



October 15–18, 2019 • Vancouver, British Columbia
Driving Impact through Integrity and Preferred Fiber & Materials

Overview Report

TextileExchange.org/2019-conference • Conference@TextileExchange.org

 #TextileExchange19



United in Action to Advance the SDGs



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Thank You to our Conference Sponsors

Trailblazers



Pioneers



Change Makers



Connectors



Partners



Thank You to our Round Table Summit Sponsors

Biosynthetics Round Table

AsahiKASEI



Responsible Leather Round Table

BURBERRY
LONDON ENGLAND

Organic Cotton Round Table



OCRT Scholarship Fund Contributors:



Man Made Cellulosic Fiber Round Table

AsahiKASEI



COLLABORATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF VISCOSE



Recycled Polyester Round Table



Responsible Wool & Responsible Mohair Round Table



EILEEN FISHER



Exhibiting Companies

Alchemi Technology Ltd
Armstrong Spinning Mills (P) Ltd,
Tirrupur
Asahi Kasei Corp.
Birla Cellulose, part of Aditya Birla
Group
Cape Wools SA
C.L.A.S.S
Circular Systems SPC
Collaboration for Sustainable
Development of Viscose (VC)
Control Union
Cotton Council International
Creative Artisans by GH Group
EcoTextile News
Egedeniz Textile
Fair Trade USA
Fortum | Spinnova

Geetanjali Woollens Pvt Ltd
Hemp Fortex
ICEA
InfiniChains, Inc
Infinited Fiber Company, Inc.
ITOCHU Corporation
KenDor Textiles Limited
Lenzing
Mohair SA NPC
Naturepedic
Natur-Tec
Neo-Concept (Holdings) Co. Ltd
Nike
NSF International
Ocean Wise
Organic Trade Association Fiber
Council

Pallavaa Group
PSP India
Quantis
Recover
Recycutex
Re:Down LLC
Sappi Verve
Sateri
South Pole
SupplyShift
Takiho Co., Ltd
TESTEX Swiss Textile-Testing Ltd.
The Renewal Workshop
UPW Limited
Zhejiang Haili Environmental
Technology Co., LTD





Metsä



Attending Companies

AB Lindex
ACT Commodities B.V.
Adidas Sourcing Ltd.
aerie
Africa Fashion Guide
African Textile Beauty
Alchemie Technology
Alexander McQueen (AMQ)
ALGI International Inc.
Aliança da Terra
Allbirds, Inc.
Aloeburn Pastoral Co
amelia°williams studio
American Eagle Outfitters
Anubha Industries Private Limited
Apparel Impact Institute
Applied DNA Sciences
APRIL
Aquafil USA Inc.
ARC'TERYX Equipment
ARCHE Advisors
Ardent Associates
Aritzia
Armstrong Spinning Mills (P) Ltd.
Artus Tradehouse Group
Arvind Limited
Asahi Kasei Corporation
ASAP (HONG KONG) LTD.
Ascena Retail Group, Inc.
Asia Pacific Rayon
AVSF
Bassett Consulting
BBC Vancouver
Bear Fiber, Inc.
Beijing Institute of Fashion Technology
Bergman/Rivera
Bestseller A/S
Better Cotton Initiative (BCI)
BillerudKorsnas
Biocoton
bioRe Foundation
biov8tion
Birla Cellulose - Aditya Birla Group

BKB Ltd
BlockTexx
Bloomsbury Mill
Bluesign
bluesign technologies
Bolt Threads Inc.
Bombas
Bonds & Sheridan
Bowles Farming Company, Inc.
BPCM
Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation
Breakthrough Energy Ventures
BSD Consulting, an ELEVATE company
BSR
Burberry
Burton Snowboards
C.L.A.S.S.
C&A Foundation
C&A/WWF-Pakistan
Canada Border Services Agency
Canada Goose
Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce
Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Beef
Canopy Planet
Cape Union Mart Int
Cape Wools SA
Capilano University
Cargill
Carhartt, Inc.
Casper Sleep Inc.
Catholic Relief Services
CCI/U.S. Cotton Trust Protocol
Central Bank of Nigeria
ChainPoint
Change Agency
Charles & Keith
Chetna Organic
China Chemical Fibers Association
CINDE
Circular Systems SPC
Clavis Partners LLC

ClimateAi
Cold Springs Organics
Columbia Sportswear Company
Control Union
Convergence Tech
Cornell University
Costa Rican Investment Promotion Agency (CINDE)
Coton Liberalisée SP/FCL
Cotonea - Gebr. Elmer & Zweifel
Cotton Australia
Cotton Council International
Cotton Incorporated
Cotton SA
CottonConnect
Coyuchi, Inc.
Craig Hall Video Inc.
Creative Artisans Private Limited
CU Inspections & Certifications India
Cynosura Consulting
Delilah Home
Dibella
DK Company A/S
DOEN Participaties
DuPont
DuPont Biomaterials
DuPont Sorona
DyStar Colour Distribution GmbH
EarthShift Global
Earthworm Foundation
Eastman
Ecocentric Brands
ECOCERT Greenlife
Ecocert Group
ECOofashion corp.
Ecos
Ecotextile News
Edpa Usa, Inc.
Ege Organics
Egedeniz Tekstil
Eileen Fisher, Inc.
Emily Carr University of Art + Design
Enel Green Power
ENKA International GmbH & Co. KG

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Attending Companies

Enmulate

Esquel Group

ESTS - Extensive Standard Technical Services

Euratex

European Outdoor Group (EOG)

Evolved By Nature

Evrnu

EWB Consulting, LLC.

Extensive Standard Technical Services

Fabrikology International

FABSCRAP, Inc.

Fair Fashion Center - GCU New York | Glasgow Caledonian University New York

Fair Trade USA

Fairtrade Canada

Fairtrade Foundation

Far Eastern New Century

Farm Animal Welfare Consulting Ltd

Fashion for Good

Fashion Positive

Fast Retailing Co.,Ltd/ Uniqlo

Fibershed

Fjallraven - Fenix Outdoor Group

Fortum

Fortum Power and Heat Oy

Forum for the Future

FOUR PAWS International

Four Seasons Hotels and Resorts Ltd

Fox & Lillie Rural

Frank And Oak

FSA-UAC

FSC International

Fuhrmann S.A.

FUTUREADi

Futuremade Group LLC

GANT AB

Gap Inc.

Garnet Hill, Inc.

Gebr. Elmer & Zweifel

Geetanjali Woollens Pvt. Ltd

Genomatica

GHCL Ltd

Giotex Ltd.

GIZ

Global Media Desk

Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS)

Global Roundtable for Sustainable Beef

GMG Mais Saude para Sua

Government of Burkina Faso

Gowan Seed Company

GRAS Global Risk Assessment Services

Grasim Industries Limited

Grey Matter Concepts

Guangdong Esquel Textiles Co.Ltd.

GUESS?, Inc.

Gymshark

H&M Group

Hazelkorn Brothers

Hemp Black

Hemp Fortex Industries

Hohenstein Institute America

Homegrown Agriculture Inc.

Honig Design LLC

Hunter Douglas

Hussain Mills Limited

IBM

ICCAW

ICEA

Idenk

IDFL

Idline AB

IISD

IKEA

Impact Network

Imperial Stock Ranch

Indigenous Designs

Indigo Ag

INDITEX S.A.

Industries Goodwill Renaissance

InfiniChains Inc

Infinited Fiber Company

Inno Knits

Interface

International Fur Trade Federation

International Paper

International Trade Centre (UN)

Intertek

ISEAL Alliance

ISKO

ITOCHU Corporation

J. Crew Group Inc.

JanSport

Jansport/Eagle Creek /VF Corp

Jeplan, Inc.

JL GAZELLE

Jordan Associates

Kaken Test Center

KALANI-home / GreenLama

KE'KEN Textile Testing

KenDor Textiles International

Kering

Khansoon Zam

KID Interior AS

Kintra Fibers, Inc.

Kirsten Sedestrom

Kmart Australia Limited

Kmart Group (Kmart & Target Australia, Anko)

La Maison Simons

Laguna Fabrics / Enviro Fabrics

Leather Working Group Ltd

Lenzing AG

Lenzing Fibers Inc.

Levi Strauss & Co.

Lincoln Agritech Ltd

Linda Cabot Designs

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Lion of Finland

Loftex

Lojas Renner

Loro Piana

Lubhoo Memorise Textile

Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts

lululemon athletica

LVMH

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Attending Companies

Macquarie University
Mahima Fibres Private Limited
MAHIMA FIBRES PVT LTD
Makera Cattle Company
Mantis World
Mara Hoffman Inc
Marks and Spencer
marysol folkesson
Material Sustainable Institute (MSI)
MAZZI FASHION DESIGNERS
MDF Advising
MEC
MetaWear
Metsä Spring
Mogae Textile
Mohair Council of America
Mohair South Africa
Mountain Equipment Co-op (MEC)
Mr Price Group
MultiVu
Musqueam Nation
Mustang Survival
Napapijri - VF International
National Stewardship Action Council
National Wildlife Federation
NativeEnergy
Natur-Tec
Natural Fiber Welding, Inc.
Naturepedic
NC State University
NEMO Equipment, Inc.
Neo-Concept
NEPCon
New Look
Next
Next Retail Ltd
NGO Trama Ética
Nike, Inc.
Nippon Steel Trading Corporation
Nishi Senkoh Co., Ltd.
NISHISENKO
Norrna
Northwestern University

Norwex China Co., Ltd.
Novel Supply Co.
Novel Technologies - Silverbac
NSF International
NxtSTOP Apparel
OBEPAB/UNIVERSITÉ
Ocean Wise
Old Nick Fabrics (Pty) Ltd
On AG
OneCert
Oregon Tilth (OTCO)
Organic Cotton Accelerator
Organic Trade Association (OTA)
OrganiMark
Oritain
Oritain UK
Otto Group
Outdoor Industry Association
Outerknown (OK)
Oyu Tolgoi LLC
Pallava Group
Parsons School of Design
Partnership for Sustainable Textiles
Patagonia
PEFC International
Peterson Projects & Solutions
Phylagen
prAna
Pratibha Syntex
Primark
Primark China
Primark Ethical Trade - AB Foods
Prominent Europe Ltd
PUMA
Punarbhabaa Sustainable Products (PSP India)
PUR Projet
Pure Strategies
PVH Corporation
QIMA
QUANTEXT Consulting Limited
Quantis International
QVC
RadiciGroup

Ralph Lauren Corporation
Re:Down LLC
re/GENERATE
re/Generate Fashion
Recover
Recover/Hilaturas Ferre
Recovertext
Recreational Equipment Inc
Recyctex Co., Ltd.
Reformation
Reformation/LYMI Inc.
ReGenFriends™
REI
Remei AG/bioRe
Reos Partners Brazil
Resource Recycling System (RRS)
Return-It
REvolve Waste
RGE Pte Ltd
Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil
Royal Robbins LLC
RTRS
SACC NPC
Saitex
Samsøe Samsøe
Samsonite
Sanko Tekstil Inc.
SanMar
Sappi Verve
Sateri International
SCS Global Services
Shanghai Challenge Textile Co. Ltd
Shanghai YOUZI industrial Limited Company
Shenzhen ShunYida Textile Co., Ltd.
Shift Advantage
Shokay
Simplify + Grow
SKFK / Atique Import
Smartwool
Smartwool (VF)
Södra
Soil Association
SOMOTEX NIGERIA LIMITED

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Attending Companies

Sonora Wool and Mohair	The Hurd Co	USB Certification
Source the Globe Limited	The LYCRA Company	USB Ulusal Sistem Belgelendirme Hizmetleri Ltd. Sti.
South Africa Mohair Cluster	The Microfibre Consortium	Vans
South African Sustainable Textile and Apparel Cluster (SASTAC)	The New Zealand Merino Company	Varner
South Asian Sourcing Private	The North Face	Varner Retail
South Pole	The RealReal	VF Corp-Smartwool
Spectrum International Pvt. Ltd.	The Renewal Workshop	VF Corporation
Spiber Inc.	The Schneider Group	Vier Pfofen International
Spinnova	The Timberland Company	Virent
Spinz Knitting & Dyeing Industries	Theory	Vision Event Photography
Stanley and Stella SA	Tierra	Volcom, Inc.
STANLEY/STELLA	Tiger of Sweden	Volcom, LLC.
Stuart Anstee and Associates	Timberland	W.L. Gore & Associates
Stucken Group	Tintex Textiles, S.A.	Walmart
Style Calling	Tommy Bahama	Walmart eCommerce
Sulochana Cotton Spinning Mills Pvt Ltd	Tommy Hilfiger/PVH	Waste Management
Suminter India Organics Pvt. Ltd.	Trama Ética	WearIt
Sunday Virtue	Transparency-One	Weft x Warp
SUPIMA	Trash. Thread. Textile.	Welspun India Limited
Supply Compass Ltd	Trends Magazine	Welspun USA
SupplyShift	TrusTrace	Wesfarmers
Sustainable Forestry Initiative	TS Designs	WestPoint Home
Sustainable Furnishings Council (SFC)	Tung Ga Linen and Cotton Mills	Williams-Sonoma, Inc. / Pottery Barn / West Elm
Sustainable Textile Solutions	Twin Birch Apparel	Wilson College of Textiles at North Carolina State University
Sympatex Technologies GmbH	Tyton BioSciences	Woolworths SA Woolworths Holdings
Takihyo Co., Ltd.	U.S. Cotton Trust Protocol	World Resources Institute
Target	UN Climate Change	World Textile Sourcing
Tchibo GmbH	UN Economic Commission for Europe	World Wildlife Fund
TCU	Under the Canopy / Earthbound	Wrangler
tentree	UNDP	WWF
TESTEX Swiss Textile-Testing	UNDP Green Commodities	ZDHC Foundation
Texas Organic Cotton Marketing Cooperative	UNECE	Zeynar Textile
Textile Arts Council	UNFCCC	Zhejiang Haili Environmental Technology
Textile Exchange	Unifi, Inc.	
TextileGenesis	United Nations	
The Biodiversity Consultancy	University of British Columbia	
The Cotton Board	University of California, Davis	
The Cotton Group	University of California, Santa Barbara	
The Humane Society of the United States	Union Nationale des Producteurs de Coton du Burkina (UNPCB)	
The Humane Society of the US	UPW LIMITED	
	US Border Patrol	

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2019 Conference Recap

Driving Impact through Integrity and Preferred Fiber & Materials



**Over 900
Registered
Attendees**



**Representing
450+ Companies**



**Across 46
Countries**

The 2019 Textile Sustainability Conference was our greatest turnout to date with more than 900 industry leaders registered including over 200 speakers from 46 countries representing 450+ companies! #TextileExchange19 was the largest conference on the topic of sustainable textiles ever held in North America and, for the first time in its history, it was recognized as being [climate neutral](#) through a partnership with **South Pole**.



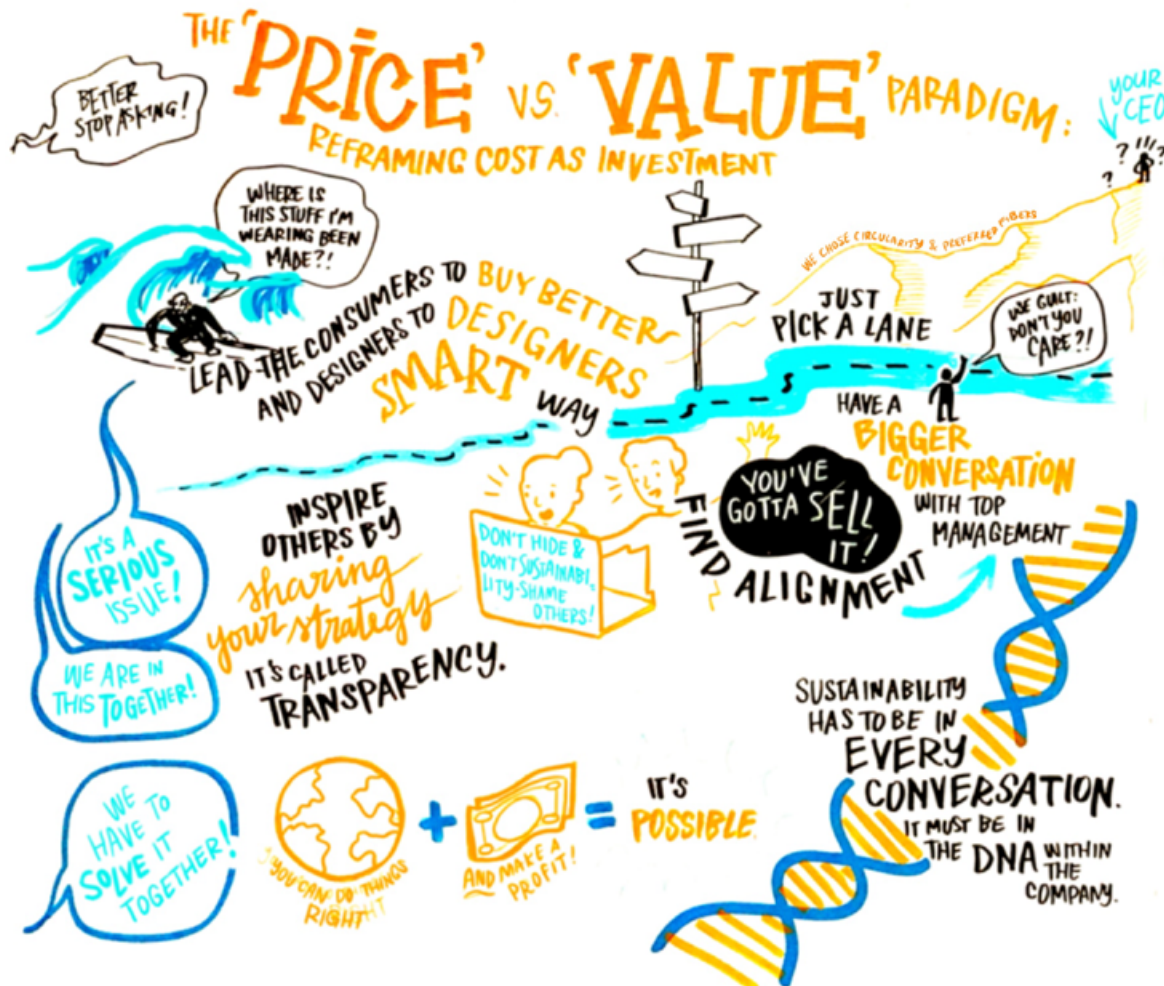
Welcome Ceremony



Conference attendees were welcomed by two members of the First Nations Musqueam Tribe with a blessing from Elder Rose Guerin and an opening message from Musqueam Nation Representative Debra Sparrow.



The Price vs. Value Paradigm



Textile Exchange is committed to identifying barriers to growth and drive collective action to overcome challenges. This plenary set the scene for the conference around promoting responsible and fair pricing practices and took an initial look at some of the concrete solutions that will help companies reframe the ‘price’ conversation to one around ‘value’. In recent surveys with Textile Exchange’s members and the community at large, price was identified as the key reason brands and retailers are struggling to scale or increase use of preferred fibers and materials. We call this the ‘price’ versus ‘value’ paradigm because the current or typical business model (paradigm) focuses on price.

Speakers:

Karen Newman
Consultant, United Nations

Mark Walker
CEO, Outerknown

Access the **Price vs. Value Paradigm Report** here: store.textileexchange.org/product/the-price-versus-value-paradigm-reframing-cost-as-investment



Partnering to Create a Successful Preferred Fiber Strategy



The countdown for 2030 is on. With only 10 years left, the urgency to accelerate concrete solutions requires partnerships and a multi-faceted approach to create transformational change. This session discussed how non-profits are working together to support the fashion industry's evolution towards its sustainable future. This included how we develop aligned strategies to meet the needs of various initiatives – from SDGs to how to capture impacts like biodiversity as an industry.

Speakers:

Cara Smyth
Vice President, Fair Fashion Center

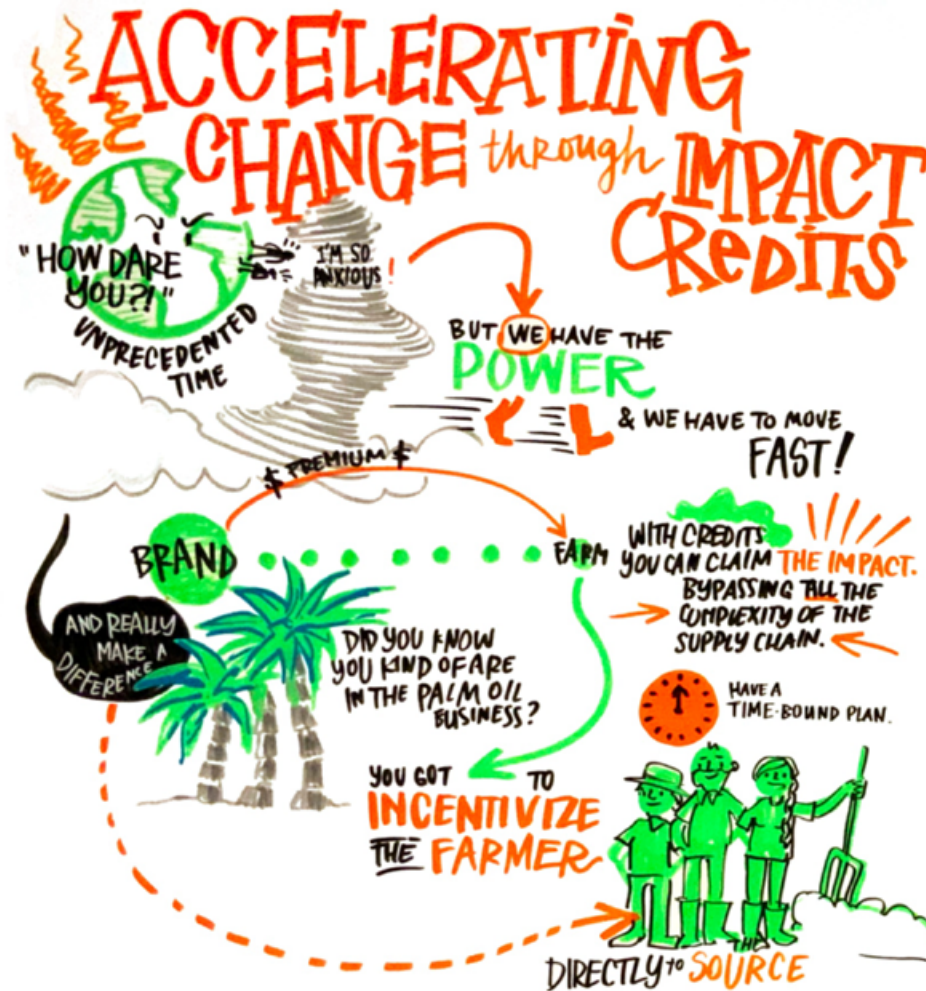
Lewis Perkins
President, Apparel Impact Institute

La Rhea Pepper
Managing Director, Textile Exchange





Accelerating Change through Impact Credits



We are all well aware of the threats facing our planet – from global warming to biodiversity loss – and that we are on an urgent timeline to find solutions. As the world’s seventh largest economy, the textile industry is in a strong position to help drive the changes that are needed at the ground level. To this end, Textile Exchange has invested in the development of Impact Credits that allow brands to bypass the cost and complexity of the supply chain, and deliver value directly to farmers and producers. Impact Credits allow us to use market forces to encourage best practices where they will have the greatest impact on the challenges facing our planet.

Speakers:

Anne Gillespie

Director of Industry Integrity, Textile Exchange

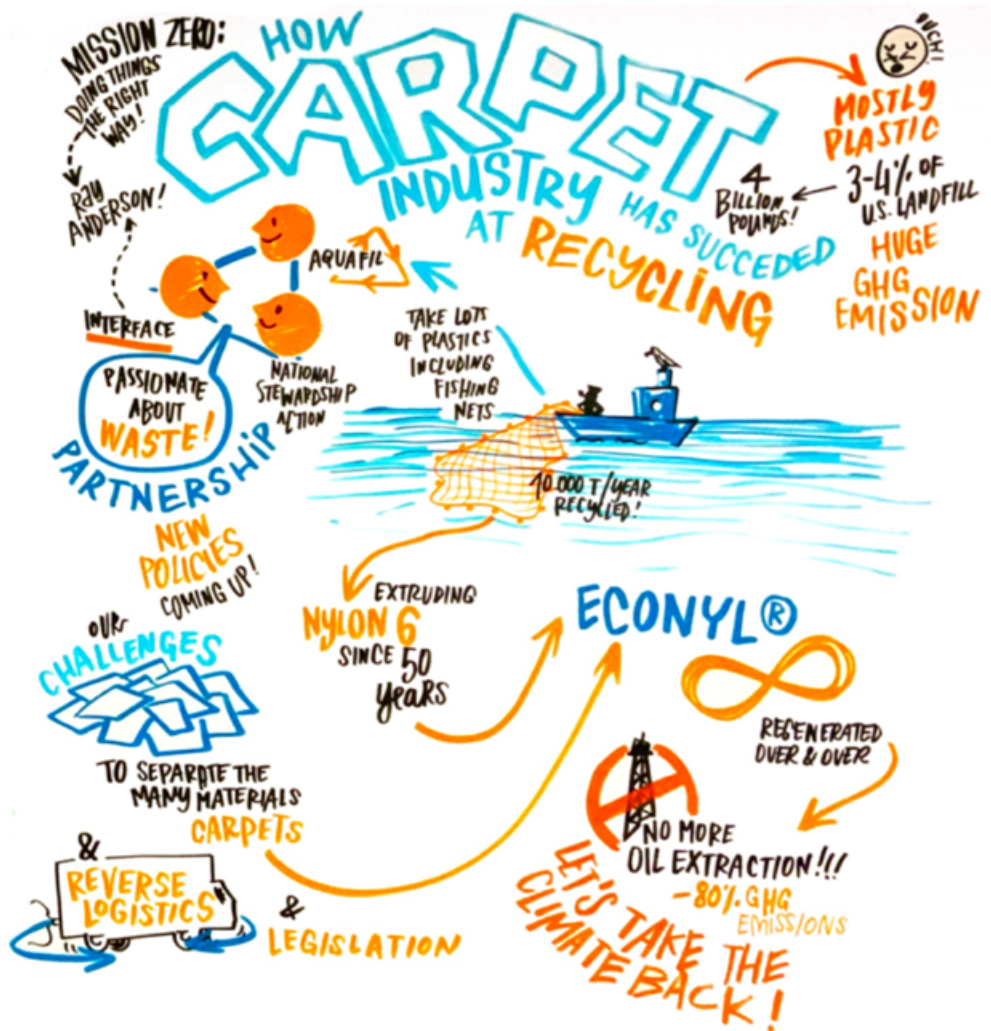
Dan Strechay

U.S. Representative, Outreach & Engagement, Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil

Jaap Janssen

CEO / Founder, ACT Commodities B.V.

How the Carpet Industry has Succeeded with Recycling



Carpet is a textile product with a large greenhouse gas (GHG) footprint which generates millions of pounds of plastic waste that is disposed of or incinerated each year. Three panelists shared their experiences as an advocate, a carpet mill, and a nylon recycler. They explained how they worked together to pass first-in-the-world carpet recycling legislation in California. Attendees learned how they can help drive closed-loop systems for carpet and other textile products.

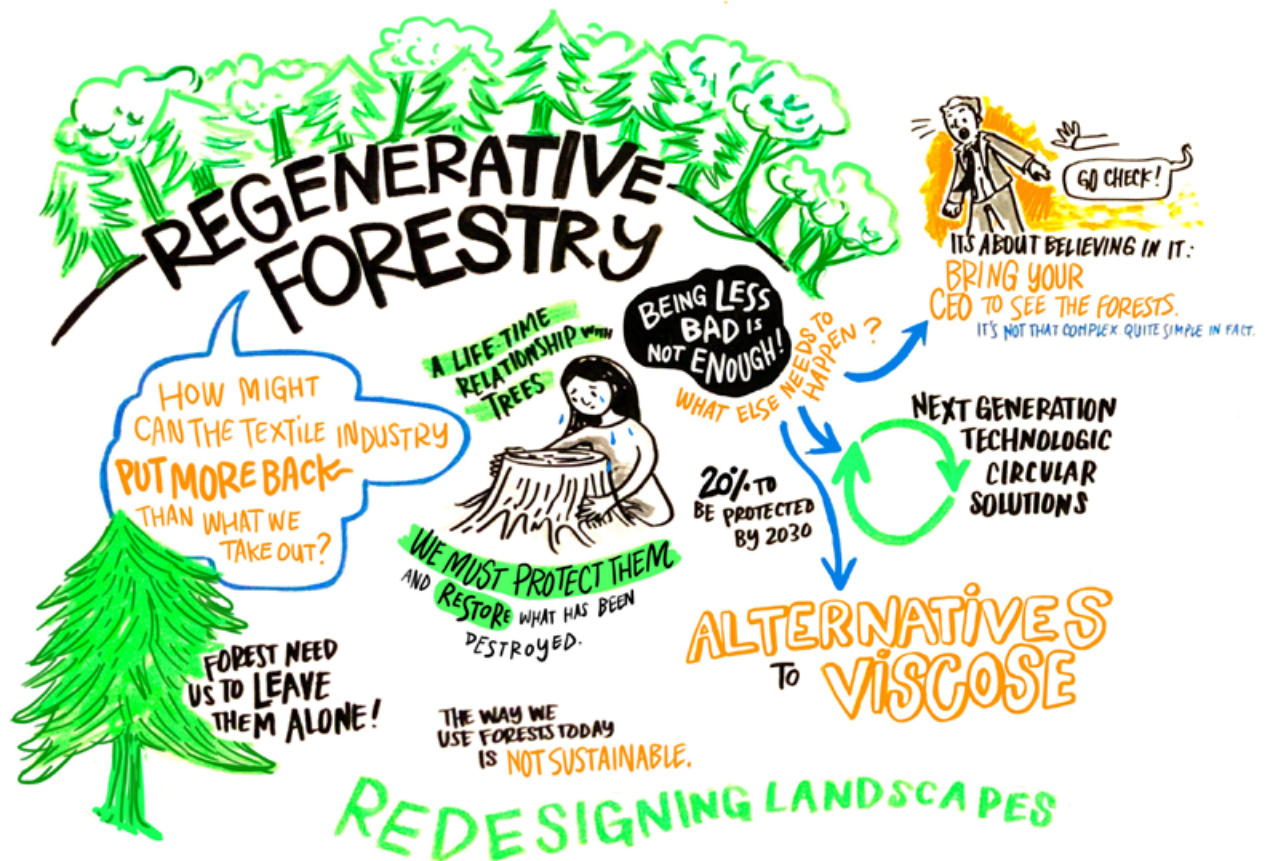
Speakers:

Eric Nelson
Vice President, Interface

Franco Rossi
President, Aquafil USA Inc.

Heidi Sanborn
Executive Director, National Stewardship Action Council

Regenerative Forestry: How can the Textile Industry Give More Back to Forests than it Takes Out?



With forest based feedstocks in the spotlight, multiple sectors increasingly focusing on renewable, wood-based cellulose content and manmade cellulosic fibers growing faster than any other fiber, there is a narrow window to collectively address the significant social and environmental challenges facing the industry. What could be a “regenerative” or “net positive” approach as a new way of managing forests? A forest eco-system which gives more back into society, the environment and the global economy, than it takes out. Aspiring to be Net Positive means embracing the four principles of transparency, materiality (focusing on impact areas where there is the potential for the greatest positive impact), systemic and regenerative. Such an aspiration for the textiles industry and forestry could be timely and this session explored how this aspiration could turn into reality.

Speakers:

Sally Uren

CEO, Forum for the Future

Lucita Jasmin

Director of Sustainability & External Affairs,
Sateri/APRIL Group

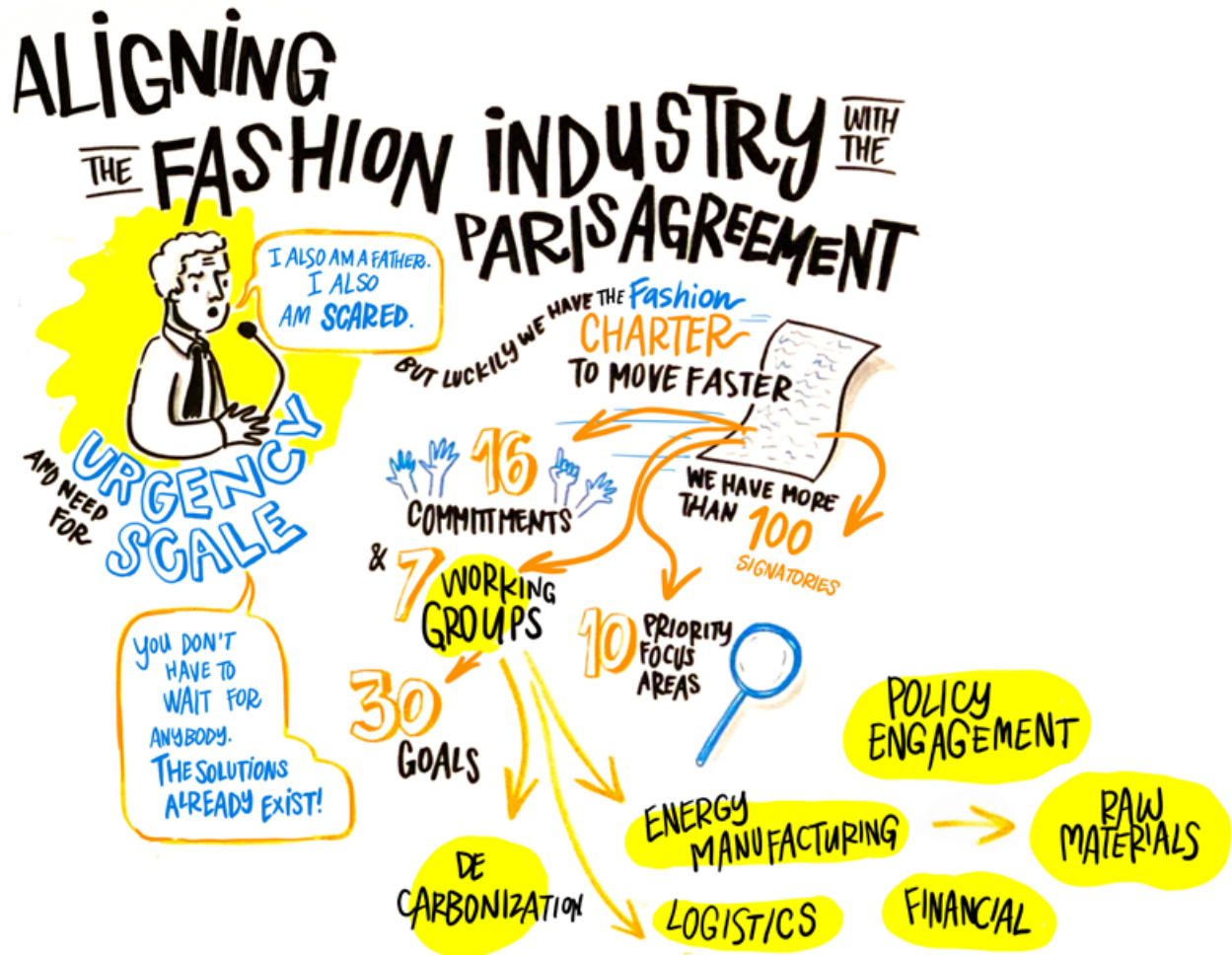
Nicole Rycroft

Executive Director & Founder, Canopy Planet

Boris Saraber

Director Operations, Earthworm

Aligning the Fashion Industry with the Goals of the Paris Climate Agreement



The Fashion Industry Charter for Climate Action, convened by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), is a collaborative, action-oriented global platform for brands, suppliers, retailers, and supporting organizations. The Charter’s goal is to drive the fashion industry to net-zero greenhouse gas emissions no later than 2050, in line with keeping global warming below 1.5 degrees Celsius. The program was launched in December 2018 and this panel discussed insights and updates on the work being done in support of Charter commitments.

Speakers:

Karla Magruder
 Founder, Fabrikology

Stefan Seidel
 Head of Corporate Sustainability, Puma

Lindita Xhaferi-Salihu
 Sector Engagement, Lead, UN Climate Change

Laila Petrie
 Textiles and Cotton Global Lead, WWF

How to Collaboratively Develop a New Corporate Responsibility Strategy



A strategic approach to the challenges our planet faces is crucial for businesses - not only so we can act responsibly, but also so that we can stay in business. Otto Group has Corporate Responsibility (CR) at the core of what they do. The Otto Group shared with attendees why they are moving from CR to “CXR”, and how they are taking their diverse group of brands and, even more importantly, employees, on the journey. This plenary shared the Otto Group’s thought process and experiences so attendees could bring relevant pieces of information to respective individual organizations, and as a result continue to have the apparel and textile industry demonstrate leadership in sustainability.

Speaker:

Felix Rauer
 Manager, Otto Group

Creating Consumer Awareness



From the opening to the close, the conference addressed the tough issues, including the fact that we can't underestimate the value of connecting to our consumers. What is our role in educating consumers? The conference opened with a focus on the price vs. value paradigm and this session brought that conversation full circle with a look at how increasing consumer engagement can be a key factor in creating market driven solutions that fairly reward risk and effort. This closing plenary discussed what is being done, what is working, and what actionable steps can be taken to create a successful business model around creating consumer awareness.

Speakers:

Megan Meiklejohn

Sustainable Materials & Transparency Manager, Eileen Fisher, Inc.

Walter Bridgham

Senior Business Development Manager, Lenzing

Thursday, October 17

Exclusive Announcement by IKEA and H&M

IKEA and H&M made the following announcement at the 2019 Textile Sustainability Conference: IKEA to use 100% renewable or recycled materials by 2030. H&M to use 100% recycled or sustainably sourced materials by 2030. IKEA and H&M Group have the ambition to tackle these challenges, and, as a result, have collaborated on a large-scale

study looking at chemical content in collected recyclable textile, with a focus on cotton as the first step. The aim is to share this knowledge and create awareness among industry members as well as policy makers and legislators, enabling fact based decisions in the adoption of the circular business model more broadly. [Learn more here.](#)



Thursday, October 17

Message from Bill McKibben: Dramatically Accelerating the Adoption of Preferred Fiber and Materials

Bill McKibben is an author and environmentalist. His 1989 book *The End of Nature* is regarded as the first book for a general audience about climate change. Bill is the founder of 350.org, the first planet-wide, grassroots climate change movement. He could not attend the Textile

Exchange Conference due to a prior commitment, however he was gracious enough to record a warm, personal message for Conference attendees that acknowledges how far the industry has come while emphasizing the urgency of accelerating the adoption of Preferred Fiber and Materials.

Conference Breakouts

Wednesday, October 16

- Climate Resilience Through Insetting and Offsetting
- The Next Frontier: How Leading Companies are Considering Land and Biodiversity in Their Fiber Material Choices
- **Trading in Linear Tools for Circular Ones**
- Creating Social Impact in the Garment Industry
- Measuring Impact in the Textile Supply Chain (*Sponsored by Recyctex*)
- Blockchain and How it Relates to Certification Systems
- When Size Isn't Everything: Maximizing Impact for the Small/Medium Enterprise
- Scaling Up Water Stewardship in the Textiles Sector
- Picking Up the Pace through Non-Profit Partnerships
- Emissions: Let's Agree that Scope 3 is What Really Matters
- Impact Credits: Efficient and Targeted Change
- MMCF Innovations and Collaborations
- The Evolving Hemp Landscape (*Sponsored by Kendor*)
- What is a Circular Material and How Can You Create Them? (*Sponsored by Nike*)
- Kickstarting Sustainability and the Journey to Regenerative Agriculture
- **Defining "Preferred": How do Fibers Qualify?**
- The Invisible Tide: The Science Behind Textile Microfiber Pollution, Why it Matters and What you can do About it (*Presented by Planet Textiles*)
- Learnings From Central Database System Phase One Development
- Building Traceability and Transparency (*Interactive*)

Thursday, October 17

- Parallel Lines – How can we Align on Benchmarking and Reporting?
- 2025 Sustainable Cotton Challenge Part 1: Consumer Engagement
- The Mohair Story
- Constructive Interference - Maximizing Regenerative Impact
- Learnings and Best Practices for Scaling Innovation
- **Microfiber Release from Textiles: Demystifying the Most Commonly Asked Questions**
- Building Biodiversity and Mitigating Climate Change
- Data Management: The Building Block of a Credible Standard
- Tools & Technology Showcase Part 1
- Fiber & Materials Around the World
- What is the Future of Certification?
- **Animal Fibers and Animal Welfare: What you Need to Know and What you Need to Do**
- 2025 Sustainable Cotton Challenge Part 2: Continuous Improvement
- Extraordinary Partnerships for Extraordinary Times
- Connecting the Missing Links to Accelerate Circularity
- Next Steps on Central Database System (CDS)
- Tools & Technology Showcase Part 2
- Sure, I'll Use More Preferred Fibers as Long as It Doesn't Cost Me Any More

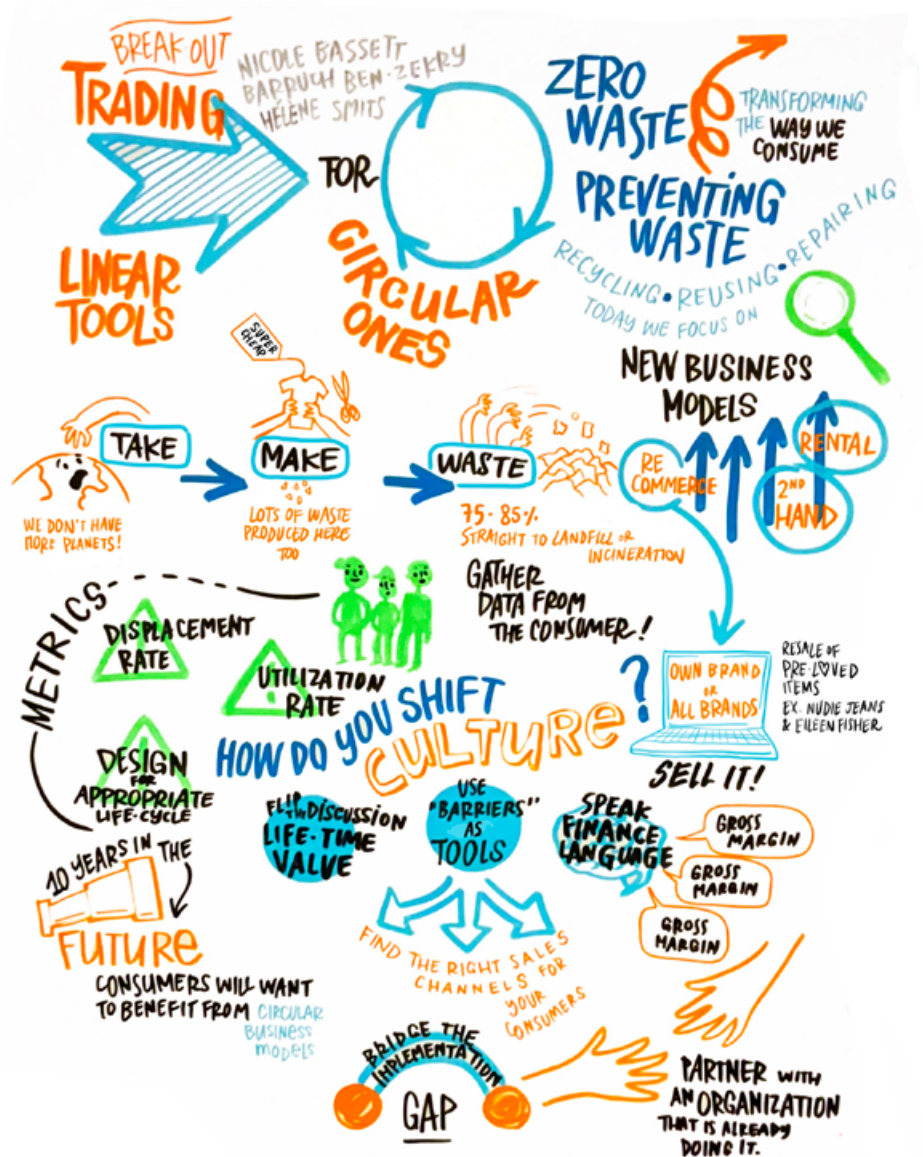
Bold = Breakout highlight included in report



Trading in Linear tools for Circular Ones

The apparel industry operates in a linear economy. A linear system, which fails to value resources, has led to the destruction of the planet through the model of taking raw materials from the earth, making and selling those things, and, at the end of the use phase, disposes of them in landfill. According to the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, a circular economy is one that decouples economic activity from the consumption of finite resources.

The circular economy is based on three principles: design out waste and pollution; keep products and materials in use; and regenerate natural systems. But how do we get to Circular – practically? We must undo, shift and evolve all the ways we do business today out of linear and into circular. This includes looking at data, product, sales, renewal, recycling and financials. Right now, the industry is at its most inefficient, using linear tools to be circular. The real return on investment will emerge when we use circular tools to be circular. This session looked into what is in our control today as brands, suppliers and service providers to make these shifts.



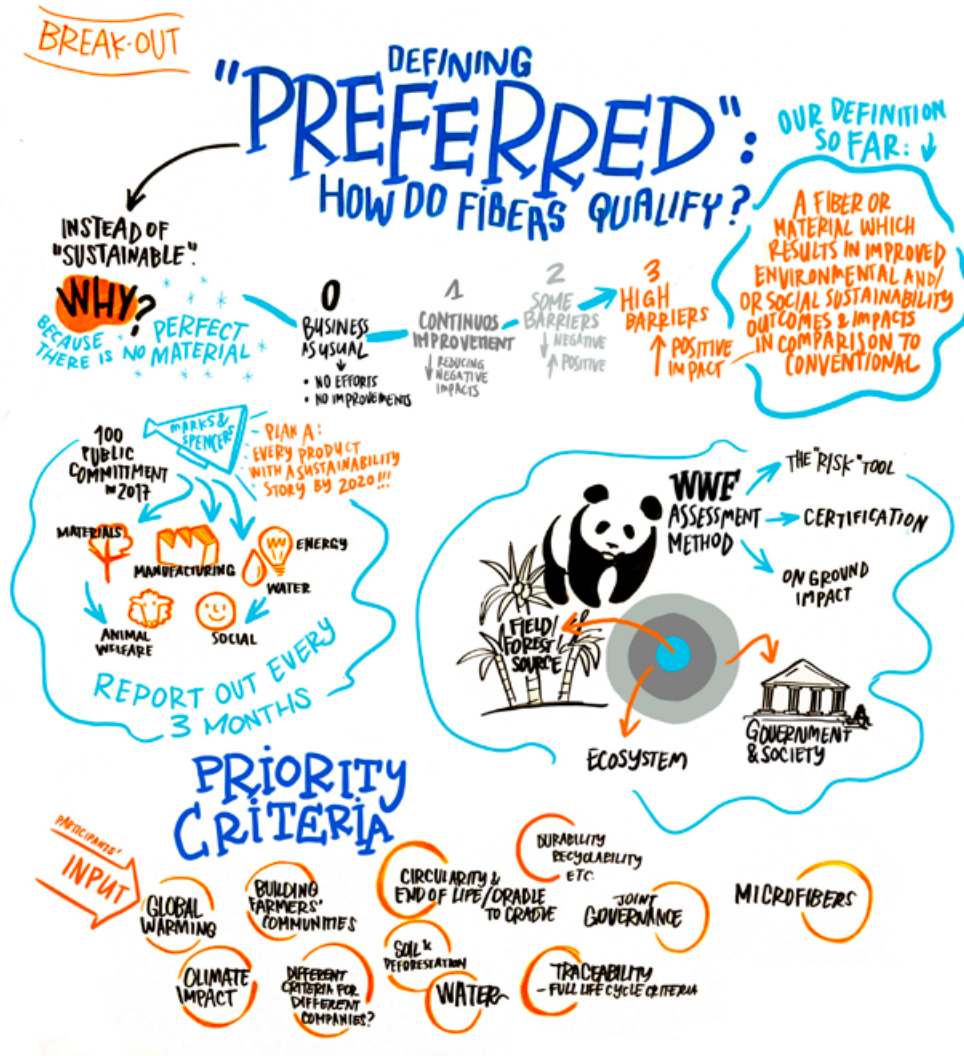
Speakers:

Nicole Bassett
Co-founder, The Renewal Workshop

Barruch Ben-Zekry
Senior Director, New Business Models, VF Corporation

Hélène Smits
Business Development, Circle Economy

Defining “Preferred”: How do Fibers Qualify?



Textile companies, with the roots of their businesses in the fields, forests and deep in the ground, have an important role to play in the transition to a more resilient, regenerative and circular economy. Moving towards a preferred fiber and materials portfolio is part of that transition and is a significant way for textile companies to improve impact. The objective of Textile Exchange’s Fiber and Materials Platform is to help you make this transition. This breakout discussed the priority criteria and gave an update on the work being done to define “preferred”.

Speakers:

Liesl Truscott

European & Materials Strategy Director, Textile Exchange

Laila Petrie

Textiles and Cotton Global Lead, WWF

Sophia Opperskalski

Strategy & Research Support, Textile Exchange

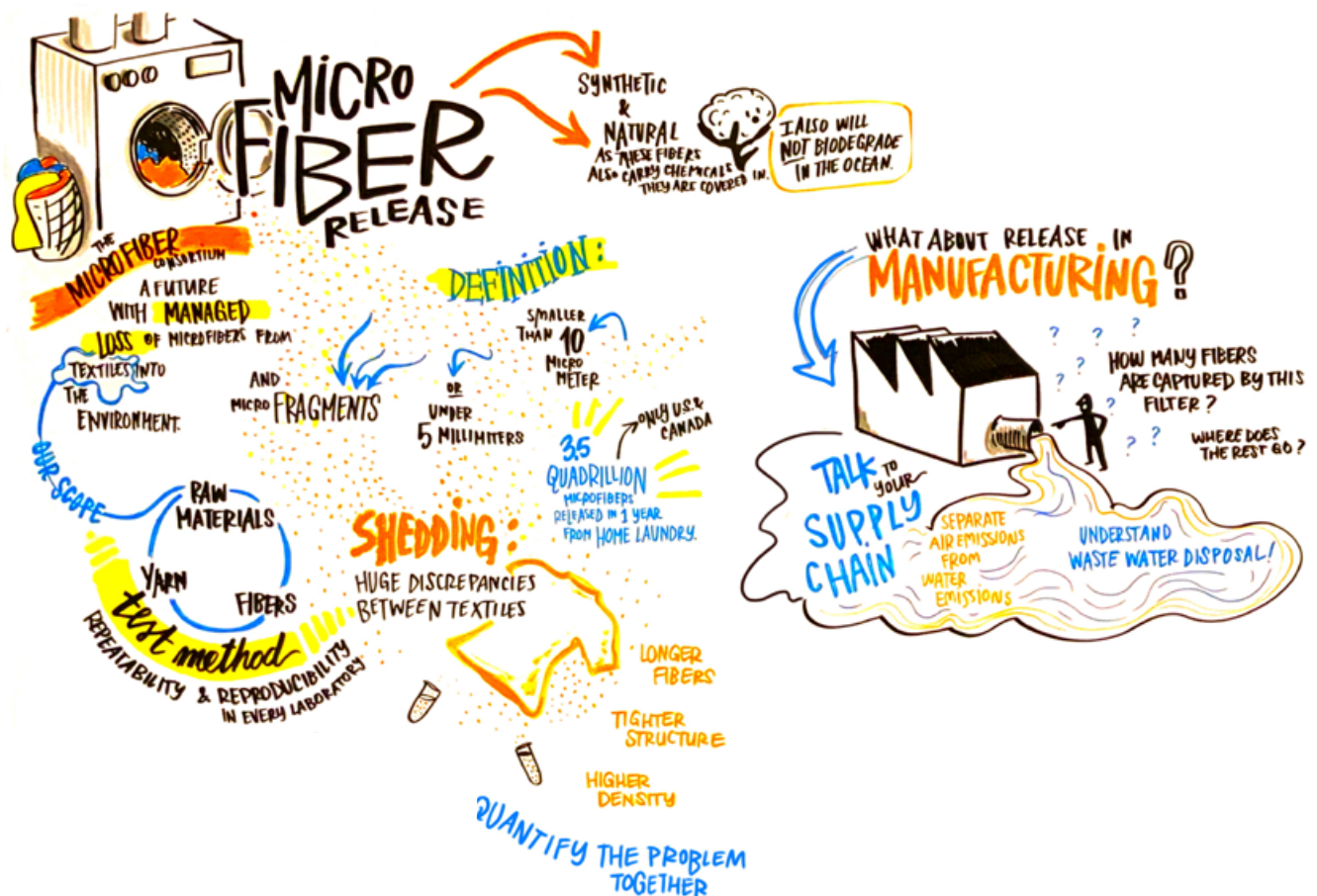
Phil Townsend

Technical Lead - Environmental Sustainability, Marks and Spencer

Stefanie Maurice

Consultant, Textile Exchange

Microfiber Release from Textiles: Demystifying the Most Commonly Asked Questions



This breakout looked to unravel the most commonly asked questions on the topic of microfiber release from textiles. The expert panel gave their point of view on the following questions: How does environmental understanding help us accelerate textile release improvements? How can a global brand help support expediting global solutions over a regional approach to the issue? What can be done at the manufacturing level? What impact does fiber composition play on this issue? When can the industry start to use a global test method for fiber loss?

Speakers:

Sophie Mather

Board Chair, The Microfibre Consortium

Kate Riley

Manager Material Apparel - Sustainability, Adidas

Carol Shu

Sustainability Manager, The North Face

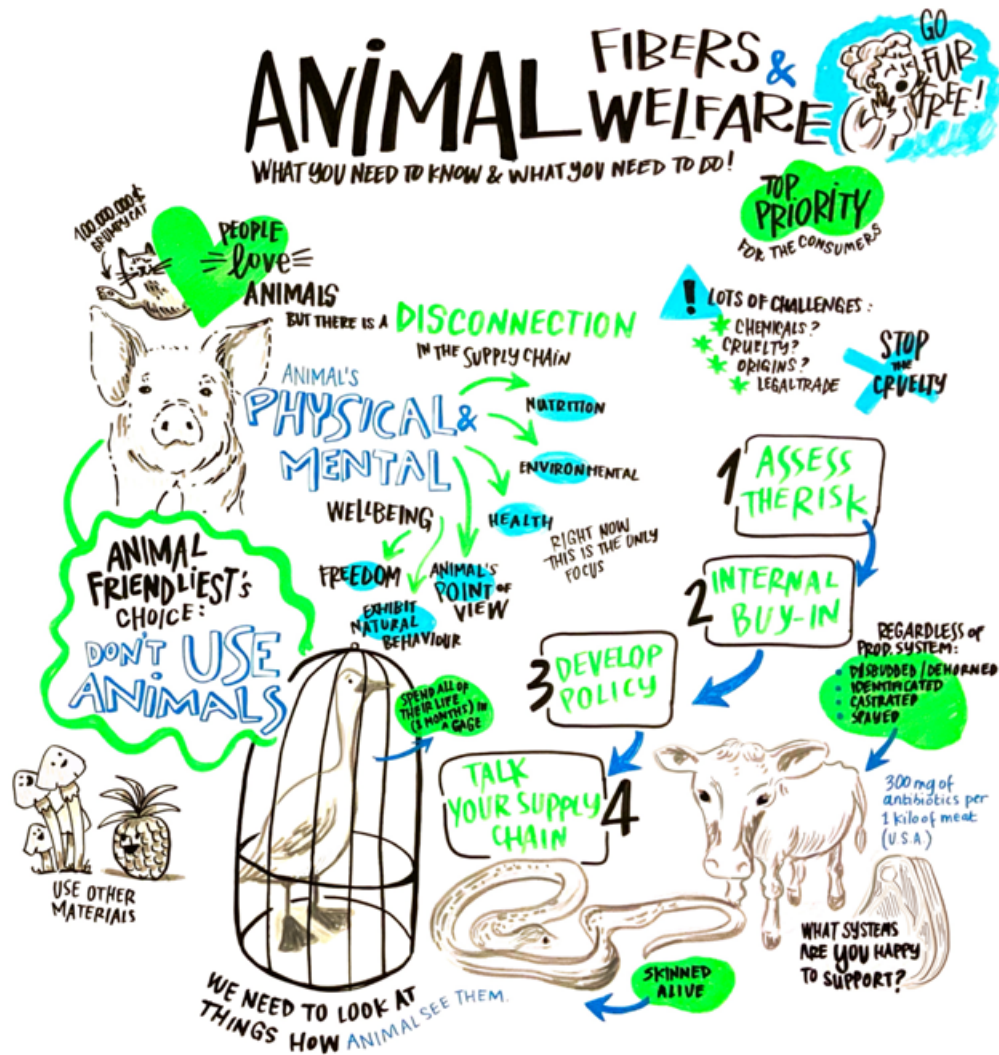
Katy Stevens

Technical Director, The Microfibre Consortium

Valerie Presolly

Director, Sustainable Business Innovation, Mountain Equipment Co-op

Animal Fibers and Animal Welfare: What you Need to Know and What you Need to Do



Consumer concern for animal welfare is increasing. To meet this demand, companies need to be equipped to understand both the risks and the opportunities. In this session, attendees had a deep dive look at different animal derived fibers and materials and their impacts across the continuum of animal welfare potential. The session also provided tools and strategies for adopting and implementing animal welfare policies and the role that industry standards can play.

Speakers:

Nina Jamal

Head of Farm Animal Campaigns, FOUR PAWS International (VIER PFOTEN)

PJ Smith

Director, Fashion Policy, The Humane Society of the United States

Mackie Hobson

Mohair SA Veterinarian, Mohair SA

Anna Heaton

Consultant, Bassett Consulting

Basics of Sustainability Workshop: Part 1



What Does Sustainability Have to Do With Fashion?

Maggie Kervick
 Director, GCNYC Fair Fashion Center

Sustainability in fashion has moved from being philanthropically driven initiatives, to a catch-all term with vital implications to business: new revenue generation, increased margin and profitability, consumer acquisition and advanced sourcing strategies that protect the future of our supply chains. Attendees learned how global issues translate into business risks and opportunities and how to accelerate the pace of change in your sourcing strategies.

What is a Preferred Fiber & Material?

Liesl Truscott
 European & Materials Strategy Director, Textile Exchange

Nicole Lambert
 Data Analyst, Textile Exchange

Moving towards a preferred fiber and materials portfolio is part of that transition and is a significant way for textile companies to improve impact. The objective of Textile Exchange’s Fiber and Materials Platform is to help you make this transition.

Basics of Sustainability Workshop: Part 2



Getting Started with Textile Exchange Standards

Trini Gantner
Project Manager, Textile Exchange

Rachel Lincoln
Director of Sustainability, prAna

Ashley Gill
Senior Manager of Industry Integrity, Textile Exchange

Standards are a tool that provide the steps needed to ensure your commitments result in real and meaningful change. Attendees learned about Textile Exchange standards and how they can add value to supply chains.

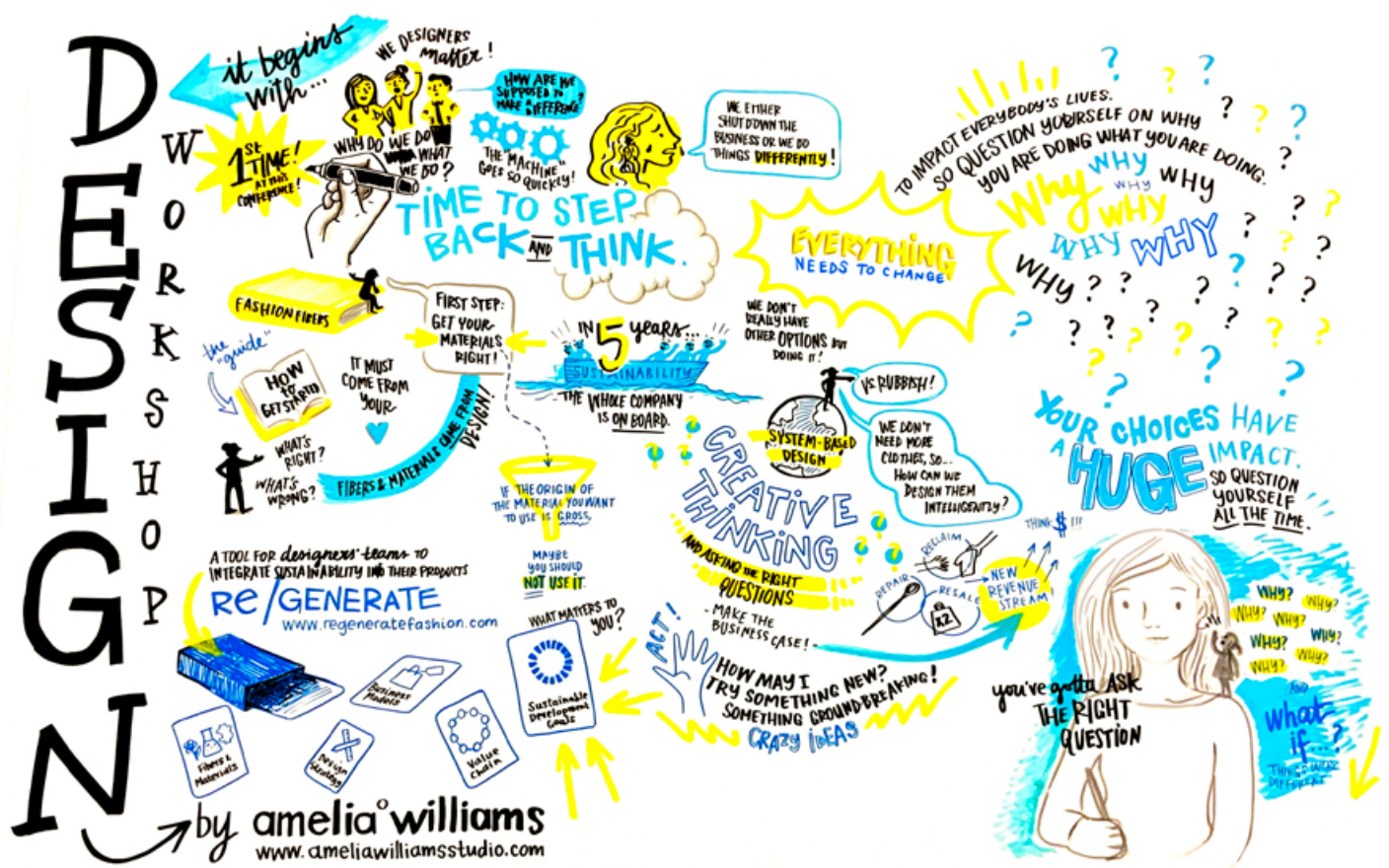
Textile Exchange Membership & The Hub, Our Online Member Portal

Taylor Bittenbender
Membership Coordinator, Textile Exchange

Céleste Lilore
Director of Industry Engagement, Textile Exchange

Attendees learned about how membership with Textile Exchange can help their organization become leaders in the sustainable fiber and materials sector. Members have access to learning opportunities, tools, relevant data, insight reports, industry networks, and most of all our powerful community from across the textile supply chain that makes up our membership base.

Design Workshop: It Begins with Design



In the business of fashion, design is the catalyst for linking an idea through execution to customer. Empowering designers with the knowledge and tools to encourage responsible and innovative design decisions that align with supply chains and mindful manufacturing ensures healthy business. This workshop went over how materials, colors, processes that consider SDGs, circularity, and scale-ability is key for success in the future of fashion.

Speakers:

Amy Williams

Adjunct Professor/Founder, Montana State University/amelia°williams studio

Domenica Leibowitz

Consultant & Author of the CFDA Guide to Sustainable Strategies

Dana Davis

VP of Sustainability, Mara Hoffman Inc.

Karen Stewart Brown

Design Director, Garnet Hill, Inc.

Annie Gullingsrud

Strategist and Founder, Design for AllKind

Larissa Roviezzo

Sustainability Project Management, re/GENERATE

Global Organic Cotton Round Table Summit



The 2019 Global Organic Cotton Round Table (OCRT) Summit took place under the crosscutting theme **Greater Together | SDG 17: Partnership for the Goals**. The day highlighted some of the most inspiring partnerships emerging in the world of organic cotton and celebrated the progress being made, particularly in the areas of production, integrity, and seed.

The day kicked off with members of the Organic Cotton Collective Impact (OCCI) initiative presenting progress and next steps in the alignment between Textile Exchange, Organic Cotton Accelerator (OCA) and the wider organic cotton sector. A panel discussion with representatives from each organic cotton producing region followed, providing updates on region-specific trends and outlooks.

Lunch discussions at Regional Hubs on the outskirts of the room allowed attendees to dive deeper into key issues identified that morning. Attendees then “traveled” as a group to each Regional Hub to hear discussion outcomes.

The afternoon began with a lively role play session in the style of a court case. A dual-fishbowl set up saw one side argue that supplier relationships should end if integrity issues were found, while the other argued that the issues should be worked through together. The day ended with a Seed Celebration, with panelists discussing some of the latest and greatest achievements - and challenges - in non-GM seed development.

[Learn more about the 2019 OCRT here.](#)

Responsible Leather Round Table Summit



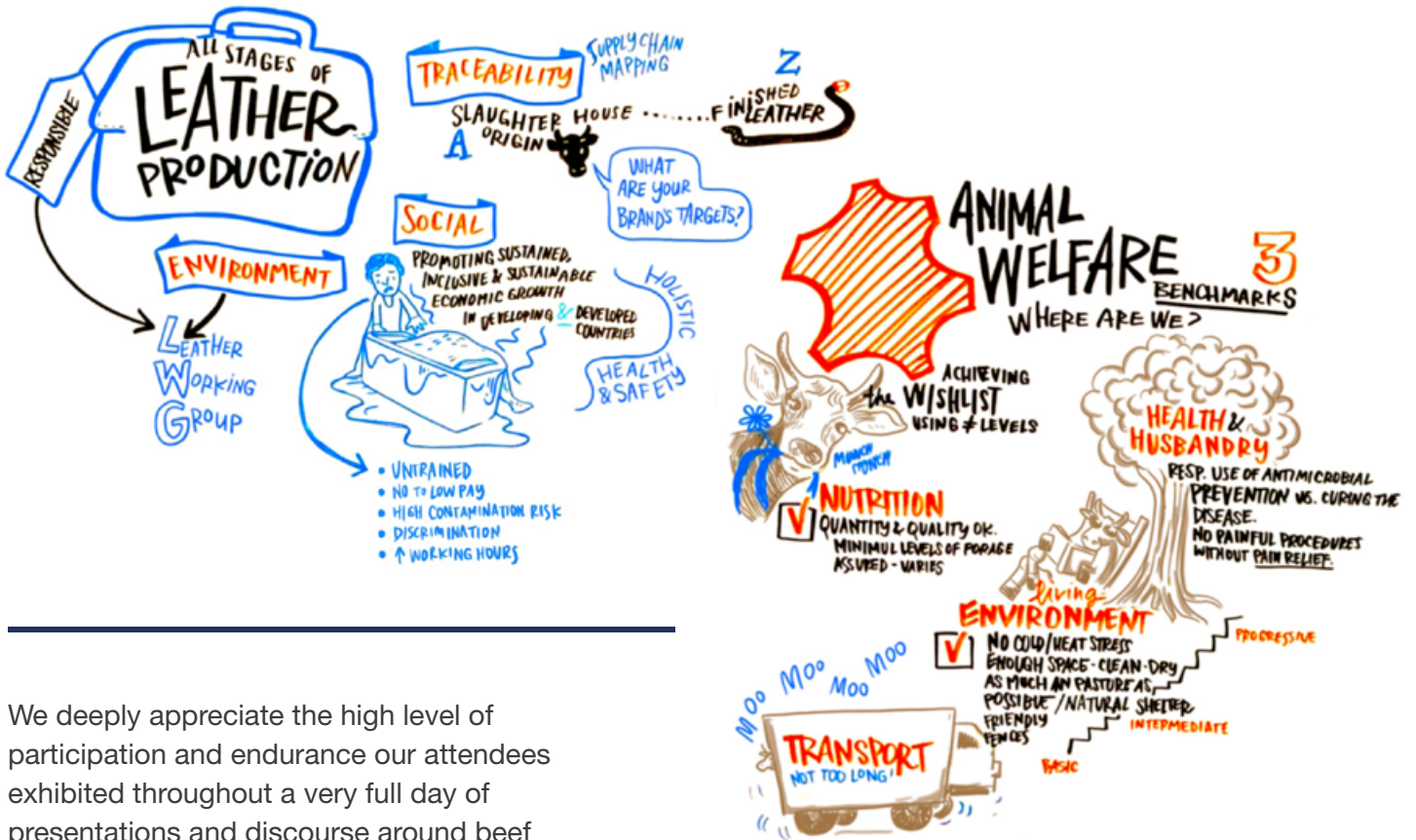
We would like to thank everyone that joined us in Vancouver for our **Responsible Leather Round Table (RLRT)** Summit meeting that took place on Friday, October 18th at the close of the Textile Exchange Sustainability Conference. In total, we were joined by over 50 participants from varying sectors, including, brands/retailers, NGOs, producers and others.

It was of exceeding value to have many of you in the same room as us (for a full day!), engaging in discussions around the work we have been doing for the past year on developing the Responsible Leather Assessment tool (RLA).

Highlights include:

- **Cross-sector/supply chain communication and networking** facilitated through mixed table seating assignments – yes, attendees from the same company were “split up”, however, it led to insightful conversations amongst participants, as well as deeper understanding of the challenges that different parts of the supply chain encounter. We had several individuals remark on how great it was to meet and hear perspectives from producers, brands, and specialists, which was an extremely valuable opportunity for many.
- **Valuable input from the industry.** Our in-person Round Table meetings are a chance to pose questions and get the conversation really started around key topics and pain points in our work. This meeting did just that, and our mixed group of participants had great discussions around these questions, leading to helpful takeaways for our continued work.
- **Opportunity to introduce our work** to those who are new to Responsible Leather and invite them to join the conversation.

Responsible Leather Round Table Summit



We deeply appreciate the high level of participation and endurance our attendees exhibited throughout a very full day of presentations and discourse around beef production, animal welfare, deforestation, leather production, RLA tool development, credit trading, claims language, and more! **A special thank you also goes out to our presenters, many of whom travelled great distances or connected virtually to join us and share their expertise.**

Below are links to meeting materials available for all stakeholders to read and share. Recordings of the presentations are currently being processed and will be shared when they become available.

- [RLRT Summit Meeting Slides](#)
- [RLRT Summit Discussion Outcomes](#)

These items, as well as materials from previous RLRT and other meetings, are also available at: responsibleleather.org/meetings



Man Made Cellulosic Fiber (MMCF) Round Table Summit

The textiles industry is highly engaged on MMCFs. Over 160 brands have committed to more sustainable MMCF sourcing and 80% of fiber suppliers have agreed on policies for sustainable forest practices, according to the NGO Canopy. Nevertheless, decreasing negative sustainability impacts and eliminating risks deep down in the supply chains of this fast-growing fibers is still challenging.

In Vancouver, **Textile Exchange's Global Round Table Summit on MMCF** brought together more than 150 stakeholders from NGOs/R&D/Academia (22%), Supply Chain (21%), Brands and Retailers (35%) and others (21%).

Expert speakers from *April, Birla Cellulose, Canopy, CV/Sateri, Earthworm, Fashion Positive, Forum for the Future, Gap Inc., Guess, IKEA, Lenzing, PEFC/SFI, Sappi DWP* and *ZDHC* offered deep dives in:

- What are social and environmental risks I have to know and tackle?
- What makes forestry, pulp and fiber production more sustainable?
- What are leading supply chains doing differently?
- What are the market opportunities and innovations?
- What can we expect in textile circularity and MMCFs?

At this year's Round Table Summit, more emphasis was put on social considerations of feedstock sourcing. For example, how poverty is the main driver of deforestation and why we need to focus on local communities and economic development for smallholders.

Another focus next to protection of forests, safe chemical management and securing fiber-to-garment traceability were fiber processing innovations and the need to find solutions which are commercially viable for the entire supply chain. Sharing of information more holistically and openness to collaborate to scale innovations – like the use of textile waste for the production of pulp - were seen as positive outcome of the Round Table for example.

Our live poll also included insights on how informed the audience sees themselves (50% partly informed or 14% not really informed) and if Textile Exchange should offer more comprehensive information and engagement (43.37% agree).

How important is it for you that Textile Exchange offers more comprehensive information and engagement on MMCF risks and opportunities?



What is your preferred source of information for better understanding ecological & social considerations of MMCF sourcing?



Workshops & Summits • Tuesday, October 15

Responsible Wool & Responsible Mohair Round Table Summit

The Responsible Wool Standard (RWS) and Responsible Mohair Standard (RMS) Roundtable Summit brought together stakeholders from across the wool and mohair supply chain and from around the globe. The meeting provided an update on the current revision of the RWS and the development of the RMS: responsiblewool.org/rws-2-0-revision

The meeting heard from both farmers and brands about their experience of adopting the RWS and their plans for the future. **Willy Gallia**, representing

the *Schneider Group*, **Isak Staat**, representing *BKB* in South Africa, **Jeanne Carver** from *Imperial Stock Ranch* and **Jodie Green**, *Aloeburn*, Australia shared their insights of working with RWS and the growth projected for the coming year.

Following this, *H&M*, *Patagonia*, *Eileen Fisher* and *Fox & Lillie* shared their experience of connecting supply and demand and recommendations for brands interested in sourcing RWS.

Workshops & Summits • Tuesday, October 15

Biosynthetics Round Table Summit

Biosynthetics have the potential to replace fossil based inputs with renewable feedstocks. The interest in biosynthetics is huge but there are still many questions. With 127 participants, the Round Table Summit 2019 was the biggest Biosynthetics Round Table ever. Driven by the priorities of the Round Table members, the Summit discussed the opportunities and challenges related to biosynthetics and their sustainability. **Dr. Jennifer Dunn**, Associate Director at the *Center for Engineering Sustainability and Resilience*, *Northwestern University*, was invited as keynote speaker. She shared insights how Life Cycle Assessments (LCAs) can contribute to analyzing the sustainability of biosynthetics and what their limitations are. A panel discussion with **Brad Boren** from *Norrøna Sport*, **Nils Månsson**

from *IKEA* and **Claudia Richardson**, Materials Sustainability Expert, addressed biosynthetics and their sustainability assessment from a brand and retailer point of view. The two Biosynthetics Working Groups provided an update of their work around feedstock sustainability standards, the differentiation of biosynthetics from other innovative biobased materials, and the update of the aboutbiosynthetics.org microsite. The chairs of the Working Groups facilitated interactive sessions to discuss specific information requirements around the sustainability of biosynthetics and the microsite. The results will be used to define the priorities of the Working Groups in 2020 and beyond. Participants of the Summit also had the opportunity to touch and feel physical biosynthetic samples.

Responsible Cashmere Round Table Summit

We would like to thank everyone that joined us in Vancouver for our **Responsible Cashmere Round Table (RCRT)** Summit meeting that took place on Tuesday, October 15th at the start of the Textile Exchange Sustainability Conference. In total, we were joined by 75 participants from varying sectors, including, brands/retailers, NGOs, and others.

We greatly appreciate the extremely high level of participation and engagement from attendees; outcomes from the conversations around sustainability in the cashmere supply chain will help guide the work of the industry and provide a more clear path forward with regard to solutions. **A special thank you also goes out to our presenters, many of whom travelled great distances or connected virtually to join us and share their expertise.**

Highlights include:

- Several signatories to a commitment letter to **show support for the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) work in Mongolia**, which Textile Exchange is supporting through the RCRT.
- There was a strong message from the table discussions on the **need for an overarching framework for addressing issues in the cashmere supply chain** (develop a single solution).

Below are links to meeting materials available for all stakeholders to read and share. Recordings of the presentations are currently being processed and will be shared when they become available.

[RCRT Summit Presentation Slides](#)
[RCRT Summit Discussion Outcomes](#)

These items, as well as materials from previous RCRT and other meetings, are also available at: textileexchange.org/responsible-cashmere-round-table

Recycled Polyester Round Table Summit

The 2019 Recycled Polyester (rPET) Round Table Summit was the biggest yet, with almost 200 participants in attendance. The afternoon was packed with unique insights from industry experts into the most topical issues facing the sector right now. Attendees dug deeper and put speakers to the test by asking some very thought-provoking questions.

Topics covered included:

- **A call to action** put forward by Samsonite to “change your goal,”
- **Microfibre release update** from The Microfibre Consortium,
- **Technology developments** including examples from JEPLAN, Eastman, and Tyton BioSciences,
- **GRS update** presented by Textile Exchange,
- **UNFCCC & ACP update** presented by Fabrikology,
- **rPET Round Table Government Working Group update** presented by group co-lead Traci Kinden,
- **Legislation update and examples** presented by EURATEX and National Stewardship Action Council.

Find a more about the 2019 rPET Round Table at: textileexchange.org/materials/pfm-round-tables/rpet

Poster Spotlight Sessions

This year, we debuted Poster Spotlight Sessions. These were 5 minute spotlights where organizations had the opportunity to present a project, innovation or idea to conference attendees.

- **Wood Fiber for a Resource Constrained World**
Presented by Bernhard Riegler Vice President: Marketing, Sappi Verve
- **Desire Sustainability Change**
Presented Jackie Tsui, Sales & Marketing Director at Neo-Concept (Holdings) Co. Ltd.
- **Sustainable Traceable Ethical – The South African Wool and Mohair Industry**
Presented by Deon Saayman, Cape Wools SA and representing Mohair SA
- **U. S. Cotton Trust Protocol – Sustainability**
Presented by Andy Jordon, Cotton Council Incorporated
- **Follow our Fiber – Traceable Viscose on Blockchain**
Presented by Cherie Tan, Asia Pacific Rayon
- **Viscose that Supports Sustainable Landscape Approach**
Presented by Sharon Chong Choy, Sateri
- **Sustainability: Ambition to Reality in 3 Steps**
Presented by Naomi Rosenthal, South Pole
- **Why Transitioning Away from Mulesed Sheep Wool is a Must for Fashion**
Presented by Jessica Medcalf, FOUR PAWS Australia



5-Minute Recharge led by lululemon

Attendees were able to participate in a simple and powerful 5-minute guided practice to help them reset, clear and re-energize their body & mind. Thank you to **Gabby Villasenor** for leading these two recharges!



Texcursions

Thank you to our Texcursion hosts and to all tour participants!



Vancouver Aquarium: Private "Behind-the-Scenes" Guided Tour



Ocean Wise Plastic Lab and Vancouver Aquarium Tour





Canopy – Walking Among Giants: Explore Ancient Forests and Links to Your Supply Chain

About Textile Exchange

Textile Exchange is a global non-profit that creates leaders in the sustainable fiber and materials industry. The organization manages and promotes a suite of six leading industry standards, as well as, collects and publishes critical industry data and insights that enable brands and retailers to measure, manage and track their use of preferred fiber and materials.

With more than 400 members who represent leading brands, retailers and suppliers, Textile Exchange has, for years, been positively impacting climate through accelerating the use of preferred fibers across the global textile industry and is now making it an imperative goal through its [2030 Strategy: Climate+](#). Under the Climate+ strategic direction, Textile Exchange will be the driving force for urgent climate action with a goal of 35-45% reduced CO₂ emissions from textile fiber and material production by 2030.^{1,2}

To learn more about Textile Exchange, visit TextileExchange.org. Follow us on Twitter at [@TextileExchange](https://twitter.com/TextileExchange).

All photography contained within this report is by Vision Event Photography, unless otherwise noted. Graphic recordings created by Textile Exchange Ambassador, Carlotta Cataldi.

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- Cara Chacon**, *Patagonia*
- Paolo Foglia**, *ICEA*
- Beth Jensen**, *VF Corporation*
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- YickChung Man**, *Esquel Group*
- Ben Mead**, *Hohenstein Institute*
- Felix Rauer**, *Otto Group*
- Heidi Vaughan**, *Nike, Inc.*



A special thank you to Jerry Wheeler and Mark Prose for their 10 year service as Board Members with Textile Exchange

[1] Scope is pre-spinning. Measured from a 2017 baseline; subject to Science Based Targets validation.

[2] The range reflects the additional work we would like to do to ensure our target is aligned with a 1.5-degree Celsius scenario (defined by the [UN IPCC](#)), aligned with [Science Based Targets](#) as well as with the [UNFCCC Fashion Climate Charter](#).

8 Ways to Engage with Textile Exchange



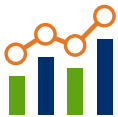
Visit our Learning Center

Access our broad knowledge base on Preferred Fibers and Materials.



Join a Round Table

Roll up your sleeves and become part of the solution.



Benchmark Your Company

Real value and understanding comes by measuring your success. Individual action leads to collective results.



Adopt a Standard

Ensure your commitment to sustainability results in real and meaningful change.



Attend our Conference

Learn, connect, get inspired and catalyze the industry.



Make a Fiber Commitment

Create a strategy. Capture your impacts. Become a leader in driving transformation.



Engage with the SDGs and Science Based Targets

The time to act is now! Strategic action is the path forward to achieve our goals by 2030.



Become a Member

Join our powerful community; collectively we take action.





See you in Dublin!

First week of November, 2020

The 2019 Textile Sustainability Conference and this Conference Overview are the result of a lot of hard work by too many people to name. **Thank you to all**, most especially to Textile Exchange members and attendees, who came to be engaged and participated in the conference, making it memorable and meaningful for many people from around the world.

Please contact Conference@TextileExchange.org for any questions and follow us [@TextileExchange](https://twitter.com/TextileExchange) for 2020 updates!



 **TextileExchange**
**Sustainability
Conference**
DUBLIN 2020

TextileExchange.org/2020-conference