasting garments for the European market while operating under less stringent rules elsewhere.

The future: will global standards emerge?

The big question is whether the rest of the world will follow the EU's lead or if apparel manufacturers will have to navigate a fragmented regulatory environment. As of now, there is no single global standard for sustainability in the fashion industry, and it seems unlikely that one will emerge in the near future. However, as climate change and environmental concerns continue to take center stage, pressure is mounting on countries outside the EU to introduce more comprehensive regulations.

The apparel industry is among the most polluting sectors globally, contributing heavily to waste, water pollution, and

carbon emissions. Given this, the push for sustainability will likely continue to grow. In this context, manufacturers need to prepare for a future in which compliance with multiple, regionspecific sustainability regulations becomes the norm.

As Dirk Vantyghem noted, the EU is not just a leader but also a trendsetter for global sustainability in fashion. Whether other regions will follow this trend, or whether manufacturers will face a more fragmented future, remains to be seen. Nonetheless, those who adapt to Europe's forward-thinking regulations early on will be better positioned to thrive in the evolving global apparel market.

Finally, the global apparel industry is at a crossroads in terms of sustainability regulation. With the EU setting the pace through its ESPR, DPP, and upcoming EPR systems, it is becoming increasingly challenging for manufacturers to ignore these demands. While the US, China, and Japan have their own sustainability initiatives, the lack of a global standard could lead to complexities for companies operating in multiple regions. Apparel manufacturers will need to stay agile, invest in more durable, sustainable production methods, and embrace transparency if they are to remain competitive in this evolving landscape.

S U S T A I N A B I L I T Y

sappi Verve

Sappi Verve pioneers sustainable fashion with pulp-based fiber

Sappi's Verve, a dissolving pulp made from sustainably sourced wood, is setting a new standard for responsible textile production. Primarily produced in South Africa, Verve supports biodiversity and empowers local communities through Sappi's Khulisa Enterprise Development Programme, which provides access to the forestry value chain for over 4,000 small growers.

Verve is certified by globally recognized forestry standards such as FSC[™], PEFC, and SFI, ensuring that its production meets stringent environmental, social, and economic criteria. The eco-friendly processes used in its production, including the co-generation of steam and electricity, further reduce its environmental footprint. Sappi's plantations also contribute to conservation efforts, with one-third of its land in South Africa reserved for biodiversity, including seven nature reserves and 156 Important Conservation Areas.

Sappi is focused on transparency, using blockchain technology to trace products derived from Verve. As a major supplier of dissolving pulp for lyocell, Verve's silk-like qualities, breathability, and eco-friendly profile make it a preferred choice for sustainable fashion brands.



Read more: https://www.texspacetoday.com/sappi-verve...

Reconomy

Reconomy Environmental Action Plan

Reconomy launches REAP to drive climate & biodiversity goals

Reconomy has launched its Reconomy Environment Action Plan (REAP) to advance climate and biodiversity goals. The plan aligns with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals and aims to reduce the environmental impact of Reconomy and its partners, addressing climate change, material scarcity, and biodiversity loss.

Reconomy has also become the first UK-based company in its sector to adopt the Taskforce on Naturerelated Financial Disclosures (TNFD), integrating it with its existing Taskforce on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD). This move enhances the company's sustainability reporting and will be highlighted at the upcoming Biodiversity COP16 in Colombia.

In addition to global efforts, Reconomy is involved in local initiatives such as creating "wild highways" for dormice in partnership with The Shropshire Wildlife Trust. This project mitigates business travel emissions, improves biodiversity, and encourages employee participation in the National Hazel Dormouse Monitoring Programme.

Diane Crowe, Reconomy's group sustainability director, emphasized the importance of these efforts as part of the company's Nature and Climate Strategy. Reconomy's commitment to achieving net-zero carbon and advancing circular economy practices positions it as a leader in sustainability.

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Read more: https://www.texspacetoday.com/reconomy-launches...

S U S T A I N A B I L I T Y



Kawayarn, a bamboo fiber, driving green shift in philippine textiles

M A Mohiemen Tanim

In recent years, the global demand for sustainable materials has grown rapidly, driving interest in renewable, eco-friendly resources that can replace traditional, environmentally harmful materials. Bamboo, a fast-growing and versatile plant, has emerged as a leading contender in the quest for sustainability. In the Philippines, where bamboo is both abundant and culturally significant, its potential is being realized in new ways—particularly in the textile industry.

This growing interest has given birth to initiatives such as Kawayarn, a program dedicated to the use of bamboo fiber in clothing and textiles. Kawayarn symbolizes a powerful fusion of innovation, sustainability, and economic opportunity, making bamboo-based fiber a key element in the Philippines' path toward a greener future.

Bamboo: Nature's Renewable Resource

Bamboo is one of the fastest-growing plants on Earth, with some species capable of growing up to a meter a day under the right conditions. Its rapid growth rate, adaptability to various climates, and natural regenerative properties make it an ideal resource for sustainable production. Unlike trees, bamboo regrows from its own



root system, meaning it doesn't need replanting after harvesting. This reduces soil erosion and maintains ecological balance. Additionally, bamboo is highly resilient and can thrive in both tropical and temperate regions, including the diverse climates of the Philippines. The versatility of bamboo extends far beyond its ecological benefits. It has been used for centuries in construction, furniture, paper, and handicrafts. In the Philippines, bamboo plays a vital role in rural economies, providing livelihoods for thousands of families. Now, with advancements in technology, bamboo's applications are expanding into the textile industry, where its fibers can be used to create a range of fabrics for

clothing, home goods, and industrial textiles.

Kawayarn: A New Chapter for Philippine Textiles

Kawayarn, a combination of "kawayan" (the Tagalog word for bamboo) and "yarn," is an initiative aimed at utilizing bamboo fiber in textile production. This innovative concept was launched as part of Bamboo Month, which the Philippines celebrates each September to raise awareness of bamboo's benefits and uses. Kawayarn exemplifies the potential of bamboo as a sustainable material, not only for its environmental impact but also for its economic promise.



The drive to integrate bamboo into textile production is backed by the Department of Science and Technology – Philippine Textile Research Institute (DOST-PTRI). The institute has been researching methods to extract and refine bamboo fiber through chemical and mechanical processes. Unlike the more common viscose-type processing, which involves converting bamboo into a man-made cellulosic yarn, the Kawayarn initiative focuses on developing natural bamboo fibers that retain the plant's inherent strength and durability. This approach promises to produce textiles with unique properties—such as breathability, moisture-wicking, and antimicrobial characteristics—making them suitable for a wide range of applications.

Products Developed using 'Kawayarn':



Bamboo Fiber in the Textile Industry

Bamboo fiber offers several advantages over traditional textile fibers, both natural and synthetic. For one, bamboo is a highly renewable resource that requires minimal pesticides or fertilizers to grow, unlike cotton, which is notoriously water-intensive and dependent on chemical inputs. Bamboo can be grown in degraded lands and even helps to restore the soil, making it an excellent candidate for sustainable agriculture.

Bamboo fiber is also incredibly soft, often compared to the feel of silk or cashmere. This makes it an attractive material for the fashion industry, particularly as consumers become more conscious of the environmental and ethical implications of their clothing choices. Bamboo fabrics are naturally moisture-wicking, breathable, and thermoregulating, which means they keep wearers cool in hot weather and warm in colder temperatures. Furthermore, bamboo is hypoallergenic and has natural antimicrobial properties, making it an ideal choice for sensitive skin or medical textiles.

In terms of fiber recovery, bamboo stands out. With a fiber recovery rate of at least 35%, bamboo far surpasses other plant-based fibers, such as cotton, which typically yield around 2%. This makes bamboo a highly efficient source of raw material for textile production, minimizing waste and maximizing yield. Given its high recovery rate, bamboo is a reliable and sustainable source of



fiber that can be harvested year-round, offering economic stability to rural communities that depend on bamboo cultivation.

Economic Potential for the Philippines

By 2030, the global trade value of bamboo is expected to reach \$88.43 billion, with bamboo contributing approximately \$3.5 billion to the Philippine economy. The growing demand for sustainable materials like bamboo presents a significant opportunity for the Philippines to position itself as a leader in the global textile market.

The Kawayarn initiative has the potential to revitalize the local textile industry, which has faced stiff competition from synthetic fibers and cheaper labor markets in recent years. By investing in bamboo-based textiles, the Philippines can tap into both the domestic and international markets for sustainable fashion. Additionally, the use of locally sourced materials like bamboo aligns with the Philippine Tropical Fabrics Law (Republic Act 9242), which mandates the use of indigenous fibers, such as piña, abaca, and banana, in government uniforms. The inclusion of bamboo in this law further underscores its importance to the country's future economic strategy.

Challenges and the Path Forward

Despite its promise, the widespread adoption of bamboo-based textiles faces several challenges. The process of converting bamboo into a usable fiber is still being perfected, and there is a need for further research into making the production process more efficient and cost-effective. The chemical processes used to extract fiber from bamboo stalks can sometimes involve harmful solvents, so developing environmentally friendly processing methods is crucial to ensuring the sustainability of bamboo textiles.

Creating a reliable supply chain for bamboo fiber will require coordinated efforts from farmers, researchers, and manufacturers. Investment in infrastructure and education is essential to ensure that bamboo can be grown, harvested, and processed at the scale needed to meet global demand.



LYCRA releases 2023 sustainability update

The LYCRA Company has published its third annual Sustainability Update, detailing progress towards its 2030 sustainability goals under the Planet Agenda framework. This comprehensive approach focuses on product sustainability, manufacturing excellence, and corporate responsibility, aligning with five United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Highlights from the 2023 report include advancements in commercializing bio-derived LYCRA® fiber made with QIRA®, the introduction of industrial compostable LYCRA® fiber for personal care, and a 26% reduction in Scope 1 and 2 emissions from the previous year. The company has also received Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi) approval for its commitment to cut absolute Scope 1 and 2 GHG emissions by 50% and Scope 3 emissions by 25% by 2030, using a 2021 baseline.

Steve Stewart, chief brand and innovation officer, emphasized the theme "Turning Ambition into Impact," highlighting the company's dedication to driving meaningful change.



Read more: https://www.texspacetoday.com/lycra-releases-2023...

S U S T A I N A B I L I T Y



ITMF announces 2024 Start-Up award winners

The International Textile Manufacturers Federation (ITMF) has announced the winners of its 2024 Start-Up Award, which aims to honor startups with innovative and transformative ideas that could significantly impact the textile sector.

Four companies were recognized this year. These are RE&UP Recycling Technologies (Netherlands); Sci-Lume Labs (USA); Sycoretec CAS (China) and Syre (Sweden).

RE&UP Recycling Technologies has secured a €70 million loan from Proparco to construct a new textile-totextile recycling facility in Gaziantep, Turkey. The facility will use advanced mechanical and thermomechanical technologies, leveraging Turkey's longstanding expertise in fiber processing.

Based in Oklahoma, Sci-Lume Labs

is developing a patent-pending synthetic fiber called Bylon, a biobased and biodegradable alternative to conventional nylon. They are collaborating with Fibre Extrusion Technology Limited (FET) from the UK to advance the development of Bylon, which aims to make synthetic fibers more environmentally friendly.

A new venture initiated by Vargas and H&M Group, Syre has raised \$100 million in Series A funding. The company plans to build multiple plants worldwide to produce circular polyester via chemical recycling, aiming to cut CO2 emissions by up to 85% compared to traditional oil-based polyester production.

The winners were presented with their awards at the ITMF and International Apparel Federation (IAF) Conference, which was held from September 8-10, 2024, in Samarkand, Uzbekistan.

S U S T A I N A B I L I T Y



Tonello's NoStone[®] eliminates need for pumice stone for denim treatment

M A Mohiemen Tanim

Key Insights:

Environmental Impact: Traditional pumice stone-washing generates 90% more waste than alternative methods.

Carbon Footprint Reduction: NoStone® eliminates emissions from pumice extraction, transportation, and disposal, reducing the denim industry's overall carbon footprint by 40%.

Cost Savings: Laundries can save up to 30% in maintenance costs with NoStone® due to reduced machine wear and downtime.

Water Efficiency: NoStone® reduces water consumption by 25% by eliminating extra rinses required to

remove pumice dust.

The denim industry has long relied on the stone-wash process to achieve the desired worn look and soft texture. This traditional method has significant environmental, economic, and mechanical drawbacks, primarily due to its dependence on pumice stone. As the demand for sustainable alternatives grows, Tonello's innovative NoStone® technology emerges as a game changer in denim finishing.

Environmental Impact of Stone-Wash

The extraction of pumice stone has led to the depletion of quarries, particularly in Europe, causing severe environmental degradation. Each stage of the stone-washing process contributes significantly to the carbon footprint, from extraction and grinding to transportation and disposal. Additionally, water used in laundries often becomes contaminated with Total Suspended Solids (TSS), requiring costly purification before discharge, which is frequently bypassed, leading to pollution of water bodies.

Labor and Maintenance Challenges

The manual labor involved in stonewashing is considerable, as pumice stones must be loaded into machines and later removed. This process clogs filters and pipes, raising maintenance costs and reducing machinery lifespans. Dust generated can pose serious health risks to workers, leading to respiratory issues over time and increasing operational inefficiencies.

NoStone®: A Green Solution

Developed in collaboration with Levi Strauss & Co., NoStone® replaces pumice stone with a stainless steel abrasive drum, achieving the same worn effect on denim without the environmental and operational drawbacks. This reusable technology is easy to install and compatible with existing Tonello washing machines.

Environmental and Economic Benefits

Carbon Footprint Reduction: By eliminating pumice stone, NoStone® reduces emissions from quarrying and transportation, contributing to a significant decrease in the industry's carbon footprint.

Lower Waste Generation: NoStone®'s durability cuts down on the waste generated by traditional pumice stones, which wear out quickly and require disposal.

Water Pollution Prevention: With no waste particles generated, NoStone® mitigates the need for complex wastewater purification processes, protecting aquatic ecosystems.

Cost Savings: Laundries save up to 30% in maintenance costs due to reduced wear on machines and decreased manual labor associated with handling pumice stones.

Worker Safety and Operational Efficiency

NoStone® enhances worker safety by eliminating dust and micro-dust, minimizing health risks and promoting a healthier work environment. The technology features an easy-lock mechanism for quick installation and provides better control over the denim finishing process. This ensures consistent quality and reduces downtime related to machine maintenance, improving overall productivity.

Tonello's NoStone® offers a sustainable, efficient alternative to traditional stone-washing, addressing critical environmental concerns while enhancing operational efficiency. By adopting NoStone®, the denim industry can significantly reduce its ecological footprint, improve worker safety, and streamline production processes.

S U S T A I N A B I L I T Y



SanMar joins bluesign® to strengthen sustainability efforts

On September 18, 2024, SanMar Corporation, a leading U.S. supplier of promotional products, announced its partnership with bluesign®, a global authority on sustainable textile production and chemical management. By becoming a bluesign® System Partner, SanMar aims to elevate its commitment to responsible manufacturing and reducing environmental impact.

Bluesign® works with companies across the textile supply chain to ensure compliance with rigorous environmental, health, and safety standards. SanMar's adoption of these standards highlights its dedication to sustainable practices, covering everything from material sourcing to production processes. This collaboration ensures that the company continues to deliver products that are safe for both consumers and the planet.

Daniel Rüfenacht, CEO of Bluesign Technologies ag, commended SanMar for its leadership in sustainability, emphasizing the significance of their move in the promotional products industry. Emily Gigot, Senior Manager of Sustainability at SanMar, expressed excitement about leveraging bluesign® expertise to enhance their sustainability programs and provide environmentally friendly products to customers.

SanMar's partnership with bluesign® aligns with its long-term sustainability goals and strengthens its position as an industry leader in eco-friendly manufacturing. The company's ongoing initiatives reflect the growing awareness and importance of sustainability in the promotional products sector.

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Read more: https://www.texspacetoday.com/sanmar-joins-bluesign

Tomra partners with WBCSD & OPN to combat greenwashing

Desk Report

Tomra, a leader in circularity technology, has been appointed Business Champion for the Global Circularity Protocol for Business (GCP), an initiative developed by the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) and the One Planet Network (OPN). This framework aims to address the global challenges of scaling circularity by fostering accountability and providing a universal standard for businesses to measure, enhance, and report on their circularity efforts.

Tomra CEO Tove Andersen emphasized the pressing need for a standardized approach to circularity, as only 7% of the world's resources are currently reused, far short of Paris Agreement targets. Without such standards, businesses risk falling into greenwashing, whether intentional or not. Andersen stressed that science-based targets must drive circularity to ensure a genuine shift toward sustainable practices. the complexities of adopting the GCP, sharing expertise, and providing practical steps to comply with the protocol. The GCP aims to establish a clear, science-backed framework for setting goals, tracking performance, and reporting circularity efforts transparently.

The protocol will guide policy, offering transparent guidelines to align with global sustainability objectives. Quentin Drewell of WBCSD likened the GCP to the Greenhouse Gas Protocol, positioning it as a future-defining standard for circularity by 2025.

Tomra's involvement extends to realworld projects, such as its recent partnership with Carbios to develop a commercial recycling plant aimed at closing the fashion industry's circularity gap. This initiative reflects Tomra's ongoing commitment to sustainability and leadership in advancing global circular solutions.

Tomra will guide businesses through

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TOMRA

Read more: https://www.texspacetoday.com/tomra-partners...

TOMRA

PwC's new report exposed gender pay gaps in italian fashion industry

M A Mohiemen Tanim

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The recent report titled **"Unpacking Pay Equity in Fashion: Italy",** announced by PwC and supported by key data from Eurostat, sheds light on the persistent gender pay gap in Italy's fashion industry, with critical implications for the global discourse on gender equality in the workforce. Despite Italy's rich heritage as a global fashion hub, a deepseated gender imbalance continues to undermine progress towards pay equity in one of its most essential industries. The report not only highlights the significant gender pay gap that persists but also outlines actionable steps that could potentially reduce the disparity in the future.

Key Takeaways

The report paints a comprehensive picture of the current gender pay gap in the Italian fashion industry. While Italy has made commendable strides in narrowing the gender pay gap over the past decade, the pace remains too slow. Without significant collective action from companies, institutions, and government bodies, it could take decades to achieve full pay equity.

Gender pay gap in unadjusted form, Italy and EU27



Photo: Gender pay gap in unadjusted form, Italy & EU27

Summary of Key Data:

5%: Italy's gender pay gap in the fashion industry (unadjusted, 2022).

13%: The pay disparity between men



and women in Italy's fashion industry, with women earning €0.87 for every €1 earned by men.

50 years: Time estimated to close the gender pay gap in Italy.

45.2%: Apparel's share of total revenues in the Italian fashion industry (2022).

12.7%: EU27 average gender pay gap, significantly higher than Italy's gap.

This analysis dives into the key findings from the report, enriched with vital data points and perspectives that provide a comprehensive understanding of pay inequities in the Italian fashion industry.

The State of Gender Pay Gap in Italy

According to PwC's Women in Work 2024, Italy's unadjusted gender pay gap was reported to be 5% in 2022, considerably lower than the EU27 average of 12.7%. This is a marked



improvement, considering that a decade ago, in 2013, the gender pay gap in Italy stood at 7%. Although the country's progress in closing this gap is notable, it still underscores that gender inequality in pay persists across various sectors, including fashion.

The gender pay gap in Italy is particularly pronounced in the fashion sector, where structural barriers, such as traditional gender roles and a lack of leadership opportunities for women, hinder equitable wage distribution. The report indicates that it will take 50 years for Italy to completely close this gender pay gap, as estimated by PwC's Women in Work 2024, signaling the urgency for collective action to accelerate the pace of change.

Breakdown of Gender Pay Gap in the Fashion Industry

The Italian fashion industry is a key economic player, with various segments contributing significantly to the nation's GDP. According to Cerved data, the fashion industry's revenue distribution in Italy in 2022 was largely dominated by the apparel segment, accounting for 45.2% of total revenues, followed by footwear at 15%, leather and tanning at 14.2%, textiles at 14.2%, and accessories at 11.4%. However, despite the industry's robustness, women continue to be underrepresented in leadership roles and experience a gender pay gap that mirrors broader national trends.

On average, women in the fashion industry earn €0.87 for every €1 earned by men, indicating a 13% pay disparity within the sector. This gap is more profound among lower-wage workers and those in non-managerial positions, which are predominantly occupied by women.

Call for Action: Collective Effort Needed

To address these challenges, the report calls for collective action from fashion companies, industry associations, and government bodies to implement pay equity initiatives. It stresses the need for:

Creating Inclusive Corporate Cultures:

Companies must work toward establishing an inclusive workplace culture that values both parenthood and



equal career advancement opportunities. Institutions must also implement modern and flexible parental leave policies to ensure that both men and women can balance family responsibilities while advancing their careers.

Enhancing Transparency and Traceability: The report emphasizes the need for increased traceability and transparency in wage reporting, not just within companies' own operations but also among their suppliers. A unified approach to gender pay gap monitoring and reporting is necessary to ensure that manufacturers and subcontractors are held to the same pay equity standards as brands and retailers.

The Need for Tailored Tools

One of the key recommendations from the report is the development of tools tailored to Italy's fashion industry. These tools should consider the specific dynamics of the sector and foster the adoption of gender pay gap monitoring at all levels, especially among smaller businesses and micro-enterprises that often struggle with limited resources for wage transparency and compliance.

Barriers to Gender Pay Equity

Despite the progress outlined, significant barriers to gender pay equity remain, particularly in Italy's fashion industry. These include:

Cultural Gender Norms: Traditional expectations about gender roles, especially regarding caregiving and domestic responsibilities, disproportionately affect women's participation in the labor market and hinder their access to leadership roles.

Leadership Gaps: The lack of women in top executive positions and decisionmaking roles perpetuates wage disparities. Only a small percentage of women occupy senior roles in the fashion industry, which contributes to slower progress in achieving pay equity.

Craftevo Japan: Leading the Charge in Sustainable Textiles

Sas Enterprise



In the dynamic world of sustainable fashion, Craftevo Japan, a brand under V&A Japan Corporation, is making waves with its innovative and ecofriendly textile solutions. Renowned for their dedication to environmental sustainability, Craftevo's products are designed to minimize waste and carbon emissions, setting a new benchmark in the textile industry.

Innovative Products

Craftevo's flagship product line, **ReTE**, features a revolutionary type of polyester that decomposes into water and carbon dioxide under specific composting conditions². This groundbreaking material is not only durable during regular use but also environmentally friendly at the end of its lifecycle. By returning used products for composting, consumers can actively participate in reducing landfill waste and lowering carbon emissions².

Product Details

1. ReTE Polyester: Engineered to break down through hydrolysis when exposed to moisture, heat, and microorganisms in compost². This process significantly reduces the environmental footprint compared to traditional polyester, cutting CO2 emissions by 40% during disposal². The ReTE polyester maintains its durability during regular use, ensuring that it meets the functional needs of consumers while being ecofriendly at the end of its life.

2. Collection and Composting: Craftevo encourages customers to return used products, which are then processed in composting facilities². This initiative promotes a circular economy, where products are sustainably returned to the earth. The company has set up collection boxes in stores and provides return options for customers, making it easy for them to participate in this ecofriendly initiative².

3. Product Identification Tags: Each product made with ReTE polyester comes with a unique identification tag, allowing for easy tracking and return for composting². This system ensures that every product can be properly processed at the end of its lifecycle, further reducing environmental impact.

Environmental Impact

The ReTE polyester is designed to break down through a process called hydrolysis, where moisture, heat, and microorganisms in compost cause the material to decompose into water and carbon dioxide². This process significantly reduces the environmental footprint compared to traditional polyester, cutting CO2 emissions by 40% during disposal². By encouraging customers to return used products for composting, Craftevo is actively promoting a circular economy and reducing landfill waste².

Market Presence

Craftevo has showcased its innovative textiles at various international events, including the Sustainable Fashion Expo and Premier Vision Paris². Their presence at these events highlights their commitment to leading the charge in sustainable fashion and textile innovation. These platforms have allowed Craftevo to connect with industry leaders, potential partners, and consumers who are passionate about sustainability.

Future Prospects

As the demand for sustainable products continues to grow, Craftevo Japan is well-positioned to expand its market reach. Their focus on creating environmentally responsible textiles aligns with global efforts to combat climate change and promote sustainability in the fashion industry. The company plans to continue innovating and expanding its product line to meet the evolving needs of ecoconscious consumers.

For more information about Craftevo Japan and their products, visit their [official website](https://www.craftevo. com/)¹.

Craftevo Japan is setting a remarkable example in the textile industry by combining innovation with sustainability. Their products not only meet the functional needs of consumers but also contribute to a healthier planet. In Bangladesh, RH CORPORATION is offering the products of Craftevo Japan to revolutionize the textile industry of Bangladesh under the umbrella of RH GREEN, for a greener and more sustainable future.

Nike faces shareholder scrutiny on supply chain labor practices

Desk Report



Investor pressure on Nike is escalating as the company's annual shareholder meeting approaches, with a focus on improving working conditions in its supply chain. Norway's sovereign wealth fund, one of Nike's largest shareholders, has backed a resolution urging the company to consider binding agreements with workers at its supplier factories in high-risk countries. This comes amid criticisms of Nike's labor practices, particularly after the company was accused of failing to pay \$2.2 million in severance wages to workers in Cambodia and Thailand

Photo: Photo by Aman Jakhar on Pexels.com

during the pandemic-a claim Nike denies.

Investment research firm MSCI has downgraded Nike's ESG rating, citing its poor labor standards. Investors are frustrated by the company's lack of response to previous concerns, with some describing Nike's silence as "astonishing." The resolution, which could gain significant traction if it garners over 20% of votes, reflects growing shareholder demands for Nike to address human rights risks and strengthen its supply chain practices.

Read more: https://www.texspacetoday.com/safe-edge-archromas...

Patagonia & Canopy unite for Pack4Good sustainable packaging initiative

Desk Report



Outdoor gear and apparel company Patagonia has announced its partnership with environmental nonprofit Canopy as part of the Pack4Good initiative to source sustainable packaging materials. The initiative aims to eliminate the use of paper and packaging products derived from endangered forests. Patagonia's commitment involves developing alternative packaging materials made from non-forest fibers, such as agricultural waste, to replace traditional paper packaging used for delivery boxes, hang tags, and shoe boxes.

According to Canopy, over 3 billion trees are logged from climate-critical forests annually for paper products. Patagonia's Packaging and Branding Director Jennifer Patrick emphasized the company's focus on reviewing and adopting more responsible packaging solutions. The collaboration aligns with Patagonia's broader environmental goals, which include achieving carbon neutrality by 2025.

Patagonia has long prioritized sustainability in its operations. In 2019, the company pledged to become carbon neutral and has since implemented eco-friendly practices, such as reintroducing responsibly sourced wool and using 100% recycled materials for its packaging. Patagonia's ongoing collaboration with Canopy also extends to shifting the textile industry's sourcing of viscose and rayon away from endangered forests. The Pack4Good initiative has attracted more than 400 brands, including Zara and Ganni, all working towards eliminating deforestation in their packaging supply chains.

TrusTrace, Xoriant, Carbon Trail unite for sustainable product claim solution

Sas Enterprise

TrusTrace, a leader in product traceability for fashion and retail, has joined forces with platform engineering firm Xoriant and environmental data provider Carbon Trail to launch a cutting-edge solution for brands seeking enhanced product marketing accountability. The partnership aims to help brands meet stringent regulatory requirements, such as the updated Green Claims Code, which demands transparency and accuracy in environmental claims. The collaboration leverages TrusTrace's supply chain traceability platform, Xoriant's robust data architecture, and Carbon Trail's environmental insights to provide a comprehensive solution for brands to measure and communicate the environmental impact of their products. The solution covers 16+ environmental indicators, including water use, land use, and microplastics, allowing brands to make data-backed environmental



claims.

This technology aligns with the upcoming EU Digital Product Passport, which will provide consumers access to detailed information about a product's lifecycle through QR codes, ensuring full transparency.

The solution marks a significant step forward for fashion brands looking to navigate compliance, improve sustainability, and connect with climateconscious consumers. TrusTrace invites brands to join this transformative initiative for a greener future.

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SAFE EDGE+: Archroma's innovative solution for transparent textile supply chains

Desk Report



Archroma has launched SAFE EDGE+, an initiative aimed at enhancing supply chain transparency and compliance for the textile industry. This portfolio combines the Safe Edge online platform, introduced in 2021, with Foundation+, Archroma's advanced product range designed to exceed regulatory standards by significantly reducing hazardous substances.

SAFE EDGE+ empowers mills and brands to navigate the complex and evolving landscape of textile regulations with ease, providing them with the tools needed to verify compliance status and accelerate time to market. Erwin Lucic, Archroma's Head of Integrated Quality & Product Stewardship, emphasized the importance of transparency and traceability as essential business imperatives, highlighting Archroma's commitment to sustainability and safety.

The initiative reflects Archroma's "PLANET CONSCIOUS+" vision, aiming for a cleaner and more sustainable future in textiles. Paul Cowell, Vice President of Innovation, noted that Archroma proactively develops products that not only meet current requirements but also anticipate future regulations. Alongside SAFE EDGE+, Archroma offers additional resources, including the SUPER SYSTEMS+ suite and the ONE WAY Impact Calculator, to further support the industry's transition towards sustainability.



Read more: https://www.texspacetoday.com/safe-edge-archromas...

AATCC Gray Scales get an upgrade

Desk Report



AATCC has introduced a new and improved version of its essential Gray Scales for Color Change and Staining, widely used in textile colorfastness testing. These tools help assess how fabrics maintain color and stain resistance under various conditions like washing, temperature, and light exposure.

The updated Gray Scales feature a reinforced edge to enhance durability and prevent smudging, chipping,

and damage from handling. Larger view masks, sturdier construction, and reduced material waste make the new design both user-friendly and costeffective. While the current Gray Scales remain available, the new version will be offered after the remaining stock is sold.

AATCC also emphasizes proper handling of Gray Scales, such as using gloves and storing them properly, to maintain product longevity.



Read more: https://www.texspacetoday.com/aatcc-gray-scales...

Revolutionizing Textile Printing: The R-JET DTF Machine by RH Corporation

RH Corporation



In the dynamic world of textile printing, innovation is the key to staying ahead. RH Corporation, a trailblazer in the industry, introduces the R-JET DTF (Direct-to-Film) Printing Machine, a game-changer for businesses in Bangladesh and beyond. As DTF technology gains momentum globally, the R-JET stands out as a beacon of progress, offering unparalleled benefits that cater to the evolving demands of the textile market.

What is DTF Printing?

DTF printing is a cutting-edge process that involves printing designs onto a special film, which is then transferred onto fabric. This method has revolutionized the industry with its ability to produce vibrant, high-quality prints on a wide array of materials.

The R-JET Advantage

The R-JET DTF machine, offered by RH Corporation, embodies the pinnacle of printing excellence. Here's why it's becoming the preferred choice for textile businesses:

- **» Versatility:** The R-JET can print on a multitude of substrates, including cotton, polyester, and blends, regardless of color or texture.
- **» Quality:** It delivers prints with incredible detail and color fidelity, making intricate designs come to life.
- **» Durability**: Prints made with the R-JET are known for their longevity, enduring multiple washes without fading.
- **» Eco-Friendly:** Utilizing eco-friendly inks, the R-JET aligns with the global shift towards sustainable practices3.
- **» Cost-Effectiveness:** It offers competitive pricing for both small and large orders, ensuring a high return on investment.

Empowering Businesses with the R-JET

RH Corporation's R-JET DTF machine is not just a piece of equipment; it's a catalyst for



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growth. It empowers businesses to:

- **» Expand Product Offerings:** With the R-JET, companies can diversify their products, catering to a broader audience with custom prints.
- » Increase Efficiency: The machine's advanced technology streamlines the printing process, reducing turnaround times and boosting productivity.
- **» Enhance Quality:** The superior print quality elevates the value of the final product, attracting more customers and generating higher revenue.

RH Corporation introduces the state-of-theart DTF textile printing machine, designed to revolutionize your printing business with its cutting-edge technology and high-efficiency performance- R-JET

- **» Print Head:** Dual Epson DX5, original and unlocked for superior quality.
- **» Print Width:** A generous 1820 mm to accommodate large fabrics.
- **» Max Print Thickness:** Up to 5 mm, offering versatility for different textile types.
- **» Ink Droplet Size:** Precision droplets ranging from 1.5-21pl.
- **» Printing Resolution:** High-definition prints at 1440 DPI.
- **» Printing Speed:** Achieve up to 56 sqm/hr with 2 heads in 2 PASS mode.
- **» Color Range:** CMYK for a full spectrum of vibrant colors.
- **» Ink Type:** Sublimation ink, perfect for polyester and blends.
- **» Drying System:** Optional infrared heater for quick drying.
- **» Ink Supply System:** Optional large bulk system, 1800ml*4 for uninterrupted printing.
- » Auto Cleaning System: With anti-clogged

flash spray and moisturizing function.

- **» Media Adsorption:** Adjustable strength sucking system for stable media handling.
- **» RIP Software:** Photo print for efficient processing.
- **» Operating Systems:** Compatible with a wide range of Windows platforms.
- **» Input Power:** AC 220V 50Hz; 6000W for robust operation.
- **» Work Environment:** Optimal performance in 18-35°C and 40%-70% humidity.
- Weight: Net weight of 350 kgs and gross weight of 420 kgs.
- **» Printer Dimensions:** L3140W880H1320mm for a compact footprint.

This DTF printer is not just a machine; it's a gateway to expanding your creative horizons. From sportswear to home textiles, and soft-signage to outdoor advertising, the possibilities are endless. Experience unparalleled print quality, reliability, and the joy of bringing vivid, pin-sharp images to life1.

Elevate your printing game with this DTF printer - where innovation meets industrial production capabilities.

The R-JET DTF machine by RH Corporation is more than just a technological marvel; it's a testament to the company's commitment to innovation and excellence. As DTF printing continues to make waves in the textile industry, the R-JET stands ready to propel businesses into a new era of printing prowess. Embrace the future with RH Corporation's R-JET – where quality, versatility, and sustainability converge to redefine textile printing.

RH Corporation is dedicated to providing state-of-the-art machinery and unparalleled service. To learn more about the R-JET DTF machine and how it can transform your business, visit RH Corporation's website5 or contact their expert team6.

Enhancing RFT with smart dyehouse automation

Md. Shakib Hossain Khan



Photo: Automatic Lab dispensing system (a, b) and weighing and storage system, © logicart.com.tw

With the technological development of the world, automation is becoming a household name, the Textile dyehouses are no different than that. Manufacturing efficacy, reducing bottlenecks, precision, and waste minimization are some of the targeted goals of green production and sustainable business plans which are assisted by implementing automation. Dyehouse's efficiency and success lay in its percentage of RFT (Right First Time) which is highly influenced by technological support[1], [2]. Modern dyehouses moving towards a fully automated central monitoring system, central dispensing system, PLC-

integrated dyeing machines, electronic dispensing pipette (EDP), automated lab dispensing system, and intelligent dyeing machines with temperature management and regulation system to save steam are some noteworthy automated technologies.

The RFT concept is cloven into two ideas, one is lab-to-bulk RFT and the other one is bulk-to-bulk RFT. In simple terms, if the first batch of bulk-dyed fabric shade matches the lab-dyed fabric, that is no lab-to-bulk variation known as lab-to-bulk RFT. Whereas, if there is no bulk-to-bulk variation then it's called bulk-to-bulk-RFT. It is well known that a poor dyehouse RFT leads to business stresses like decrement in productivity, an increase in the cost per production, a rise in the lead time, and extra consumption of resources like steam, water, gas, and electricity[3], [4].

RFT can be improved with the adaptation of automation in some of the following ways: Automated Lab: From initial recipe generation to lab dyeing pot preparation is done with an auto lab dispensing system having an integrated computer color matching system. It's much faster and more precise than the manual method and saves on average 30% of dye liquor waste. Accuracy in the lab dip is one of the prime prerequisites for achieving an excellent percentage of RFT.

Weighing and Storage System: In the conventional process the chemicals are weighed manually and not always stored in ambient conditions henceforth the chances of error generation are significantly high. In contrast with the automated solution, the dyes and chemicals are stored in ambient conditions and distributed to each batch precisely. Additionally, the estimation of inventory levels for dyes and chemicals can be easily obtained. This information facilitates proactive procurement, thus mitigating the need to resort to alternative brands or classes of dyes in cases of unavailability.

Auto dispensing system: It can be integrated with the weighing and storage system which saves time and minimizes human-driven error, leading to a better distribution of dyeing chemicals. The ultimate goal is to increase the accuracy and reproducibility of the shade and achieve a high RFT percentage.

Smart Dyeing Machine: programmable logic controller (PLC) integrated dyeing machines are a very popular choice for dyehouses. The control of temperature, PH, and water level is much needed for RFT, a fluctuation can severely drop the RFT percentage. Furthermore, integrated pressure sensors and actuators can control the water pressure. Overall, a uniform dye migration with better uptake is achieved in the smart automated dyeing machines. Some dyeing machines are equipped with thermal management processes that conserve steam and gas energy.

Central Monitoring system: It is a holistic approach to monitor and regulate all the machines and processes from a central hub. The intricate system improves the information flow, reduces manual touch, and ensures the proper distribution of inventory. The condition of the dyeing machines can also be under surveillance and routine maintenance can be done before reaching any problem.

With the implementation of automation in dyehouses it has been noticed that overall efficiency has been improved. In addition, increasing productivity by reducing the lead time and supporting the business to be more sustainable from both cost and environmental perspectives.

Biden-Harris crackdown on De Minimis shipments targets fast fashion exploitation

M A Mohiemen Tanim



The textile and apparel industry is undergoing significant scrutiny due to its environmental and economic impacts, particularly with the rise of fast fashion. In the United States, the de minimis exemption—allowing low-value goods under \$800 to enter the country without duties—has been widely used by foreign e-commerce platforms to ship massive volumes of textiles and apparel to American consumers. This loophole, as outlined by the **Biden-Harris Administration in their recent announcement,** not only undercuts U.S. manufacturers but also contributes to sustainability issues in the fashion industry. Addressing the abuse of this exemption is a critical step toward fostering more sustainable and fair practices in the sector.

The Rise of Fast Fashion and Its Environmental Impact

The term "fast fashion" refers to the rapid production and turnover of trendy, low-cost clothing, which has become a dominant force in the global apparel market. While it has democratized fashion by making it more accessible, it has also led to unsustainable levels of waste, resource depletion, and pollution. The environmental cost of fast fashion is staggering: the industry is one of the largest consumers of water and energy, and it contributes to significant greenhouse gas emissions.

De Minimis Exemption and Its Consequences

The de minimis exemption, which applies to shipments valued at \$800 or less, was initially designed to streamline customs procedures for low-value imports. However, the volume of such shipments has skyrocketed—from 140 million annually a decade ago to over one billion today—making it increasingly difficult for U.S. authorities to enforce trade laws, health and safety regulations, and consumer protection standards.

In the textile and apparel sector, this loophole allows foreign companies to bypass duties and flood the U.S. market with low-cost, often lowquality products. Many of these items are produced in countries with lax environmental and labor standards, further exacerbating the global sustainability crisis. The Biden-Harris Administration's recent actions aim to close this loophole by proposing a rule that would exclude from the de minimis exemption all shipments containing products covered by tariffs under Sections 201, 232, and 301 of U.S. trade law.

Sustainability in the Textile and Apparel Sector

Sustainability in the textile and apparel sector is not just about reducing environmental harm; it's about creating a more equitable and transparent supply chain. The fast fashion model thrives on cheap labor, minimal environmental regulation, and a lack of transparency, often resulting in poor working conditions and unsustainable production practices.

Fast Fashion and Consumer Awareness

The fast fashion model thrives on a culture of disposability, where clothing is viewed as cheap, short-lived, and replaceable. To counter this, there has been a growing movement toward conscious consumption, where consumers prioritize quality over quantity and seek out brands that align with their values of sustainability and ethics.

The Biden-Harris Administration's crackdown on the abuse of the de minimis exemption is a vital step toward fostering a more sustainable and equitable textile and apparel sector. By closing this loophole, the administration aims to protect American manufacturers, workers, and consumers from the harmful effects of fast fashion imports, while also promoting sustainability in the global supply chain.



58% of consumers choose Pre-owned over New, new report says

M A Mohiemen Tanim

The 2024 Recommerce Report by OfferUp, in collaboration with GlobalData, provides a comprehensive look at the booming resale market in the U.S. and the changing consumer behaviors that are driving its growth. With secondhand shopping becoming increasingly popular, the report forecasts an impressive 55% market growth, reaching an estimated value of \$291.6 billion by 2029. What once was a niche, cost-saving practice has evolved into a mainstream trend, embraced by a broad spectrum of consumers for its affordability, sustainability, and unique shopping experiences.

Key Insights from the Recommerce Report 2024:

58% of consumers prefer buying secondhand items over new ones,

highlighting a significant shift in shopping habits.

The resale market is projected to grow by 55% by 2029, reaching a value of \$291.6 billion, with resale accounting for 8% of total retail.

35% of shoppers tried resale for the first time in the past year, an 8% year-over-year increase in new participants.

53% of shoppers consider secondhand



Photo: The Recommerce Market Is Projected To Grow 55% by 2029, Reaching \$291.6 Billion

shopping a fun and enjoyable activity,

turning it into a hobby rather than just a practical choice.

72% of shoppers believe the stigma around secondhand shopping has decreased, reflecting changing societal values and attitudes toward sustainability.

74% of consumers sell items on resale platforms for extra income, with many using the earnings for bills, debts, or daily expenses.

76% of secondhand purchases are for non-clothing items, including electronics, furniture, home goods, and sports equipment.

The Growing Popularity of Resale

The resale market has rapidly transformed from a budget-friendly shopping option into a cultural and social phenomenon. The OfferUp report reveals that 58% of consumers now prefer secondhand purchases over new items, demonstrating a broader

63% of shoppers admire those who prioritize secondhand over new items

53% of shoppers believe that secondhand should always be the first option when making purchases

38% of shoppers perceive shopping for resale or secondhand items as "trendy"



acceptance of resale as a valuable alternative to traditional retail. This shift is partly driven by the thrill of discovery, with **55% of shoppers consistently finding unique items and hidden gems**

through secondhand transactions that they wouldn't have been able to find or afford if they were new.

In fact, secondhand shopping is now seen as more than just a financial decision; it's become a social and enjoyable activity. **53% of respondents find resale to be an enjoyable hobby, while 63% enjoy meeting people in person for secondhand transactions.**

The sense of community and human connection that resale fosters has made it not just a practical choice but an emotionally rewarding experience.

Resale's Role in Sustainability and Financial Empowerment

Beyond the emotional satisfaction, the report underscores the important role that resale plays in **sustainability**. As consumer values evolve, **61% of respondents believe that changing**

 58% increased cost of living

 53% cost savings compared to buying new

 44% the availability of high-quality secondhand items

views on consumption and waste

are contributing to the decreasing stigma around secondhand shopping. Shoppers are recognizing the environmental benefits of extending the lifecycle of products and reducing waste by opting for pre-loved items. The resale trend is a reflection of society's growing concern with sustainability, as 58% of shoppers appreciate the lower environmental impact of secondhand shopping. Financial empowerment is another key factor driving the surge in resale. 74% of consumers sell items on resale platforms to earn extra income, with half of them using the profits to cover everyday expenses or pay down debt. In fact, 50% treat reselling as a side hustle. In today's economy, where inflation and cost of living have spiked,

Resale's impact on finances:

of shoppers sell items on online resale platforms to earn extra income

used their resale earnings to pay for bills or everyday living expenses

say reselling has become a side hustle or trusted source of supplementary income



resale has become a crucial financial strategy for many households. For some, the ability to turn unused items into cash has been transformative, allowing them to meet financial goals such as traveling, paying for education, or funding self-improvement.

Digital Marketplaces Fuel Resale Growth

The growth of digital marketplaces has been instrumental in propelling the resale market forward. Online resale platforms such as OfferUp have made it easier than ever for people to buy and sell pre-owned items from the comfort of their homes. 52% of shoppers are active on three or more online resale sites, and 77% visit resale sites at least once a week. This growing online engagement is contributing to the overall expansion of the market, as digital platforms provide a convenient and efficient way for shoppers to find items they need at a lower price while also being able to sell their own items to a broad audience.

The report highlights the increasing amount of time consumers are spending on resale platforms. 44% of shoppers reported an increase in time spent on resale sites over the past 12 months, and a significant portion, 40%, spend at least an hour a day browsing these platforms. With the convenience of mobile apps and websites, resale is becoming an integral part of many consumers' daily routines.

The Future of Resale: A \$291.6 Billion Market by 2029

With resale continuing to gain traction, it's expected that the market will **grow by 55% over the next five years,** outpacing the growth of the overall retail market by 21%. The total market value is forecasted to hit **\$291.6 billion by 2029,** and resale is projected to account for **8% of total retail.** This impressive growth is driven by the widespread acceptance of resale as a viable and preferred shopping method.

The report predicts that **76% of recommerce transactions** will involve non-clothing items, such as electronics, furniture, home goods, and sports equipment, further expanding the reach of the resale market beyond apparel. This diversification of products is attracting a wider range of shoppers and contributing to the robust growth projections.

Conclusion

The OfferUp 2024 Recommerce Report paints a promising picture of the future of secondhand shopping, with resale transforming into a powerful force in the retail landscape. Consumers are increasingly drawn to the unique items, affordability, and environmental benefits that secondhand shopping offers. With 58% of consumers now choosing resale over new items, and the market on track to grow to \$291.6 billion by 2029, the future of recommerce looks brighter than ever. The trend is not only reshaping retail but also empowering consumers financially and contributing to more sustainable consumption patterns.

Circularity takes center stage in London Fashion Week

A. Peter Tessa



Photo: eBay Pre-Loved Fashion Week, in partnership with the Council of Fashion Designers of America (CFDA) and British Fashion Council (BFC) will include a live, shoppable runway show, "Endless Runway," followed by daily drops on eBay curating the best pre-loved fashion from top designers.

London Fashion Week recently took a significant step toward sustainable fashion by hosting its first-ever scheduled show for pre-owned clothing. This shift toward circular fashion reflects a growing interest among designers to combat the industry's wasteful practices, historically making apparel one of the largest global contributors to carbon emissions.

One of the standout events was The Endless Runway, a collaboration between eBay and the British Fashion Council. This event aimed to challenge the traditional linear production model, which promotes fast consumption and quick disposal, by showcasing fashion that prioritizes reuse and sustainability. The show featured archival pieces from prominent UK designers such as Christopher Kane, J.W. Anderson, and Simone Rocha, demonstrating that stylish looks can be achieved using existing materials.

Another key event, Oxfam's Style for Change, in partnership with secondhand resale app Vinted, also highlighted the viability of circular fashion for mainstream consumers, with all the outfits available for purchase throughout September. In addition to circular fashion, sustainable innovations were a highlight. Designer Patrick McDowell presented a collection



Photo: eBay hosted a pre-loved catwalk styled by the brand's pre-loved Style Director Amy Bannerman. The show aimed to showcase the importance of secondhand fashion and encourage this season's LFW attendees to shop secondhand. © ebay

featuring biobased fabrics, including faux mycelium leather and deadstock materials. His designs underscored the compatibility of sustainability and creativity, drawing inspiration from the life of queer British artist Glyn Philpott.

McDowell's work, which uses ecofriendly elements like petrochemicalfree dyes, aligns with his role as the global design ambassador for mycelium company Ecovative, cementing his reputation as a leading name in sustainable fashion.

These events reflect a growing awareness of fashion's environmental toll. The global apparel industry consumes vast resources, from water-intensive cotton farming to the production of petroleum-based polyester. Over the past two decades, clothing consumption has surged by 400%, largely driven by fast fashion's emphasis on low-cost, short-lived garments.

Although luxury fashion is often seen as a more sustainable alternative, it also has environmental pitfalls. A recent report by the Changing Markets Foundation revealed that major luxury brands like Kering and LVMH are significant synthetic materials users and have inadequate microplastic policies, further contributing to pollution.

Fashion shows like those at London Fashion Week have the power to influence consumer behavior by demonstrating that pre-owned clothing and reused materials can be both fashionable and unique. More designers are experimenting



Photo: A hotly anticipated party thrown by high-street retailer H&M and pop star Charli XCX was set to shake things up as London Fashion Week opened on Sept. 12, along with two shows focused on sustainability. © hurriyetdailynews.com

with rental couture and biobased collections, shifting focus away from seasonal purchases toward long-lasting, environmentally-friendly choices.

The concept of circular fashion is supported by Gen Z, whose preference for mismatched textures, colors, and patterns aligns with a broader rejection of high fashion's sleek aesthetic. This trend, along with the rise of secondhand shopping via platforms like eBay and Depop, suggests that younger consumers are helping drive the shift toward sustainability. For circular fashion to become mainstream, several challenges must be addressed. One major obstacle is the lack of consumer knowledge about repairing and customizing secondhand garments. Expanding repair cafes and offering alteration services could make used clothing more accessible and desirable to a broader audience.

Another key issue is the need for widespread collection services for used clothing, facilitating easier recycling and repurposing of materials on a larger scale. Additionally, a standardized





Photo: ©Chris Yates/ Oxfam

measure of clothing durability would allow consumers to make more informed purchasing decisions, balancing cost with longevity.

While individual designers and brands are leading the charge for sustainability, the broader industry still relies on cheap labor and petrochemical materials in developing nations. This highlights the need for stronger global governance to regulate the fashion supply chain. Without systemic changes that prioritize environmental sustainability and social equity over profit margins, circular and sustainable fashion will remain confined to a niche corner of the market, unable to counterbalance the growing environmental footprint of the global industry.

The inclusion of circular fashion at London Fashion Week is a hopeful sign that the industry is beginning to shift towards more sustainable practices. However, to create lasting change, the fashion world must address deep-rooted supply chain issues and adopt new models of production and consumption that emphasize durability, ethics, and environmental responsibility. Only then can the industry's impact on the planet be significantly reduced.

Crocs elevates sustainability with 25% bio-circular croslite

Desk Report



Photo: Green Comes in Every Color: Crocs Introduces New Bio-Based Croslite[™] Material to Lower Carbon Footprint of its Iconic Footwear

On September 5, 2024, Crocs, Inc. announced a major sustainability milestone, revealing that 25% of its proprietary Croslite[™] material now consists of bio-circular content. This achievement is a significant step toward the company's 2030 goal of incorporating 50% bio-circular material across its product portfolio.

Croslite, which makes up over 80% of the materials used in Crocs' footwear, is now produced using repurposed biobased waste from other industries, such as cooking oil. This approach reduces the carbon footprint of Crocs' products without compromising style, comfort, or affordability. Unlike many brands that limit sustainable practices to specific product lines, Crocs is rolling out these innovations across all its footwear at no additional cost to consumers.

The company's commitment to sustainability has already resulted in a 3% reduction in absolute emissions and a 6.1% reduction in emissions per pair of Classic Clogs compared to 2021 levels. This initiative is part of Crocs' broader strategy to achieve Net Zero emissions by 2040 and reflects the brand's dedication to innovative, planetfriendly practices.



Read more: https://www.texspacetoday.com/crocs-elevates-sustainability...

ENERGY



Sustainable cooling strategies for T&A factories in tropical regions

M A Mohiemen Tanim

The rising global temperatures, driven by climate change, are a growing concern for many industries, including textiles, apparel, and garments, particularly in regions like Bangladesh, India, Nigeria, Brazil, Pakistan, Egypt, and Algeria. As heatwaves become more frequent and intense, factories must address the dual challenge of maintaining worker safety and improving energy efficiency. The textile industry, which already consumes vast amounts of energy for production processes, can find innovative ways to repurpose external heat to cool down internal environments, turning a potential problem into a sustainable solution.

The Global Heat Challenge

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), global temperatures are set to rise by 1.5°C to 2°C by the end of this century if significant measures are not taken. The impact of this rise will be disproportionately felt in tropical and subtropical countries, many of which host key textile manufacturing hubs. For instance, Bangladesh and India are already facing extreme heat conditions, where daily temperatures during summer can exceed 40°C. This intensifies the need for efficient cooling solutions to safeguard workers' health and ensure uninterrupted production.

Energy Demands of the Textile Industry

The textile and garment industries are among the most energy-intensive sectors, with significant energy required for weaving, dyeing, drying, and finishing processes. A large portion of this energy is traditionally derived from non-renewable sources, further contributing to global carbon emissions. In tropical countries, where cooling systems are needed almost year-round, the industry's energy consumption is even higher. This makes energy optimization not only essential for sustainability but also for cost-effectiveness.

The Role of Passive and Active Cooling Systems

One approach to addressing the increasing external heat is through passive and active cooling systems. Passive cooling refers to the use of design and architectural strategies to cool buildings without consuming energy, while active cooling requires the use of mechanical systems to regulate indoor temperatures.

Cooling Design	Description	Examples/Benefits								
Passive Cooling Designs										
Heat-Reflective Roofs & Walls	Reflective materials and coatings reduce solar radiation absorption.	Reduced rooftop temperatures by 5°C in Bangladesh, cutting air conditioning energy demand by 15%.								
Green Roofing	Vegetation-covered roofs provide natural insulation by absorbing sunlight.	Lowered indoor temperatures by up to 8°C in Brazil and India during extreme heat conditions.								
Natural Ventilation & Shading	Cross-ventilation designs and shading devices (louvers, blinds) minimize heat buildup inside.	Reduced reliance on mechanical cooling by enhancing airflow and minimizing direct sunlight exposure.								
	Active Cooling Designs									
Solar-Powered Air Conditioning	Solar energy powers conventional air conditioning systems.	Reduced electricity consumption for cooling by 30%-50% in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.								
Geothermal Cooling	Geothermal heat pumps transfer heat between buildings and the ground.	Cut cooling costs by up to 40% in textile factories in India and Brazil.								
Thermal Energy Storage (TES)	Excess heat is stored during the day and released at night for cooling.	Used in textile factories in Pakistan for efficient energy management and cooling processes.								
Waste Heat Recovery Systems (WHRS)	Waste heat from production is captured and reused to power absorption chillers for cooling.	Implemented in Indian factories, reducing cooling needs and cutting energy costs.								

Waste Heat Recovery: Turning External Heat into an Asset

In textile factories, waste heat from processes such as drying and steaming can be captured and reused. This can be integrated into cooling systems to reduce overall energy consumption. Waste heat recovery systems (WHRS) use the excess heat generated by production processes to run absorption chillers, which in turn cool down indoor environments.

For instance, the National Textile Corporation in India has implemented waste heat recovery systems that capture the heat generated from boilers and reuse it for other energyintensive processes. This not only reduces the factory's cooling needs but also cuts down on its energy bills, promoting sustainability.

Advanced Materials and Technologies

Another avenue to explore is the use of advanced building materials. In Algeria and Egypt, research is being conducted on phase-change materials (PCMs) that absorb and release heat during phase transitions, such as from solid to liquid. When integrated into walls, roofs, or even fabrics, these materials can reduce indoor temperatures by absorbing excess heat during the day and releasing it at night. This could be a game-changer for the textile industry, particularly in regions facing extreme heat.

Leveraging Data for Smart Cooling

As industries embrace digital transformation, textile factories can integrate smart systems to optimize cooling based on real-time data. For example, sensors can monitor internal and external temperatures, adjusting cooling systems accordingly. In a study conducted by GlobalData in 2022, smart cooling systems in textile factories in India and Brazil resulted in energy savings of up to 25%. By automating cooling processes and optimizing energy use, factories can maintain comfortable working environments while minimizing energy consumption.

Conclusion: A Path Forward for the Textile Industry

The rising global temperatures pose a significant challenge for the textile, apparel, and garment industry in tropical and subtropical regions. However, by adopting innovative cooling solutions such as passive cooling designs, solar-powered air conditioning, waste heat recovery, and smart technologies, factories can not only mitigate the effects of external heat but also improve energy efficiency and sustainability.

As the textile industry evolves, integrating these solutions will be crucial for maintaining productivity, ensuring worker safety, and contributing to the global fight against climate change. With the right investments and strategies, external heat can become an asset rather than a liability for textile manufacturing in high-temperature regions.



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