UNEP's Resources- Textile Sector

The textiles industry provides high levels of employment, foreign exchange revenue and products essential to human welfare. It employs over 300 million people, many of them women. Clothing production has approximately doubled in the last 15 years, while the number of times a garment is worn before being discarded has decreased 36%. The textile industry's impact on the climate accounts for approximately 3.3 billion mt emitted GHGs per year while consuming around 215 trillion litres of water.

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) works on providing strategic leadership and encouraging sector-wide collaboration to accelerate a just transition towards a sustainable and circular textile value chain, while supporting sound management of chemicals. All UNEP textiles work follows a value chain approach, a methodology for catalysing science-based policy action. Its purpose is to identify key points of intervention within economic systems to natural resource use, environmental and socio-economic impacts caused by production and consumption, and to define a common agenda for action.



Programmes and Initiatives

- Building Sustainability And Circularity In The Textile Value Chain
- Innovative Business Practices and Economic Models in the Textile Value Chain (InTex) project

  The project has five components, two components have global reach and three components focus on national implementation in three countries (Kenya, South Africa, and Tunisia) in Africa where textiles is a key economic sector and where companies, including small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), are part of multinational value chains.
- UNEP circularity platform -Textile sector
- The United Nations Alliance for Sustainable Fashion
- One Planet Network textile value chain work
- One Planet Consumer Information and Ecolabeling programme
- Product Sustainability Information Hub
- Environment & Trade Hub - Textiles
- Reducing uses and releases of chemicals of concern, including POPs, in the textiles sector
- UNFCCC Fashion Industry Charter for Climate Action
- Fashion Slow Down
- Designers for the Future Competition

  UNEP West Asia, in collaboration with world-renowned designer, Rami Kadi, and Jamalouki magazine launched a regional competition calling for talents of all ages. This competition highlights the ability to create innovatively while remaining environmentally conscious and embracing a circular mindset.
- Calling fashion stakeholders: new consultation set to define holistic and concrete targets for a net-positive industry

  At COP27, UNEP along with the Global Fashion Agenda (GFA) announced a partnership to launch the Fashion Industry Target Consultation, to consult stakeholders and partners from across the global value chain to share their insights on setting targets for a net-zero industry.

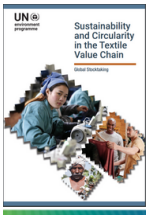
UNEP's Resources- Textile Sector

Reports



- **Overview of UNEP activities**

  This document provides a short overview of recent and upcoming projects, publications, campaigns, and communication initiatives.



- **Sustainability and Circularity in the Textile Value Chain - Global Stocktaking**

  The report is to apply an evidence-based value chain approach, mapping the textile value chain with its stakeholders, as well as environmental and socio-economic impacts along different value chain stages.



- **Catalysing Science-based Policy Action On Sustainable Consumption And Production: The Value-chain Approach & Its Application To Food, Construction And Textiles**

  This report explains the 'Value-Chain Approach' methodology and shares findings from its application to three critical sectors: food, construction and textiles.



- **Sustainable Fashion? How companies provide sustainability information to consumers**

  The report touches upon gaps in the current provision of product sustainability information to consumers, with the aim of suggesting a way forward which makes consumers a driving force able to shape the future of sustainable textiles.



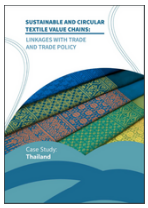
- **Sustainable Fashion: Communication Strategy 2021 – 2024**

  For the sake of this strategy, this specifically includes SDG 6, SDG 12, SDG 13, SDG 14 and SDG 15, as well as SDGs 1, 5 and 8. It is thus seen as crucial for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



- **Engaging the textiles industry as a key sector in SAICM: a review of PFAS as a chemical class in the textile sector**

  The report examines the class approach for PFAS as it applies to the textile sector, which covers a wide variety of consumer products and connects two important issues covered in the SAICM context.



- **Case study Thailand - Sustainable and Circular Textile Value Chains Linkages with Trade and Trade Policy**

  This paper looks at environmental hotspots in textile value chains in Thailand and trade policy instruments that can have an impact on sustainability and circularity.

Stories on Fashion

- **Shifting the fashion narrative**
- **Why you should rethink your next fashion purchase**
- **The environmental costs of fast fashion**

