

Global Merino fabric bags Eco Performance award

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Global Merino, a pioneer in biodegradable functional fabrics, will be awarded the Eco Performance award for its sustainably produced and biodegradable functional fabric, GM 1754, at the Performance Days expo, tradefair for innovations in fabrics and accessories in functional sportswear and workwear, to be held on April 26 and 27, 2017, in Munich, Germany.

The winning fabric, GM 1754, is made from 64 per cent [polyester](#) and 36 per cent merino and, despite its being a blend, is categorised as biodegradable. Special polyester used in the fabric makes this possible. In addition to being made from recycled PET, it decomposes much faster than conventional polyester.

The fibres are tested under the standards of ASTM D5511 for “Anaerobic Biodegradation of Plastic Materials” (decomposition in the absence of oxygen). The merino [wool](#) used is 26 per cent decomposed after 149 days.

Recycling is certainly one possibility for exploiting waste products, but second-hand materials (PET-bottles, fishing nets, etc.) or garments made from synthetic fibres (like polyester or polyamide) are not always collected and recycled everywhere in the world. Furthermore, even if the textiles are collected, the problem is often caused by their composition because, at the present time, only pure substances - no blends (like PAPER or CO/PA) - can be recycled. Consequently, much clothing finds its way into

landfills, waste incineration plants, or is just dumped on the side of the road. Valuable resources are lost and even worse, sensitive ecosystems are harmed since synthetic fibres can last well over 100 years until they are decomposed.

[Cotton](#), wool, and reclaimed fibres such as modal or tencel only require a few months to a year. Fibres that rapidly decompose to biomass at a compost site, a landfill or even in water can help reduce the volume in the landfills and conserve resources. That explains the current interest in natural and synthetic fibres like polyamide or polyester. (GK)

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