

## Textile industry urged to fund circularity

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**SACRAMENTO** - The California Product Stewardship Council (CPSC) non-profit has produced a new report calling on the textile industry to fund the transition to circularity needed to reduce waste.

It calls for extended producer responsibility (EPR) legislation to make manufacturers liable for the recycling, reuse or disposal of products; funding for garment reuse and repair services; and action to develop more sustainable fibre production.

The report is the culmination of the work of the CPSC's Statewide Textile Recovery Advisory Committee (STRAC) which has been working on the report, aimed at policy makers at every level of government, since 2020.

"Textile waste is a complex problem that can't be solved on the public's dime, so industry funding is mandatory to relieve the unfair cost-burden on charities, waste managers, and secondhand clothing markets, which disproportionately impact our most vulnerable communities," says the report.

It says that textiles are the fifth most common material in residential and commercial waste streams in California with households sending more than 1.2 million tons of textiles to landfill each year.



Currently, thrift stores receive unwearable garments but no support for managing waste, residents are not told what to do with their textile waste, and brands are not held accountable for selling non-recyclable, non-durable products, argues the report.

It calls for policies at state level to introduce EPR legislation to fund textile recycling infrastructure, tax incentives for repair services, measures to tackle PFAS and microfibre pollution, and for education and outreach campaigns on waste prevention.

And the report urges the US government to remove subsidies on virgin fossil fuels, address "unfair" tariffs on organic and recycled textiles, invest in sustainable agriculture and fibre and fabric manufacturing, and for federal regulation on PFAS and microplastics.

"This set of policy recommendations is an invitation to join CPSC in a conversation on how the private, public, and NGO sectors can work together to address significant challenges in textile recovery around the world," the report says.

"Volunteer action and siloed industry grants do not address the high costs of creating source-separated material recovery programs in alignment with the waste hierarchy prioritising reuse and repair over recycling and disposal options."

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