

# CCSMM: Increase Reuse & Recycling Working Group

October 17, 2023



**CCSMM**

# CCSMM Housekeeping

- This meeting is being recorded.
- Please keep your microphones muted unless sharing information.
- Participants are encouraged to turn webcams on and actively participate during the meeting.
- Please share your questions, comments & ideas through the ZOOM Chat feature. There will also be opportunity for public comment at the end of the meeting.
- Feedback can also be sent by email to: [DEEP.RecyclingProgram@ct.gov](mailto:DEEP.RecyclingProgram@ct.gov)

# Disclaimer

These presentations are provided as part of DEEP's CCSMM IRR Working Group webinar series. This document does not constitute DEEP policy. Mention of trade names or commercial products does not constitute endorsement or recommendation of use. Links to non-DEEP websites do not imply any official DEEP endorsement of or responsibility for the opinions, ideas, data, or products presented at those locations or guarantee the validity of the information provided. Links to non-DEEP servers are provided. Links to non-DEEP servers are provided solely as a pointer to information that might be useful to DEEP staff and the public.

# CCSMM Background

The **Connecticut Coalition for Sustainable Materials Management (CCSMM)** formed in August 2020 by DEEP and over 100 municipalities across the state. The Coalition members continue to explore ways to reduce the amount of waste that is generated in our state, improve reuse, recycling, organics collection, support EPR legislation, and consider other innovative solutions.

If your town hasn't joined CCSMM yet and wants to, please reach out to **Chris.Nelson@ct.gov**.

Whether your town is a member or not, stay up-to-date by joining the CCSMM email list - online via the main CCSMM (<https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP-CCSMM>) webpage or email **Sherill.Baldwin@ct.gov**.



# Today's Agenda

## Textiles and the Reuse & Recycling Industry

- **Welcome and Introductory Remarks**
  - Mayor Ben Florsheim and 1st Selectwoman Denise Raap
- **Panel Presentations**
- **Discussion/Questions**
- **Closing Remarks**



# Fast Fashion and Textiles Recycling Overview

# Textiles in Connecticut

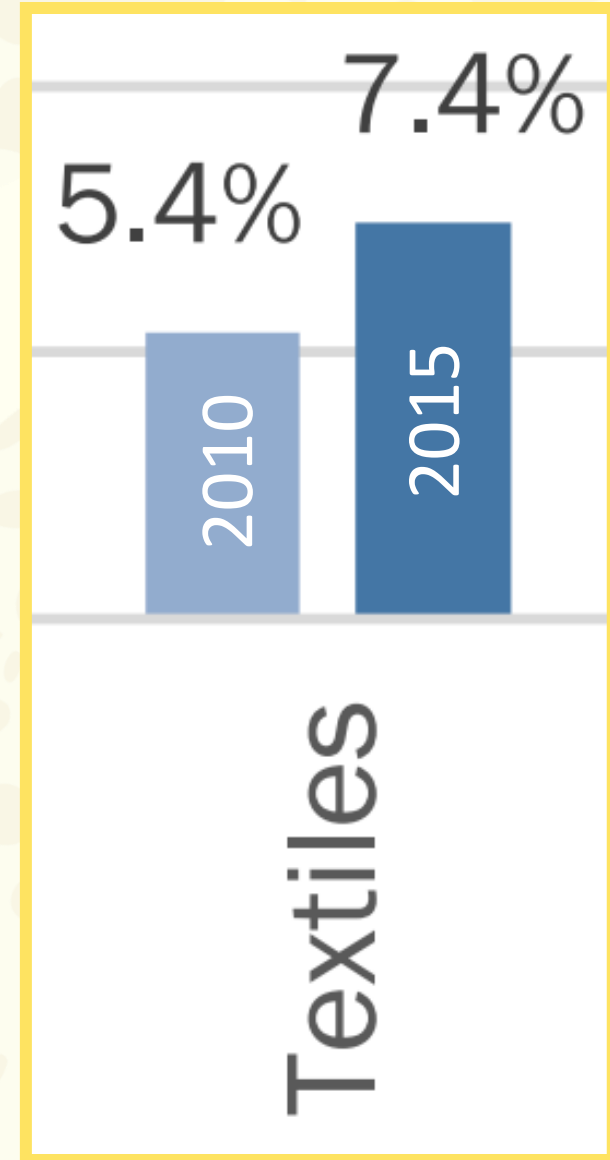
Fast Fashion, Reuse & Recycling  
Infrastructure, and more



So,

# What's the Problem?

Why are we talking about textiles in the first place?





# Global Statistics:

One truckload of textile waste is incinerated or landfilled every second.

Less than 1% of used clothing is turned back into new clothes.

Global clothing production doubled between the years 2000 and 2014.

The fashion industry is responsible for a larger portion of the world's carbon emissions than all international flights and maritime shipping combined.



# Fast Fashion has created and exacerbated a culture of overconsumption.

## > Inexpensive Clothing

Fast fashion brands specialize in creating single-use clothing items. Their pieces are inexpensive, and often made to cater to uber-specific clothing fads.

## > Poor Quality

The idea of single-use clothing gives fast fashion brands a pass to manufacture their clothing with materials and methods that do not ensure longevity.

## > Mindset Shift

These aspects of fast fashion implement the strategies of physical and psychological obsolescence; If their clothing is falling apart or consumers think their clothing is out of style, they will buy more.



**So how  
do we move  
away from  
this culture of  
overconsumption?**



## We can offer people choices.



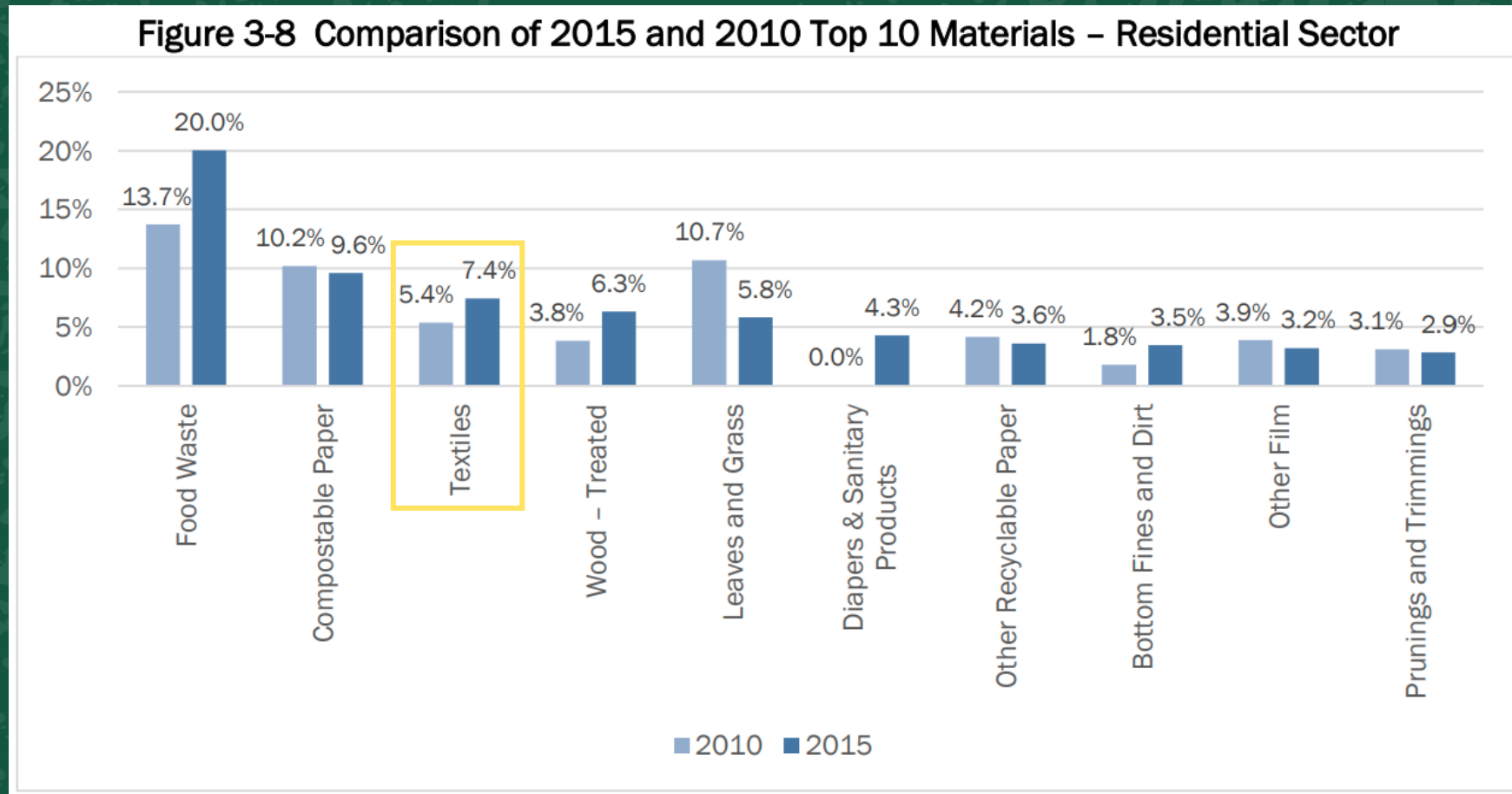
buy secondhand clothes

or



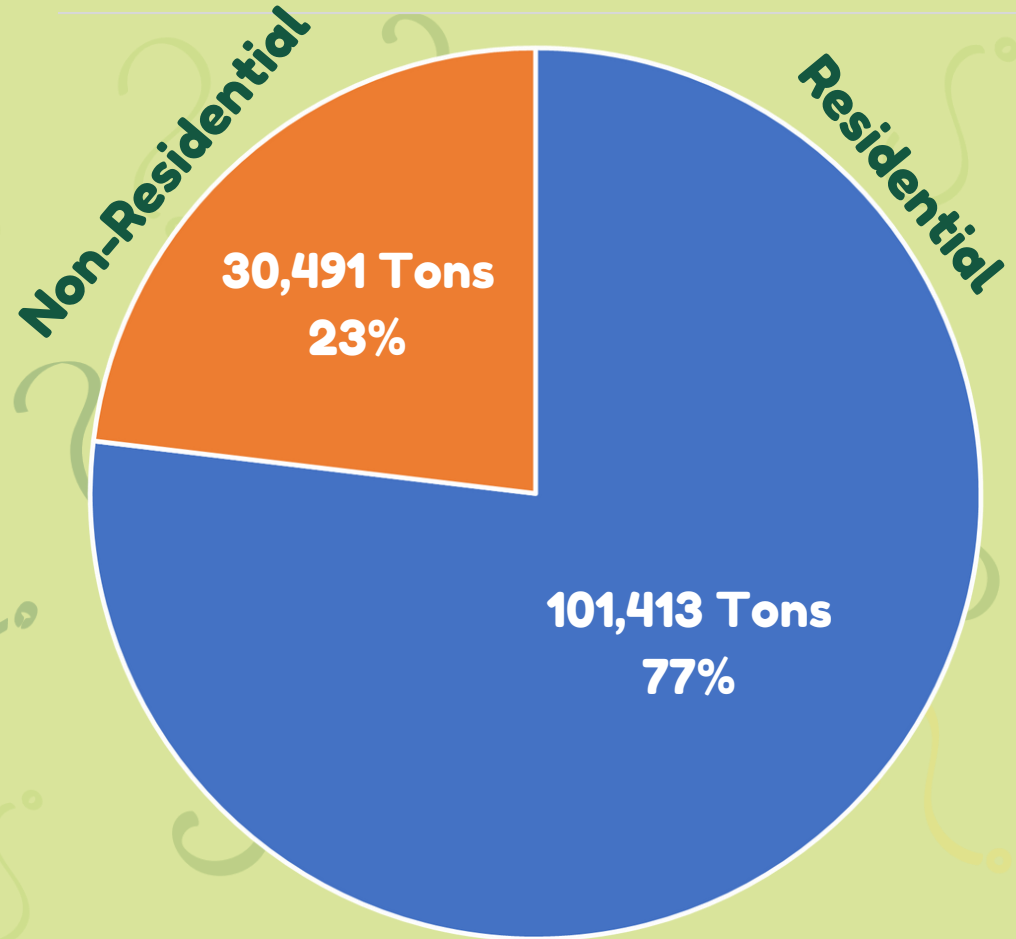
buy clothing made with recycled materials

# In 5 Years, CT's Wasted Textiles grew from 5.4% of Residential Waste to 7.4%.



Source: 2015 Solid Waste Characterization Study

# Where are wasted textiles coming from?





# How can we divert these valuable materials from the waste stream?

Textiles management can be approached in a similar manner to how we manage any other material—focusing first on **source reduction**, then on **reuse and repair**, then on **recycling**, and only after all of that considering disposal.

# There are many choices we can offer instead of disposal:

Refuse

Reduce

Reuse

Repair

Repurpose

Rot

Recycle



# There are many choices we can offer instead of disposal:

Refuse

shop small to avoid perusing store sections you don't need

Reduce

Reuse

Repair

buy sturdy, well-made clothing

Repurpose

learn to sew/repair your own clothing and teach others to do the same

Rot

Recycle

buy clothing made with recycled materials

# There are many choices we can offer instead of disposal:

Refuse

shop small to avoid perusing store sections you don't need

avoid the store if you don't need anything

Reduce

Reuse

buy secondhand clothes

buy sturdy, well-made clothing

Repair

learn to sew/repair your own clothing and teach others to do the same

Repurpose

Rot

still donate textiles that can't be reused- they will be recycled by the collector

Recycle

buy clothing made with recycled materials

# There are many choices we can offer instead of disposal:

Refuse

avoid the store if you don't need anything

shop small to avoid perusing store sections you don't need

Reduce

switch to a capsule wardrobe

Reuse

buy secondhand clothes

sell old, unused clothing

Repair

buy sturdy, well-made clothing

Repurpose

weave old T-shirts into a rug

learn to sew/repair your own clothing and teach others to do the same

Rot

buy clothing made with biodegradable materials

still donate textiles that can't be reused- they will be recycled by the collector

Recycle

buy clothing made with recycled materials

but dispose of textiles that are moldy, wet, mildewed, or saturated with petroleum products

# There are many choices we can offer instead of disposal:

Refuse

rethink: Do I really need this?

shop small to avoid perusing store sections you don't need

Reduce

avoid the store if you don't need anything

switch to a capsule wardrobe

Reuse

buy the item you need instead of the value pack

sell old, unused clothing

buy secondhand clothes

buy sturdy, well-made clothing

Repair

Bring damaged clothing to a repair cafe

host or attend a clothing swap with friends and neighbors

Repurpose

weave old T-shirts into a rug

learn to sew/repair your own clothing and teach others to do the same

Rot

Reuse old clothes as cleaning rags

still donate textiles that can't be reused- they will be recycled by the collector

Recycle

buy clothing made with biodegradable materials

but dispose of textiles that are moldy, wet, mildewed, or saturated with petroleum products

buy clothing made with recycled materials

# There are Many Options for Textile Reuse, Repair, and Recycling Already.

- **Charities/Non-Profits**  
Charity models include direct distribution of items to people in need and sale of items in order to finance the charity's programs.
- **For-Profit Companies**  
Some businesses collect textiles to sell for a profit.
- **Hybrids**  
A charity may partner with a for-profit business. In these partnerships, the charity collects the textiles and then sells them wholesale to the for-profit business, who then sells them to consumers.
- **Repair Cafe's**  
Local repair cafe organizations may host repair events where sewers can volunteer their time and talents to help eople to repair their garments.
- **Online Marketplaces**  
Many buy-and-sell online platforms have cropped up in recent years, allowing consumers to buy secondhand online.



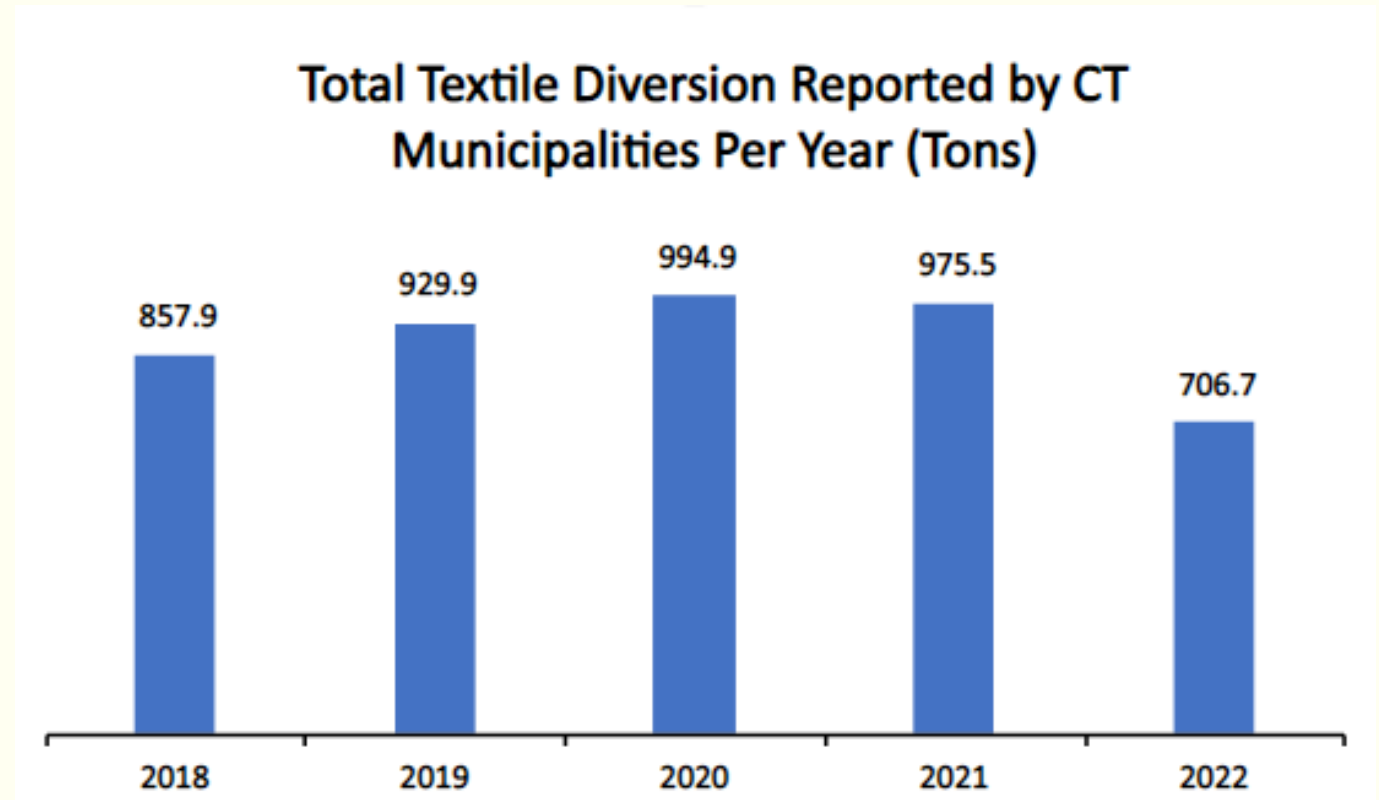
# Alternative Ways to Increase Textile Diversion at The Municipal Level

- Pay As You Throw (PAYT), Unit-Based Pricing (UBP) Programs
  - x These programs change behavior by exposing people to the direct cost of trash removal. Residents are more conscious about what they throw out, reuse more, recycle more, and participate in other waste diversion programs such as textile drop-offs
- Partnership with companies that offer textile collection bins or a trailer site, fundraising, and textile drives
  - x Some textile collectors offer textile collection programs for municipalities by providing recycling collection bins or trailers to local public spaces, such as transfer stations or other public spaces . As a bonus, some collectors also offer a rebate for each ton of textiles collected
  - x Bay State and others
- Partnership with companies that offer curbside residential textile collection
  - x Strategy listed in the CCSMM menu of options
  - x SimpleRecycling, Helpsy, and others



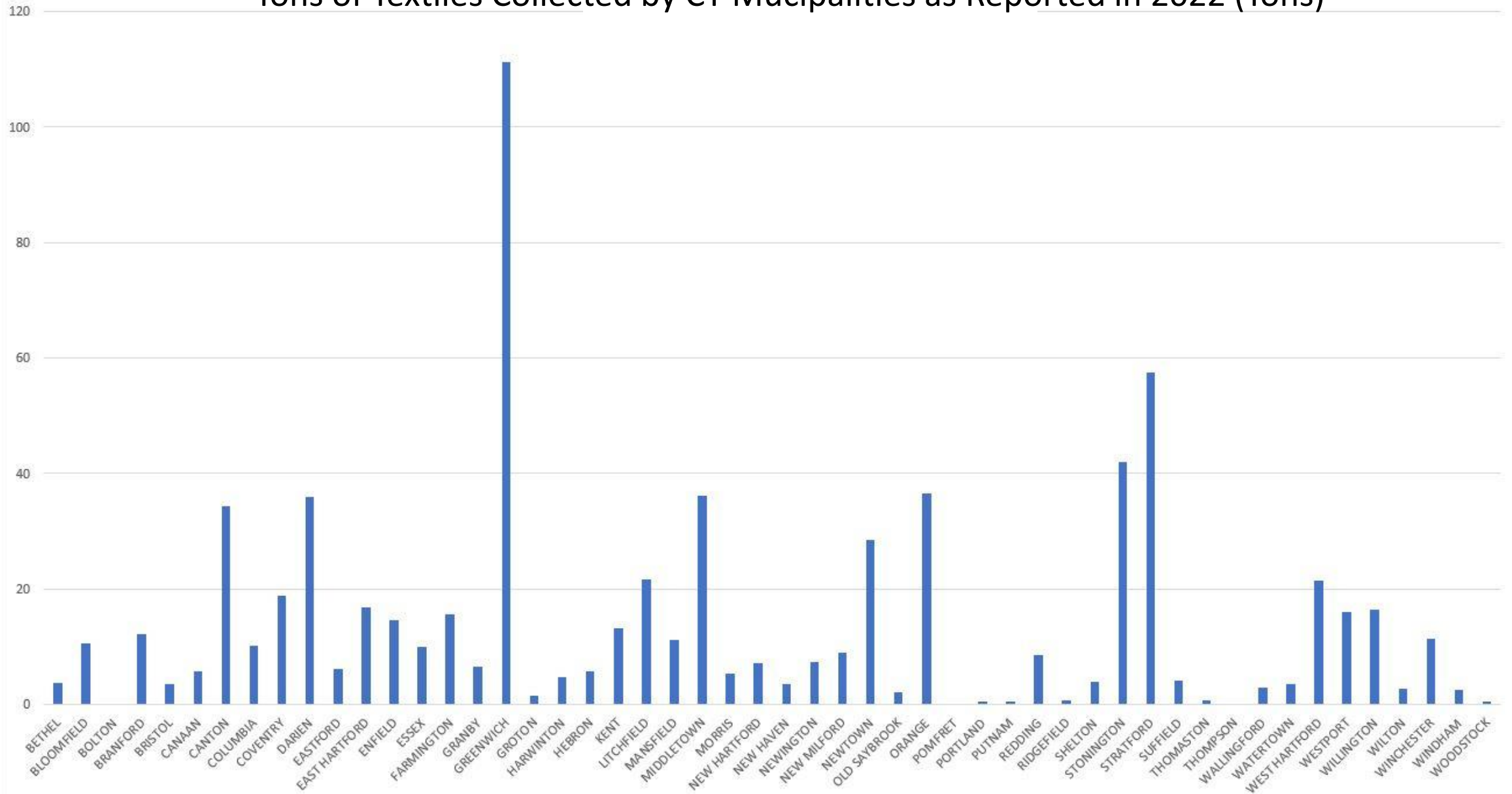
# Municipalities Tracking Textile Diversion

More than 4,000 tons of textiles reported removed from the waste stream from 2018-2022. In 2011, towns reported 236 tons of textiles removed from the waste stream.



Source: Data Reported annually by CT municipalities in the Annual Municipal Recycling Reporting Form (AMRRs).

# Tons of Textiles Collected by CT Mucipalities as Reported in 2022 (Tons)



Source: Data Reported annually by CT municipalities in the Annual Municipal Recycling Reporting Form (AMRRs).



# Resources for Municipalities

- Check the Donation Charity Navigator - <https://www.charitynavigator.org/> has an active license in the state.
- Connecticut's Donation Bin Law - ([CGS Section 21a-430](#))
- [Ordinance](#) language for municipalities seeking to place clothing collection bins.
- The United Way of CT 2-1-1 [Clothing Donation Programs](#) provides a list of Connecticut options.
- The [Secondary Materials and Recycled Textiles Association](#) (SMART) offers a search function to find recycling locations.
- Bay State Textiles offers [textile programs](#) for Connecticut municipalities
- Annual Municipal Recycling Reporting [Form](#)

# Poll Questions



Let us know what you are interested in discussing and what your town is doing with textiles!

# Today's Speakers



## Fast Fashion and Textiles Recycling Overview:

- Emma MacDonald, CT DEEP
- Luciana Granstrand, CT DEEP

## Connecticut Donation Bin Law:

- Ryan Burns, Legal Program Director, CT Dept of Consumer Protection

## Business of Textile Use and Recycling:

- Richard Borer, President, Goodwill of Southern New England
- Cori Cea-Curry, CT Recycling Development Coordinator, Bay State Textiles
- Eric Stubin, CEO, Trans-Americas Trading Co.



# Connecticut Donation Bin Law

Ryan M. Burns

CT Department of  
Consumer Protection



CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF  
**CONSUMER PROTECTION**

# Protect Yourself and Your Business (or town)

- •Fraud in the textiles industry does exist - textile collectors may misrepresent where the collected goods are being sent, the beneficiary of the collected materials, and whether or not the organization is for-profit or non-profit.
- •It is realistic to expect transparency and good practices by all parties involved in textile collection, reuse and recycling.
- •Organizations interested in working in CT should understand specific requirements on conducting business in the state.
- •As a consumer, community, or local government, there are a few steps that you can take to protect yourself from fraudulent activities or organizations.

This information comes from [CT DEEP – Textile Reuse and Recycling](#) webpage. Please reach out to the [CT Department of Consumer Protection](#) to verify this information.

# Bins Should Be Properly Labeled and Provide Clear Disclosure

## Summary of CT's Donation Bin Law - CGS Section 21a-430

- Bin operators need permission to put a bin in a public place. Bins must be labeled with specific information in 2" block letters.
- **If the bin belongs to a charitable organization, it must specify:**
- Name of nonprofit, including percentage of proceeds from the sale of the donated articles that the nonprofit organization will receive from owner of bin
- Name and contact information of owner/operator of bin
- Public may contact Department of Consumer Protection for more information
- **If the bin does not belong to a charitable organization, it must specify that donation is not for charitable purposes.**

This information comes from [CT DEEP – Textile Reuse and Recycling](#) webpage. Please reach out to the [CT Department of Consumer Protection](#) to verify this information.

# Have you done your homework?

- Research the textile collector or recycler before signing a contract or entering into an agreement with them.
- Find out if they are working with other communities and what services they are providing. Ask for and contact references and visit their location to see the process in action.
- Ask them what types of materials are accepted – some collectors will collect all textiles (excluding wet, oily, or mildewed materials) while others are specific in what they want.
- Find out what they do with the materials collected, what markets textiles are sent to, if they are partnering with another organization, and if the revenue is for charitable or for-profit purposes.
- Members of SMART must abide by the Collection Bin Operator Code of Conduct
- Clothing Collection Bin Operator Code of Conduct [Microsoft Word - Clothing Collection Bin Operator Code of Conduct word version final 8.1.13 \(smartasn.org\)](#) (pdf)
- SMART Donation Bin Code of Conduct Video [SMART Donation Bin Code Of Conduct Video - YouTube](#)
- [CT's Donation Bin Law](#) - guidance for regulating companies with drop boxes

This information comes from [CT DEEP – Textile Reuse and Recycling](#) webpage. Please reach out to the [CT Department of Consumer Protection](#) to verify this information.



# Researching Textile Recyclers

Is the company you're working with licensed in Connecticut?

- Check in the State of CT's Department of Consumer Protection [E-License Look-up](#) and search under "Charity" to see if the organization has an active license to work in the state.

Is the organization you're working with in good standing?

- A number of independent Charity Review Services help rate local and national charities.
- [Charity Navigator](#)
- [Guidestar](#)
- [Charity Watch](#)
- [Better Business Bureau Wise Giving Alliance](#)

This information comes from [CT DEEP – Textile Reuse and Recycling](#) webpage. Please reach out to the [CT Department of Consumer Protection](#) to verify this information.

## Relevant CT Laws

- The CT Department of Consumer Protection enforces the Solicitation of Charitable Funds Act (SCFA) ([CGS Section 21a-190a et seq.](#)) which requires charities to be registered and abide by certain financial reporting requirements. The SCFA also requires charities working with commercial entities to obtain a written agreement specifying certain terms and submit the agreement to the CT Department of Consumer Protection.
- The CT Department of Consumer Protection and the Office of the Attorney General also enforce the Connecticut Unfair Trade Practices Act (CUTPA) ([CGS 42-110b et seq.](#)) which prohibits unfair methods of competition and unfair or deceptive acts or practices in trade or commerce.

This information comes from [CT DEEP – Textile Reuse and Recycling](#) webpage. Please reach out to the [CT Department of Consumer Protection](#) to verify this information.

# Protect Your Community

- •Has permission been granted for donation bins to be placed on public property?
- •Are the bins properly labeled?
- •
  - **Resources on CT DEEP**
    - [Textiles Reuse Recycling \(ct.gov\)](#)
- Do you know of an illegitimately placed donation bin in your community?
- The Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection will handle any complaints regarding public charities engaged in fraud, scam or misrepresentation through their [standard complaint procedures](#).

This information comes from [CT DEEP – Textile Reuse and Recycling](#) webpage. Please reach out to the [CT Department of Consumer Protection](#) to verify this information.

# Business of Textile Reuse & Recycling

# Speaker

Richard Borer,  
President, Goodwill of  
Southern New England





S O U T H E R N  
N E W E N G L A N D

# H. Richard Borer, Jr.

*President Goodwill of Southern New England*





Sustainability has always been at the heart of Goodwill's work and mission. Our founder, Reverend Edgar J. Helms, once said, *"Goodwill saves the waste in men and things."*



S O U T H E R N  
N E W E N G L A N D

- Goodwill organizations help communities extend the life of usable items, lessen the amount of material sent to landfills or incinerators, and decrease reliance on the extraction and production of virgin materials.
- Last year, Goodwill recovered the value in more than 4.1 billion pounds of people's used goods, giving these items a second life.
- Our triple bottom line principles are People, Planet and Performance. These principles motivate us to explore the intersection of social and environmental innovation and identify solutions.



## LINEAR ECONOMY



## CIRCULAR ECONOMY



**Goodwill is working to its part in the global shift to a circular economy, a system that focuses on waste reduction and resource utilization.**

## • CIRCULAR ECONOMY •



- Most items people use follow a linear path; the five main steps to this path include extraction, production, distribution, consumption and disposal. In a linear economy mindset, materials are seen as having short-term use and as destined for disposal.
- With throw-away culture, items are viewed as replaceable and thus disposable. Throw-away culture is fueled in part by planned obsolescence, the practice of designing products to become functionally or stylistically obsolete after a given period of time.
- In a circular economy, waste would not exist, because once any object has reached the end of its useful lifetime, it would be recovered to act as raw material for new items. The circular economy is emblematic of an ideal zero-waste future.



- Goodwill is a key player in the modern reuse economy, because the operational model relies on systems to reuse and recycle second hand material.
- Motivating conscious consumers to shop used is the most effective way to ensure that second hand materials are put to good use.
- The act of buying used helps stop waste at the source by reducing the demand for new goods.
- Goodwill helps consumers realize that buying used can be both a sustainable and affordable option.

## Donations

Goodwill receives items from the community



## Retail Stores

These items are sold in our stores



## Outlet Stores

Remaining donations are sold by the pound



## Recycle

Unpurchased items are recycled to reduce waste



## Community

These programs help the community who then donate to Goodwill



## Job Training

Sales revenue funds our employment programs



# How Goodwill can help reduce your community's carbon footprint

By choosing to shop at and donate to Goodwill, you're reducing the amount of items that end up in landfills. This adds up to less chemicals leaching into our ecosystem and atmosphere.





## Prevent good items from becoming garbage

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, 25 billion pounds of textiles are thrown away per year in the US. That averages to about 70 pounds per person! Many of these items are like new and some have never been worn! You can help divert textiles and other salable from our landfills by making Goodwill your retail destination.



## Get your wardrobe from Goodwill

Fast-fashion retailers generate massive amounts of waste with garments that are not designed for durability. Once these pieces are no longer wearable, many make their way into our garbage streams. In fact, fast-fashion is the second most polluting industry in the world. You also wind up spending more money on fast-fashion to compensate for its disposable quality. Look for quality clothing at Goodwill that will last for multiple seasons and also costs less than retail prices.



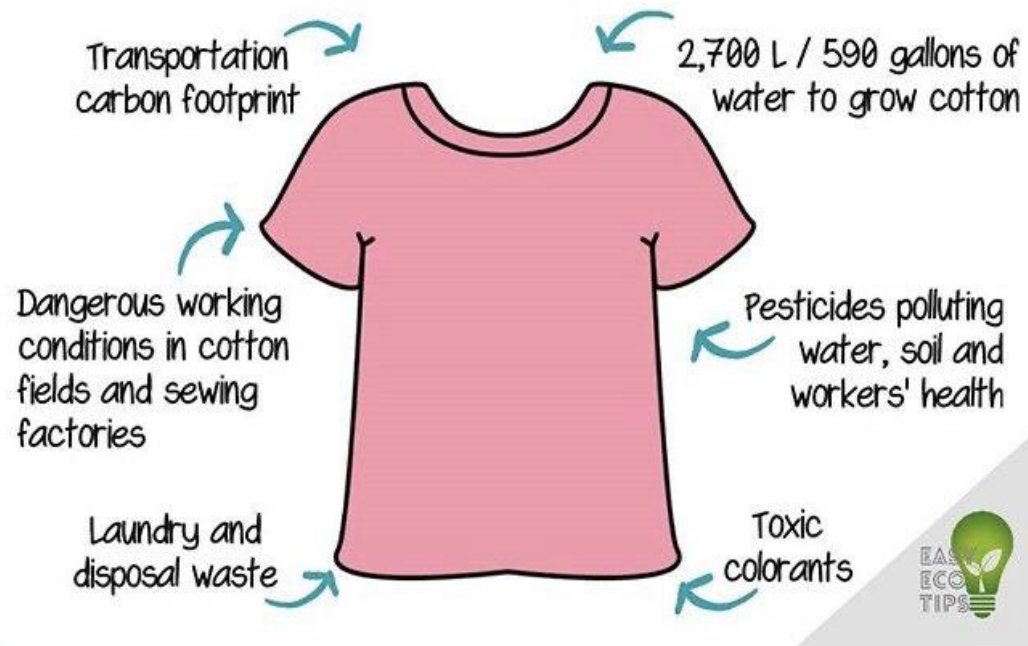
## Check out our Outlet Store

Our Outlet Store is filled with unsold merchandise from our stores at unbelievably low prices. It's a great way to stock up as most items are sold by the pound. Reusing existing pieces is a great way to eliminate the need to buy new, and will save you money.



# DID YOU KNOW?

## The environmental impact of a \$10 cotton T-shirt



**Shopping at Goodwill saves water and protects the environment.**

Did you know that buying used goods can save water? Producing items requires water, and over time the gallons really add up. Making just one t-shirt requires over 500 gallons of water! Cut down on this waste by rehoming our gently-used merchandise instead of buying new and contributing to excess water consumption.



Goodwill of Southern New England receives **625,000 donations annually**, which results in **8.3 Million pounds** of goods diverted from landfills of the communities we serve.



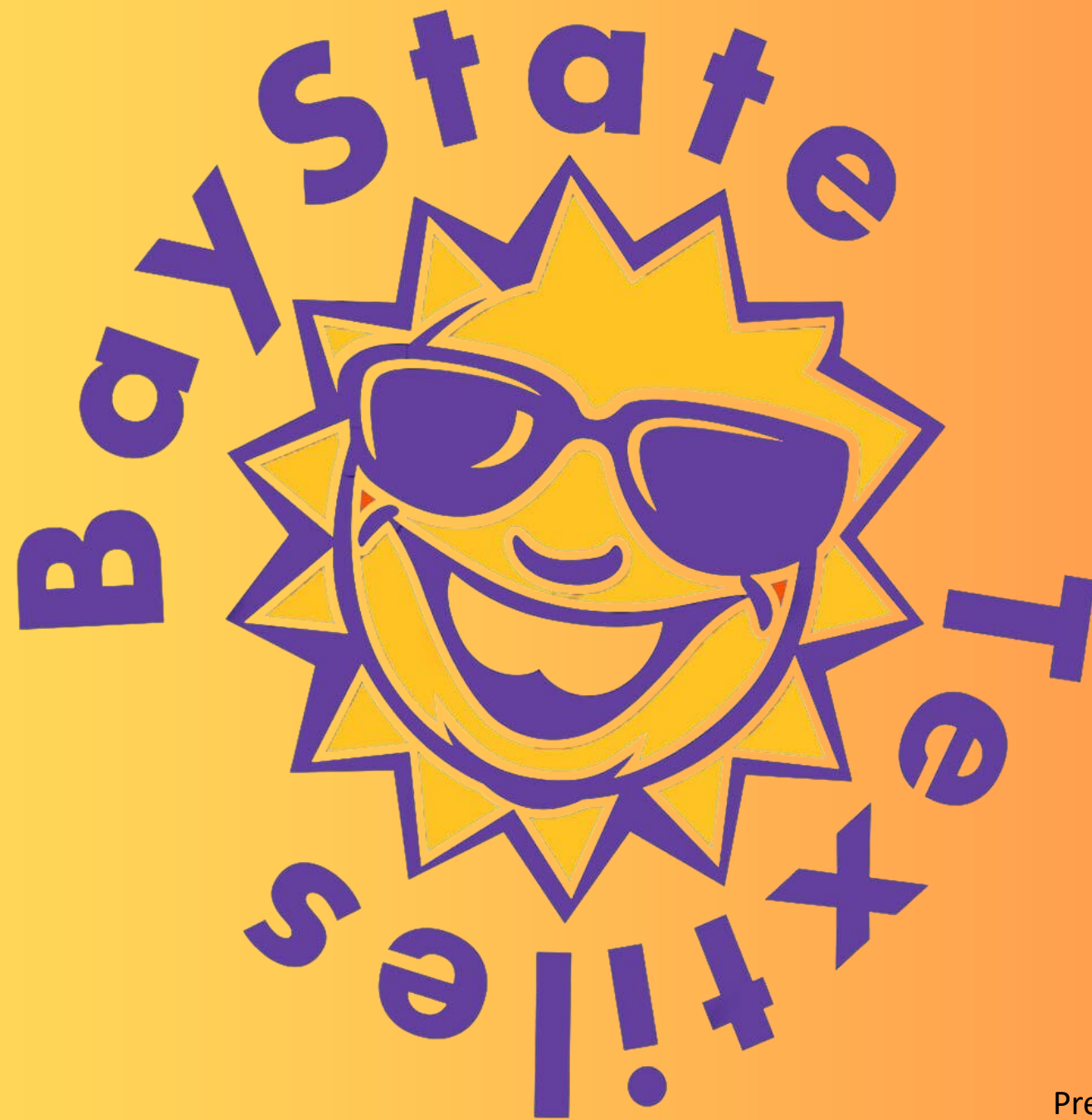


S O U T H E R N  
N E W E N G L A N D

## Speaker

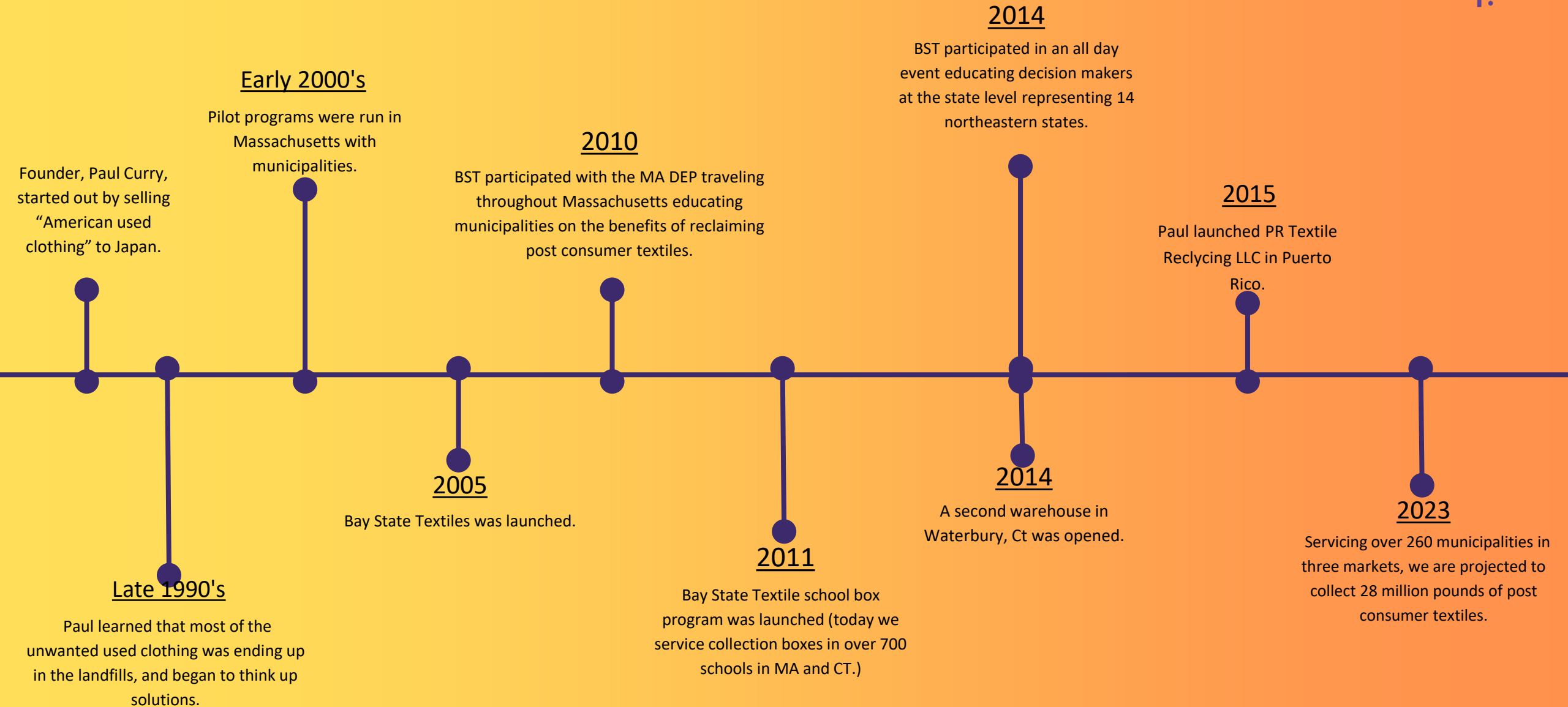
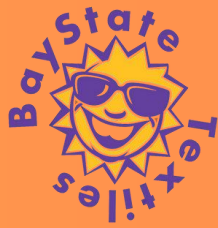
Cori Cea-Curry, CT Recycling  
Development Coordinator,  
Bay State Textiles



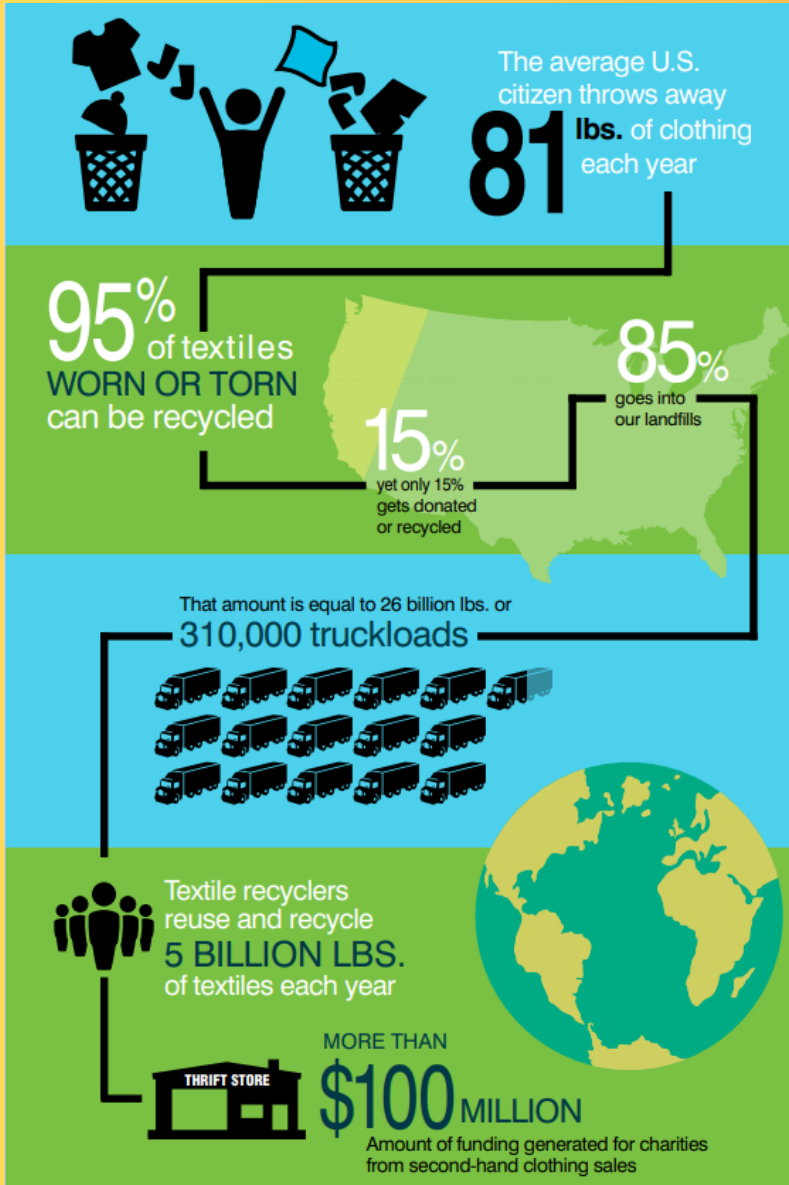
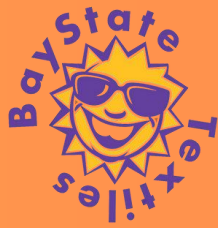


Presentation by Cori Cea Curry

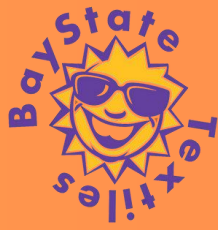
# History of Bay State Textiles



# Why Reclaim Textiles?



# Why Partner with Bay State Textiles?

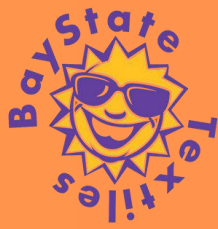


- We focus on service.
- We have managed through the biggest hurricane in over 80 years in Puerto Rico.
- Management led our Bay State team members through Covid, keeping everyone healthy and all municipalities serviced.
- Controlled growth: making sure we have staff, and equipment in place prior to expansion.
- We know our school box program works, and will be focusing the next few years on expanding our footprint in Connecticut.





# Implementing the Program





- Commitment to the program
- Boxes are prepared with decal of school or town logo
- Boxes are placed
- Boxes are serviced on a weekly schedule
- Rebate checks and reporting are sent out each month

## Stamford Weights - September 2023

	Total weight	Rebate	9/5	9/12	9/19	9/25
Davenport Ridge Elementary (2 bins)	1070	\$64.20	360	340	310	60
Northeast Elementary	1350	\$81.00	470	320	220	340
Toquam Magnet	650	\$39.00	160	280	70	140
Recycle Center (3 bins)	2500	\$150.00	910	420	310	860
Rippowam	2470	\$148.20	870	490	530	580
Strawberry Hill	1010	\$60.60	250	340	270	150
JM Wright Tech	360	\$21.60	130	70	40	120
Scotfield	630	\$37.80	390	160	30	50
Westhill	1130	\$67.80	240	290	250	350
Stamford Highschool	480	\$28.80	140	180	130	30
A.I.E.T	640	\$38.40	90	140	60	350
Turn of River	220	\$13.20	30	30	30	130
<b>Total</b>	<b>12510</b>	<b>\$750.60</b>	<b>4040</b>	<b>3060</b>	<b>2250</b>	<b>3160</b>

- Easy to understand
- Partnership commitment = success
- Bins are cross-branded
- Saves \$ for town AND generates revenue
- \$120/ton rebate for textiles collected
- Monthly rebate checks
- Weekly pick-ups
- Reports sent out by email each month
- Bay State Textiles handles all costs and logistics



-  Specialized Markets
-  Credential Clothing

Want to implement the program in your town?

Contact Cori Cea Curry

[cori.baystatetextile@gmail.com](mailto:cori.baystatetextile@gmail.com)

508-681-5651

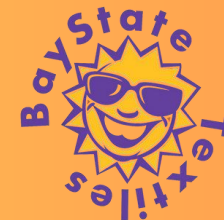
For questions regarding the used textiles market, please contact

Paul Curry

[baystatetextiles@gmail.com](mailto:baystatetextiles@gmail.com)

508-415-3855

Thank you!



# Speaker

Eric Stubin, CEO,  
Trans-Americas  
Trading Co.



**TRANS-AMERICAS TEXTILE RECYCLING INC.**  
Recycling textiles since 1942



TRANS-AMERICAS TEXTILE RECYCLING INC.

Recycling textiles since 1942

**CT DEEP IRRWG  
OCTOBER 17, 2023**

# **SPEAKER - ERIC STUBIN**

**PRINCIPAL & CEO: TRANS-AMERICAS TEXTILE RECYCLING INC.  
A RECYCLER OF TEXTILE WASTE SINCE 1942, THE COMPANY CURRENTLY  
WE RECYCLE 5,000 TONS ANNUALLY / 10 MILLION LBS IN OUR CLIFTON,  
NJ FACILITY.**

**30 YEARS OF INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE**

**PRESIDENT, SECONDARY MATERIALS AND RECYCLED TEXTILES (SMART)  
TRADE ASSOCIATION 501(C)(6) 2016-2018**

# POST CONSUMER TEXTILE WASTE: A NATIONAL & LOCAL ISSUE





# EPA & STATE OF CONNECTICUT STATE (2014)

4-5% OF YOUR MSW IS POST CONSUMER TEXTILE WASTE.

Table 6  
Detailed Composition, Statewide Disposed MSW

Material	Est. Percent	+ / -	Stand. Dev.	Est. Tons	Material	Est. Percent	+ / -	Stand. Dev.	Est. Tons
<b>Paper</b>	<b>25.9%</b>			<b>616,223</b>	<b>Organics</b>	<b>26.7%</b>			<b>636,215</b>
OCC/Kraft Paper	5.8%	0.6%	0.39%	138,240	Food Waste	13.5%	1.2%	0.74%	321,481
Offshore Cardboard	0.4%	0.1%	0.08%	10,357	Branches & Stumps	0.4%	0.3%	0.17%	10,149
High Grade Office Paper	1.7%	0.4%	0.22%	41,229	Prunings & Trimmings	2.2%	1.1%	0.68%	51,550
Magazines/Catalogs	1.3%	0.2%	0.11%	30,570	Leaves & Grass	7.2%	1.4%	0.87%	172,408
Newsprint	2.0%	0.6%	0.36%	47,510	Manures	0.2%	0.1%	0.09%	5,432
Phone Books & Directories	0.3%	0.1%	0.08%	7,797	R/C Organic	3.2%	0.5%	0.28%	75,195
Other Recyclable Paper	3.6%	0.3%	0.19%	85,517	<b>Construction and Demolition</b>	<b>14.1%</b>			<b>334,817</b>
Compostable Paper	8.2%	0.7%	0.43%	195,185	Asphalt, Brck., & Concrete	0.1%	0.1%	0.06%	2,752
R/C Paper	2.5%	0.5%	0.32%	59,819	Wood - Treated	4.7%	1.0%	0.62%	111,404
<b>Plastic</b>	<b>14.7%</b>			<b>349,480</b>	Wood - Untreated	2.7%	0.7%	0.46%	63,566
PET Bottles/Jars (non-haz)	0.5%	0.1%	0.03%	12,531	Asphalt Roofing	0.3%	0.3%	0.19%	6,145
PET Containers-non bottles (non-haz)	0.1%	0.0%	0.02%	3,126	Drywall/Gypsum Board	0.6%	0.5%	0.33%	15,263
Plastic CT Dep. Bev. Containers	0.5%	0.3%	0.18%	10,734	Carpet	3.5%	1.9%	1.12%	83,125
HDPE Bottles (non-haz)	0.5%	0.1%	0.05%	10,829	Carpet Padding	0.8%	0.4%	0.23%	17,945
HDPE Containers other than Bottles	0.2%	0.0%	0.03%	4,398	R/C C&D	1.5%	0.4%	0.24%	34,616
Plastic Containers #3-#7 (non-haz)	0.5%	0.1%	0.06%	11,546	<b>Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)</b>	<b>0.5%</b>			<b>12,986</b>
Expanded Poly. Non-Food Grade	0.8%	0.6%	0.34%	20,095	Ballasts, CFLs, & Other FLs	0.0%	0.0%	0.00%	142
Expanded Poly. Food-grade	0.7%	0.1%	0.07%	16,021	Batteries - Lead Acid	0.0%	0.0%	0.01%	178
Durable Plastic Items	3.6%	0.8%	0.48%	86,325	Other Batteries	0.1%	0.0%	0.01%	1,562
Film	0.6%	0.2%	0.09%	13,329	Paint	0.0%	0.0%	0.03%	815
Grocery/Merchandise Bags	0.5%	0.1%	0.03%	11,823	Sharps	0.0%	0.0%	0.01%	281
Other Film	3.5%	0.3%	0.20%	83,478	Vehicle & Equipment Fluids	0.0%	0.0%	0.02%	950
Pallets - Plastic	0.3%	0.2%	0.10%	6,989	Empty Metal, Glass, & Plastic Cont. (Haz.)	0.2%	0.1%	0.04%	4,298
R/C Plastic	2.4%	0.4%	0.24%	58,258	Pesticides & Fertilizers	0.0%	0.0%	0.00%	50
<b>Metal</b>	<b>4.5%</b>			<b>107,475</b>	Other Hazardous Waste & HHW	0.2%	0.2%	0.10%	4,711
Alc. Beverage Containers	0.1%	0.0%	0.01%	1,249	<b>Electronics</b>	<b>2.1%</b>			<b>50,738</b>
Alc. CT Dep. Bev. Containers	0.1%	0.1%	0.03%	3,519	Computer-related Electronics	0.4%	0.2%	0.15%	9,125
Tin/Steel Containers	0.8%	0.1%	0.08%	18,878	Other Small Consumer Electronics	0.4%	0.1%	0.09%	10,225
Other Ferrous	1.6%	0.4%	0.27%	38,452	TVs and Computer Monitors	1.0%	0.5%	0.33%	22,734
Other Non-Ferrous	0.6%	0.3%	0.20%	14,936	Other Large Electronics	0.4%	0.3%	0.17%	8,655
Appliances	0.5%	0.3%	0.19%	12,185	<b>Other Waste</b>	<b>9.3%</b>			<b>220,687</b>
Compressed Fuel Containers	0.1%	0.1%	0.05%	1,849	Bulky Items	2.5%	0.8%	0.50%	60,223
R/C Metal	0.7%	0.2%	0.14%	16,408	<b>Textiles (other than carpet)</b>	<b>4.1%</b>	<b>0.6%</b>	<b>0.34%</b>	<b>98,521</b>
<b>Glass</b>	<b>2.1%</b>			<b>51,065</b>	Restaurant Fats, Oils, & Grease	0.0%	0.0%	0.01%	196
Clear & Amber Glass Containers	1.2%	0.5%	0.30%	27,659	Bottom Fines & Dirt	1.4%	0.2%	0.10%	33,303
Green & Other Colored Glass Cont.	0.2%	0.1%	0.04%	4,272	Other Miscellaneous	1.3%	0.4%	0.22%	30,445
Glass CT Dep. Bev. Containers	0.3%	0.1%	0.08%	7,364	<b>Totals</b>	<b>100.0%</b>			
Flat Glass - Uncoated	0.2%	0.1%	0.06%	3,621	<b>Sample Count</b>	<b>258</b>			
R/C Glass	0.3%	0.3%	0.16%	8,150	<b>Tonnage</b>	<b>2,379,687</b>			



4.1%

Confidence intervals calculated at the 90% confidence level. Percentages for material types may not total 100% due to rounding.

# YES

# WE CAN!

THE SECONDHAND INDUSTRY HAS BEEN RECYCLING  
WHAT WE WEAR FOR MORE THAN A CENTURY.



# WHAT CAN BE REUSED & RECYCLED?

## Post Consumer Textile Waste (PCTW)

Donated or recycled apparel, footwear, household textiles and accessories that have reached the end of their useful life by consumers

## **NOT** Excess Inventories

From retail stores

**Gently Worn to Torn - Clothing Can Be Recycled**



SECONDHAND CLOTHING INDUSTRY:  
BOTH CHARITABLE AND PRIVATE SECTOR  
RECYCLES:

**4.5 BILLION LBS** OF  
PCTW IN THE US



**30 BILLION POUNDS GENERATED**

**85% LANDFILLED**

**25.5 BILLION POUNDS**

**81 POUNDS PER PERSON**

**15% IS DONATED / RECYCLED**

**95% OF APPAREL, TEXTILES AND FOOT WEAR ARE RECYCLABLE**



**COLLECTION & RECYCLING:**

**SECONDHAND CLOTHING &  
FOOTWEAR INDUSTRY**

# 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.<sup>1</sup> Here's what happens next...

Once a consumer determines that their clothing, shoes, handbags, or household textiles have reached the end of their useful life, materials are donated to a charity or should be recycled at a municipal recycling center as a final alternative to the landfill.



**10-20%**

Charities sell donated used clothing at their thrift locations earning revenue for their organization.

**80%**

Left with billions of pounds, charities resell their salvage to recyclers which raises significant revenue and is an alternative to the landfill. Secondhand clothing recyclers sort and separate these materials into three general classifications:



**45%**

**REUSED AND REPURPOSED**  
Majority exported as secondhand clothing.



**30%**

**RECYCLED AND CONVERTED**  
Reclaimed wiping rags are used in various ways as industrial and residential absorbents.



**20%**

**RECYCLED INTO FIBER**  
Post-consumer fiber is used to make home insulation, carpet padding, and raw material for the automotive industry.



Only 5% ends up as waste.

## 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.<sup>2</sup>

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.<sup>3</sup>

Charities and private sector combined handle 3.8 billion pounds annually.<sup>4</sup> 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.<sup>5</sup>



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

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

# Secondhand Heritage

A black and white photograph showing two individuals, a woman on the left and a man on the right, working in a large room filled with piles of clothing. They appear to be sorting or inspecting the garments. The background shows more clothing and some structural elements of the building.

**A reverse supply chain in existence for 200 + years**

**10% - 20% of donated/recycled garments are not sellable via thrift retail environment**

**Charities partner with private sector \ recyclers to divert PCTW from landfills and generate revenue.**





# 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.

# LEIGH FIBERS

## Denim Fiber



# WIPER

Recycled clothing cut and converted into wiping rags and used in homes and as industrial absorbents, paint, petrol industry, spill control

# SWEATSHIRTS RECYCLED INTO RECLAIMED WIPERS





# USED CLOTHING

Reused / Repurposed and Exported to the developing world where 2/3 of the population lives on less than \$2 per day. Providing highly demanded and affordable clothing to the developing world.

**TRANS-AMERICAS  
PROCESSES 20 TONS PER  
DAY OF PCT**

= 80,000 units  
DAILY

10 million pounds  
annually



# WHAT DOES TRANS-AMERICAS DO WITH PCT?

Trans-Americas engages in labor intensive sorting, separating, and recycling of apparel, footwear and accessories.

# TRANS-AMERICAS TEXTILE RECYCLING INC. 3 ACRES / 65,000 SQ FEET – 45 EMPLOYEES



CLIFTON, NEW JERSEY



# POST CONSUMER TEXTILES



# AT TRANS-AMERICAS: 1 TON OF PCT PROVIDES 2 DAY OF LABOR

Clothing on main sorting line

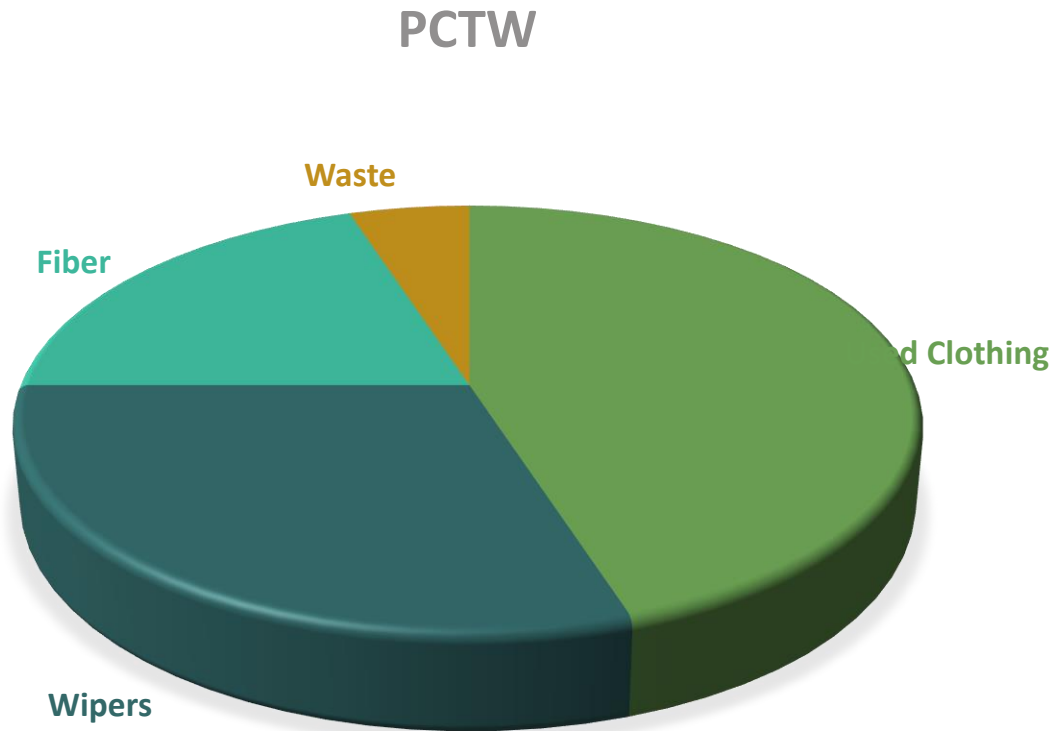


Efficient material handling





# INDUSTRY BREAKDOWN



Used Clothing 45%

Wipers 30%

Fiber 20%

Waste 5%



# GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

## EU – GLOBAL COLLECTION LEADERS

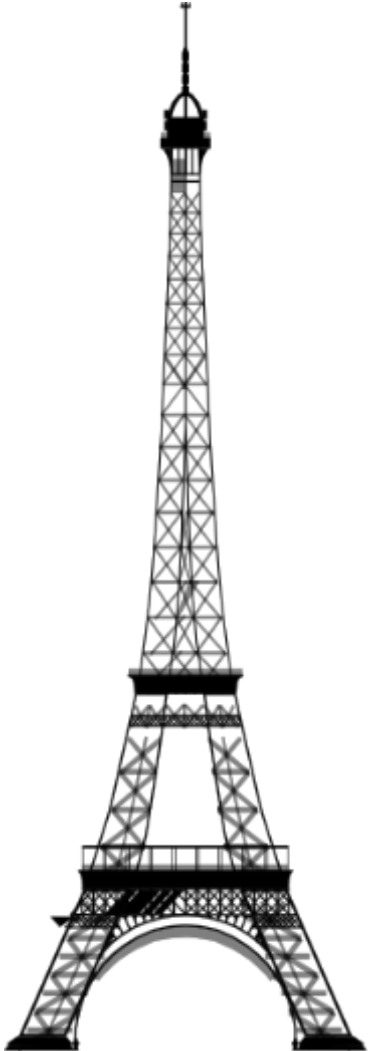
EU diverts closer to half of all PCTW. Which is approximately 3x higher than US, as a percentage of all discarded PCTW

Advanced in all aspects of recycling

Textiles are mandated by EU Recycling Legislature

In countries such as Germany, Holland and France the secondhand industry has a larger presence and private sector recycling is widely utilized.

## FRANCE LEADS WORLDWIDE EFFORTS



In 2009 France started the most progressive textile recycling program in the world.

All new garments, footwear, and accessories sold carry approx. €0.05 per garment recycling fee.

This fee is returned to companies that recycle French post-consumer textile waste and meet other criteria.

# QUESTIONS / NEXT STEPS ...

**Eric Stubin**

President & CEO

**Trans-Americas Textile Recycling Inc.**

[e.stubin@tranclo.com](mailto:e.stubin@tranclo.com)

[www.tranclo.com](http://www.tranclo.com)

973-778-4611



TRANS-AMERICAS TEXTILE RECYCLING  
Recycling Textiles Since 1942





## Discussion/ Q & A

- Attendees can post questions in the chat box or raise hand to request to speak.



**CCSMM**

Thank you!

Connecticut Coalition for Sustainable Materials  
Management