



CT DEEP SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TEXTILE RECYCLING
PATHS FOR DIVERTED TEXTILES

The Life Cycle of Secondhand Clothing

What happens to your donated or recycled used clothing?

On average, each American donates or recycles 12 pounds of apparel, footwear, and household textiles.¹ Here's what happens next...



Did you know?

Worn or torn, all dry clothing, shoes, and textiles can be donated or recycled.

Thrift Industry employs nearly 100,000 workers in the U.S. with over \$1 billion in wages paid. In addition, private sector recyclers create an additional 15,000 to 20,000 jobs nationally.²

Most private sector recyclers are small businesses with fewer than 500 employees. Every 1,000 lbs donated and recycled generates two man days of labor. Primary and secondary recyclers account for annual gross sales in excess of \$700 million.³

Charities and private sector combined handle 3.8 billion pounds annually.⁴ These tremendous volumes are recycled and processed due to a highly efficient industry. Your secondhand clothing goes through this entire process in just 30-60 days.⁵



The textile recycling process follows the conventional recycling maxim of
Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!

SOURCES ¹ EPA 2009 FEDERAL MSW waste study: 3.8 billion lbs recovered divided by 2010 US Census Population 310 million
² "Textile Recycling in the U.S." Report submitted to SMART by Dr. Jana Hawley Ph.D. Univ. of Missouri. 2009
³ ibid
⁴ EPA 2009 Federal MSW waste study.
⁵ CTR estimate.

INDEPTH – PCTW RECYCLING FACILITIES...

- Textile recycling facilities engage in labor intensive sorting, separating, and recycling of apparel, footwear, household textiles and accessories.



**Most Efficient
facilities can process
between 35-50 tons
per day of PCTW**

= 140,000-200,000
units DAILY

Larger processors
may handle more



Post Consumer Textile Waste



Labor Intensive: 1 Ton of PCTW requires 2 days of semi skilled labor

Clothing on main sorting line

Efficient Material Handling



PCTW REUSED & RECYCLED

- **FIBER:**
 - **Clothing that is converted into RECYCLED fibers and used in green products:** Denim Insulation, Carpet Padding, Automotive Sound Dampening, Recycled Textiles with % of PCTW, Recycled Wool and Synthetic Fibers.
- **WIPER:**
 - **RECYCLED clothing cut and converted into** wiping rags and used in homes and as industrial absorbents, paint, petrol industry, spill control.
- **USED CLOTHING:**
 - **REUSED/ REPURPOSED** and Exported to the developing world where 2/3 of the population lives on less than \$2 per day. Industry provides affordable clothing to the developing world.



Recycled Fiber

Denim Fiber



Fiber Recycler



Sweatshirts Recycled into RECLAIMED WIPERS



USED CLOTHING

Used Clothing Baled for Export



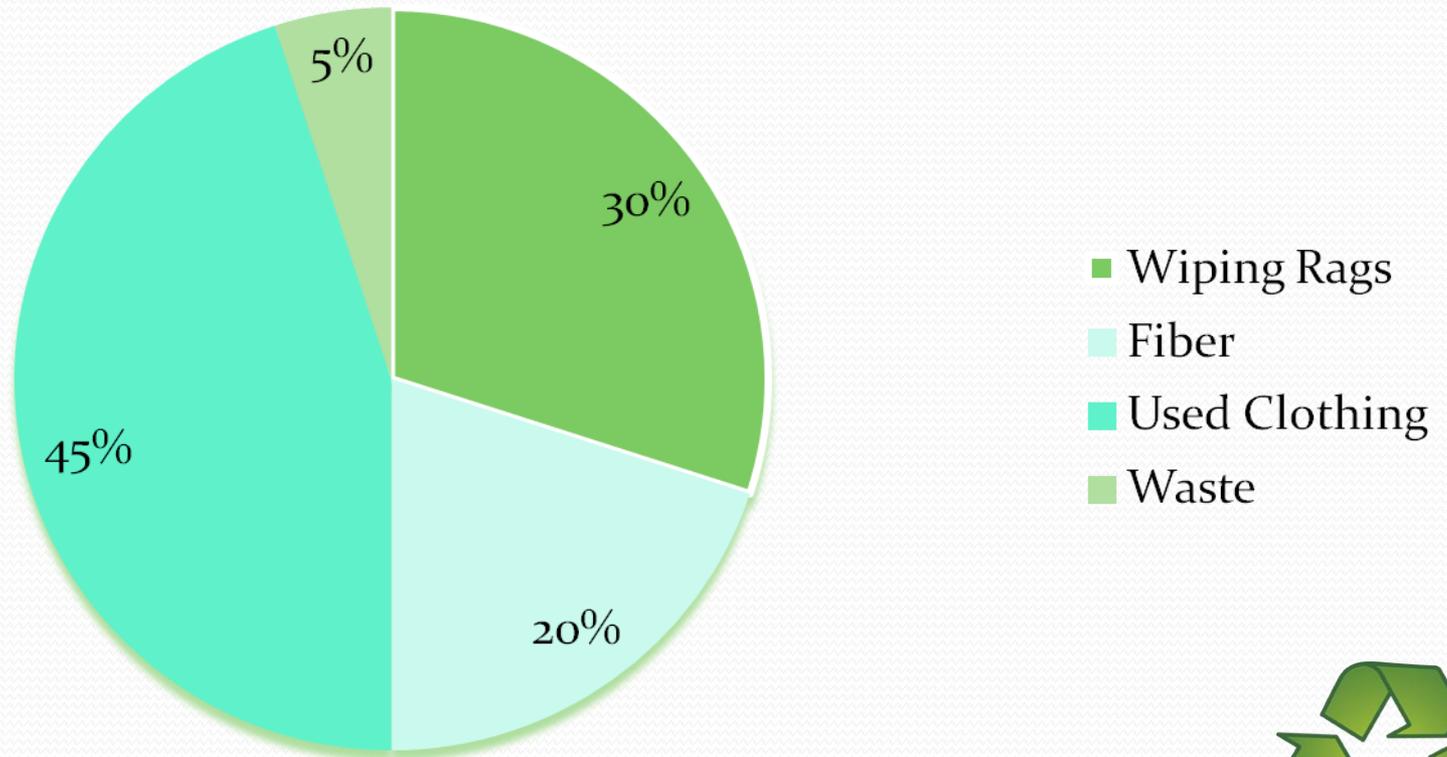
Loaded into containers bound for the developing world



Clothing sold to market wholesalers in Haiti



PCTW % REUSED & RECYCLED





END



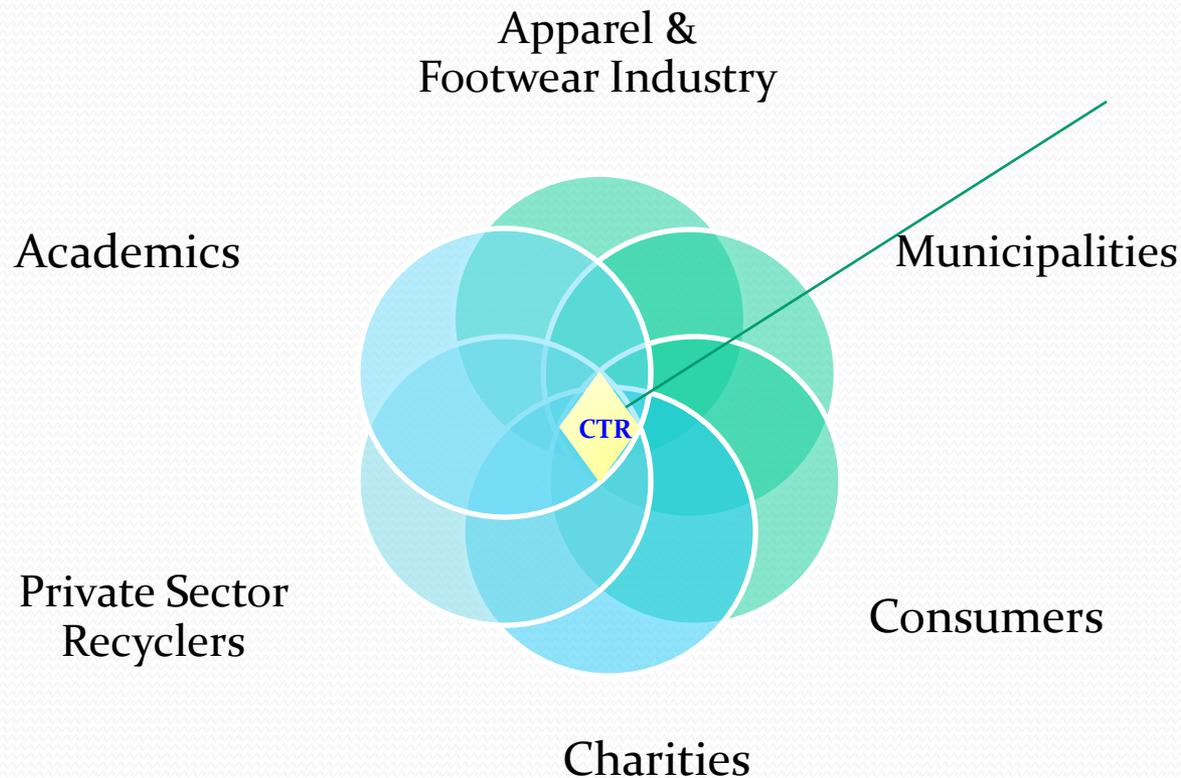
Council
for Textile
Recycling

A Nonprofit 501(c)(3) Organization

CTR's Mission: Create awareness about keeping what we wear out of landfills in order to divert significant quantities of pctw from global, national, and local landfills.

www.WearDonateRecycle.org

EACH STAKEHOLDER SHARES COMMON GROUNDWHERE WE CAN COLLECTIVELY IMPACT THE GLOBAL ISSUE OF PCTW.....



Green – Producers of pctw
Blue – Solution Providers

1) Increase awareness through a generic platform of “Donate/ Recycle”

2) Foster an environment where member companies can find one another to divert pctw away from our global landfills.





Council for Textile Recycling

A Nonprofit 501(c)(3) Organization

[Become a Member](#) | [Contact CTR](#) | [Join the Conversation](#)  

[HOME](#)

[ACTION](#)

[DONATE/RECYCLE](#)

[OUR COMMUNITY](#)

[ABOUT CTR](#)

[WEAR. DONATE. RECYCLE.](#)



The average U.S. citizen throws away 70 pounds of clothing every year, all of which ends up in our already crowded landfills.

FIND OUT WHERE TO RECYCLE AND DONATE

Use our textile recycling and donation location search tool to find a convenient place to bring your clothes, footwear, and other textiles.

[FIND A LOCATION NOW](#)

Issue

5%

The U.S. EPA estimates that textile waste occupies nearly 5% of all landfill space.

85%
not recycled

CTR estimates that while our industry recycles some 2.5 billion pounds annually of post-consumer textile waste (PCTW) this only accounts for approx. 20% of all PCT, leaving 80% on our landfills.

70 lbs.

The average US citizen throws away 68 pounds of clothing and other textiles annually.

Solution



Since the mid 1940's U.S. charities and the private sector post-consumer textile recycling industry has repurposed and recycled billions of pounds of clothing, household textiles, shoes, and accessories. This insures we retain the value of our one most renewable resources - your old clothing, footwear, and textiles.

Today more than ever we can all be green and donate and recycle what we buy and wear.

WEAR. DONATE. RECYCLE.

The Council for Textile Recycling is a 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to create awareness about keeping clothing, footwear, and textiles out of landfills.

Read more about CTR's goal:

"ZERO by 2037"



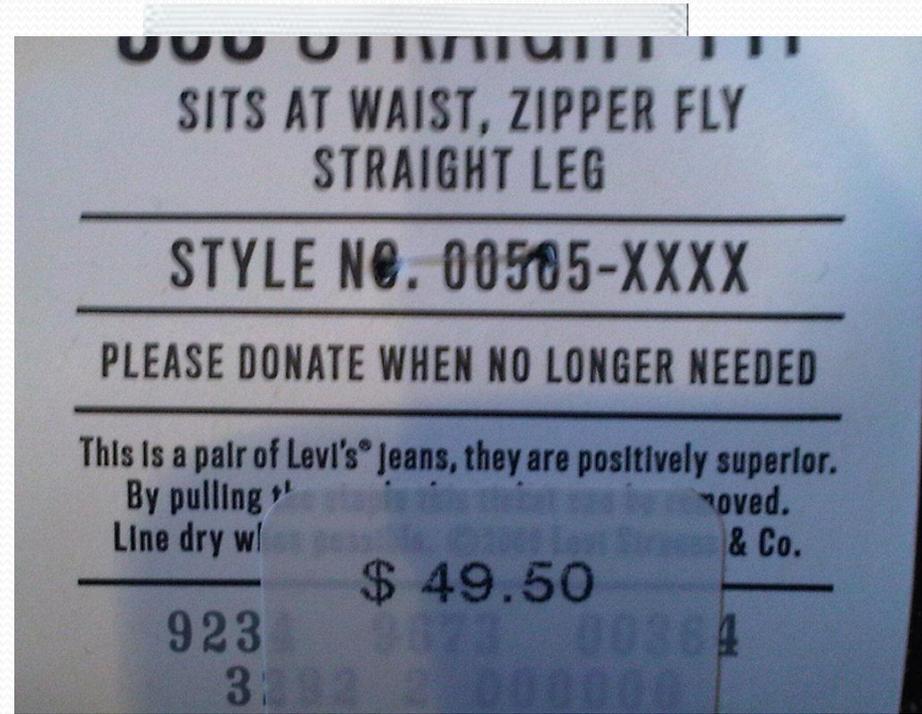
Council for Textile Recycling

A Nonprofit 501(c)(3) Organization

2105 Laurel Bush Rd, Suite 200, Bel Air, MD 21015
Phone: 443-640-1050 | Fax: 443-640-1086

© 2012, Council for Textile Recycling
[site terms and conditions](#) | [site design](#)

Wear. Donate. Recycle. says it all...



LF USA's vision includes the CTR's URL under care instructions that will distinguish their clients as leaders in Reuse and Recycling



WearDonateRecycle.org



WearDonateRecycle.org



The industry's only vetted search too



Council for Textile Recycling

A Nonprofit 501(c)(3) Organization

[Become a Member](#) | [Contact CTR](#) | [Join the Conversation](#)  

[HOME](#)

[ACTION](#)

[DONATE/RECYCLE](#)

[OUR COMMUNITY](#)

[ABOUT CTR](#)

[WEAR. DONATE. RECYCLE.](#)

The average U.S. citizen throws away 70 pounds of clothing every year, all of which ends up in our already crowded landfills.



FIND OUT WHERE TO RECYCLE AND DONATE

Use our textile recycling and donation location search tool to find a convenient place to bring your clothes, footwear, and other textiles.

[FIND A LOCATION NOW](#)

Issue

5%

The U.S. EPA estimates that textile waste occupies nearly 5% of all landfill space.

85%
not recycled

CTR estimates that while our industry recycles some 2.5 billion pounds annually of post-consumer textile waste (PCTW) this only accounts for approx. 20% of all PCT, leaving 80% on our landfills.

70 lbs.

The average US citizen throws away 68 pounds of clothing and other textiles annually.

Solution



Since the mid 1940's U.S. charities and the private sector post-consumer textile recycling industry has repurposed and recycled billions of pounds of clothing, household textiles, shoes, and accessories. This insures we retain the value of our one most renewable resources - your old clothing, footwear, and textiles.

Today more than ever we can all be green and donate and recycle what we buy and wear.

WEAR. DONATE. RECYCLE.

The Council for Textile Recycling is a 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to create awareness about keeping clothing, footwear, and textiles out of landfills.

Read more about CTR's goal:

"ZERO by 2037"

Resources

CTR

Council for Textile Recycling

www.weardonaterecycle.org

SMART – trade association.

Secondhand Materials & Recycled Textiles Association

www.smartasn.org

BIR

Bureau of International Recycling / Textiles Division

www.bir.org

BOOKS:

Pietra Rivoli, *The Travels of T-Shirt in the Global Economy*,

ISBN# 978-0-470-28716-3

Karen Tranberg Hansen, *The World of Secondhand Clothing and Zambia*, ISBN# 0-226-31581-9





Council
for Textile
Recycling

A Nonprofit 501(c)(3) Organization

Eric Stubin
Chairman
Council for Textile Recycling
info@weardonaterecycle.org
973-778-4611

Jackie King
Executive Director
2105 Laurel Bush Rd, Suite 200
Bel Air, MD 21015
Phone: 443-640-1050 | Fax: 443-640-1086
jackie@kingmgmt.org

www.weardonaterecycle.org

The Council for Textile Recycling is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit, tax exempt organization incorporated in the State of Maryland and filed with the Attorney General. Our TAX ID is 52-1778642. Consult your financial officer for details on the benefits to your company.