

NOTHING TO WASTE CLOSING THE LOOP

Guidelines for the Apparel Industry

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The clothing we produce today is tomorrow's waste. That's why we have to start thinking today about how we can recycle apparel that will be thrown out of wardrobes in coming years. With the focus topic "Nothing to Waste – Closing the Loop", we wish to draw the interest of the apparel industry to this issue and to increase the industry's focus on the topic of recycling. Using new resources and closing the loop for clothing items instead of wasting new resources is therefore our goal.

It is well known that single-variety clothing can be recycled with relative ease. For this reason it is recommended to use mono-component materials for the production of apparel. This has been confirmed within the framework of a qualitative survey. It has also become clear that some deficiencies remain in the recycling management of mono-component clothing. On the one hand, it was found that existing recycling possibilities are relatively unknown to consumers. On the other hand, customers are not sufficiently informed of the various recycling processes. Waste management companies often have no interested parties in their products made from recycled old clothing. Clothing companies, on the other hand, receive too little clothing back for it to be feasibly returned to the recycling economy in a single variety.



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The following points are therefore considered to be effective recommendations for the clothing industry:

- For companies not yet familiar with working with the concept of mono-component clothing, it is recommended to start with “simple” products. Shirts or sweaters with few ingredients serve as an example to integrate the technology into a business.
- Stronger networking between the apparel and recycling industries in order to increase sales of recycled components and implement recycling possibilities within the apparel industry. PERFORMANCE DAYS is happy to be the platform for such networking activities.
- The demand for fabrics from old clothes among fabric manufacturers will increase by directly addressing them. With this approach, a demand can be created that motivates fabric suppliers to satisfy it. Clothing companies can seize the opportunity by acting responsibly as an interface for this issue.
- In order to avoid textile waste already present in production plants, it is possible to return cuttings to the recycling loop. A briefing of the clothing producers can help in generating a closed loop of cut waste and leftover.
- Integrate the composition of the textile identification labelling as a print in garments to prevent it being cut out by the customer. Furthermore, informing about the importance of the textile identification labelling is crucial. It is necessary to keep the disturbance of the label as small as possible in order to encourage customers not to cut them out. This simplifies the sorting process significantly.



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- Collection of returned apparel in stores and a subsequent forwarding to a recycler of trust. A cooperation of clothing companies in order to achieve a larger quantity is advantageous here. Additionally, the return of all sports and outdoor clothing items, not only brand-owned items, is recommended in order to generate a larger quantity.
- An informative educating of the customer through targeted marketing of recycling possibilities and return programs is beneficial.

Every company can play a significant role in conserving the limited resources of the earth by recycling old clothes into new products. Even with smaller effort, existing resources can be better used. Sustainability is an issue that concerns us all. Clothing produced today should not be tomorrow's garbage.

The PERFORMANCE DAYS textile trade fair supports companies that decide to take the first step towards recycling. We are more than happy to make contacts and network companies with one another.

If you are interested, please contact [PERFORMANCE DAYS](https://www.performancedays.com) by email or phone:
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