

Press Release:
Ismaning, September 9, 2020

PERFORMANCE DAYS © functional fabrics fair
produced by Design & Development GmbH Textile Consult
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Next PERFORMANCE DAYS trade fair dedicated to the Focus Topic:

Nothing to Waste - Closing the Loop

Finite resources and endless mountains of rubbish set the tone of the upcoming 25th edition of PERFORMANCE DAYS. Closing the loop means nothing is wasted, not even time, as recycled clothing gets recycled again and again. In keeping with this topic, the trade fair organizers are planning expert discussion panels to help present the facts as well as visions of the future. Expect the corresponding displays of sustainable materials, chosen by the PERFORMANCE FORUM Jury. Look for materials such as fibers from recycled PET bottles, recyclable mono-component materials or blends, and shirts that decompose to biomass in a "Cradle-to-Cradle" approach. "Nothing to Waste - Closing the Loop" is open to the public at the Messe München fairgrounds and as a Digital Fair online starting on December 9-10, 2020.

The PERFORMANCE DAYS trade fair has chosen a new Focus Topic that concerns not only our own industry. The textile industry has long been achieving more efficient production by recycling its own waste products and using recycled materials from outside the industry, for example, PET-bottles. Nevertheless, textiles exist alongside glass, paper, metal, and plastics as a separate branch of waste management. Despite ambitious efforts at recycling by the waste and textile industries, the efficient use of textile waste as a resource remains a challenge. Compounding this challenge are the difficulties caused by a global world: production, consumers, and disposal sites are miles apart, shared expert knowledge about the other industries is lacking, and international standards and political support are nearly non-existent.

Final destination: the waste bin

Information from the Federal Office for the Environment shows that 0.8% of the oil produced is used in the textile industry for the production of new textiles.¹ But the costly processing chain of this finite resource ends all too quickly in waste. A Greenpeace survey reveals outdated fashions or clothing of worn quality is thrown away within three years, only to land in the trash dumpsters. The European Environmental Agency estimates that 5.8 million tons of used textiles are discarded every year and either incinerated, used for landfill, or taken to mechanical-biological sewage treatment plants.² Even if used clothing is collected by state or private companies, in many cases it cannot be sold (as second hand), donated, or recycled (into rags or insulating material). In the best case scenario, it is incinerated and converted to thermal energy.

Recycling and circular design

From an economic and environmental perspective, the term recycling refers to waste-free products, waste avoidance, and waste recovery and disposal. In our industry as it stands, recycling at the end of the product life cycle usually means converting the product into some other product, i.e., not clothing. This is the "Open-Loop" process. Accordingly, textiles are eventually incinerated, but the amount of energy recovered can vary greatly depending on how efficiently the waste incineration plant works.

¹ Textilindustrie, Umwelt Bundesamt, <https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/themen/wirtschaft-konsum/industriebereiche/textilindustrie#die-umweltauswirkungen-der-textilindustrie>

² Greenpeace, Wegwerfware Kleidung - Repräsentative Greenpeace Umfrage zu Kaufverhalten, Tragedauer und der Entsorgung der Mode, Kirsten Brode, Carolin Wahnbaeck, https://www.greenpeace.de/sites/www.greenpeace.de/files/publications/20151123_greenpeace_modekonsum_flyer.pdf

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Such devaluing of the product to a product with less value than the original product is known as Downcycling. However, Downcycling is not the only solution: the "Closed-Loop" approach has the goal of making new clothes out of old ones through recycling. The closed loop for renewable natural resources, for example, can mean that natural fibers used in textiles will end up becoming soil, which is the nutrient for new natural fibers, i.e., a cradle-to-cradle approach. Synthetic garments similarly require extracting the man-made fibers and reprocessing them to produce another garment.

Planning for the end in advance

Rather than thinking about recycling opportunities at the end of the product life cycle, brands can already begin developing closed loop options while in the design phase. Among other things, designing out the waste can reduce the environmental impact of the products. To extend the useful life, consider leasing the materials and/or adding labels with instructions for disposal, repair, or repurposing. And, what about the idea of preparing 100% used textiles that can be reintroduced into the supply chain as 100% new textiles? Separating the different types of fiber used in blends is complex, cost-intensive, and further complicated when labels are non-existent (or no longer existing) or it is simply not (yet) technically possible. More and more clothing makers and suppliers are trying to avoid mixing fibers and are switching to "mono-materials" or "mono-components." Shirts are easy to make in this way, but if you add buttons, zippers, etc., the issue becomes more complex.

Nothing to waste - not even time

If you are like many end consumers, brand managers, and producers and want to make use of valuable resources in a more sustainable manner, register now on the trade fair website under "Visitor Login." There you can access a free trade fair ticket for December 9-10, 2020. You can also learn about the complimentary and soon to be expanded offers at the Digital Fair. Don't forget to sign-up for the free Newsletter mailings.

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About PERFORMANCE DAYS

PERFORMANCE DAYS “functional fabric fair” was founded in 2008 as the first and only event specifically for functional textiles for sportswear and workwear. The goal of the biannual fair is to provide top-class and innovative textile manufacturers, suppliers and service providers with the opportunity to present functional fabrics, membranes, as well as coatings, laminates, paddings, finishes and accessories such as yarns, tapes, prints, buttons and zippers.

Industry visitors to the fair - designers, product managers, buyers and decision makers from almost all European sportswear and functional apparel manufacturers (examples online at: [Visiting Brands](#)) - will find the complete portfolio of high-quality materials at exactly the right time in April/May and October/November. Thanks to the specialisation in functional textiles, the timing is according early and optimally chosen for summer and winter sports collections. The current list of exhibitors is available online under “[Exhibitor List](#)” along with trade fair catalogues of previous events under “[Catalogs](#)”.

The relaxed and focused working atmosphere distinguishes the functional fabric fair from other, often unclear and stressful fairs. This too contributes to making the Munich trade fair, in the heart of the European sportswear industry, the top address for new fabrics, innovations and industry meeting point for business relations.

The unique [PERFORMANCE FORUM](#) at PERFORMANCE DAYS provides the visitor with an inspiring and knowledgeable overview of new materials, trends and innovations from the various exhibitors. The prestigious [\(ECO\) PERFORMANCE AWARD](#) is also presented here.

Top-quality [Expert Talks](#), [Workshops](#), [Guided Tours](#) round off the information on offer. All talks are also available online subsequent to the fair - see “[Expert Talk Archive](#)”.

Admission to the fair and the programm are free of charge for trade fair visitors.

More information and registration at: www.performancedays.com

The [DIGITAL FAIR](#) and [Marketplace](#) are available all year long for material sourcing and inspiration!

About the Functional Fabric Fair powered by PERFORMANCE DAYS

Since 2018, in cooperation with [Reed Exhibitions](#), the functional textile fair has been taking place in the USA as the “[Functional Fabric Fair powered by PERFORMANCE DAYS](#)”. At the Javits Center in New York and the Oregon Convention Center in Portland, the sourcing fair presents the latest trends in the functional textile industry in line with the event in Munich, and is the platform in the USA for the sourcing of functional fabrics and accessories. The event includes exhibitions, workshops, talks from industry experts and a programm for professional networking and connecting of producers and purchasers.

Here are the dates of the events according to the current status:

- 09.-10. December 2020 Munich, Germany
- 09.-10. Dezember 2020 DIGITAL FAIR