



LOS ANGELES



CASE STUDY: LA28

Textile Reuse, Repair, and Recycling



AN OLYMPIC WASTE CHALLENGE



The City of Los Angeles is a global leader in textile manufacturing, which further results in significant textile waste. According to the LA Department of Sanitation (LASAN), the average annual commercial waste produced in LA from 2019 to 2021 reached over 1.2 million tons, with textiles accounting for nearly 116,000 tons (about 8%). With the 2028 Olympics and other major events on the horizon, this volume is only expected to increase. **The challenge is huge, but so is the opportunity for LA28 and partners to lead the way on textile waste diversion solutions!**

MODELING TEXTILE CIRCULARITY IN LA

LASAN and the California Product Stewardship Council (CPSC) developed a textile recovery model that puts repair and recycling first, while rallying brands to turn collected textiles into new products and thriving end-markets. Our pilot transformed old textiles into SWAG, reusable bags, and eye-catching event decor!



The products to the right were upcycled in LA. The below domestic supply chain produced recycled cotton fabric from LA textile waste, knitted locally!



THE GOAL: LA28 Trademark holders to use LA recovered fabric in products!

TEXTILE CIRCULARITY OPPORTUNITIES FOR LA28

- Collection
- Manufacturing
- Merchandise
- Hospitality
- Banners
- Graphics

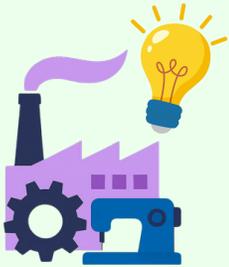
COLLECTION: SOURCE SEPARATED SYSTEMS



To give textiles a second life, through resale, repair, repurposing, or recycling, materials must be source-separated before hitting the waste stream. Textiles disposed of in regular waste bins risk contamination from food, liquids, and other putrescible matter. Even if recovered, textiles mixed with other waste can develop mold, which destroys their reuse potential.

RECOMMENDATION: Coordinate temporary on-site, source-separated collection at dorms, hotels, & retailers with branded bins.

MANUFACTURING: CREATIVE CAPITAL



Los Angeles pulses with a creative economy, fueled by highly skilled manufacturing talent. Promoting reuse, repair, and redesign within this, will generate the greatest climate and job wins. This sector sets the bar globally for progressive labor standards. Notably, California leads the way in guaranteeing fair hourly pay and banning piece-rate wages to protect its fashion workforce.

RECOMMENDATION: Require trademark holders to manufacture at least one product in LA from a licenced garment factory.

MERCHANDISE: HOMEGROWN GARMENTS AND GEAR



Building LA28 products with top-notch materials and local manufacturing is the game-changer for a truly sustainable legacy, slashing the massive carbon footprint of global mega-events. This approach matches California's laws and sets the pace alongside forward-thinking brands like Ralph Lauren and Nike, seen in action at the 2026 Milan Olympics.

RECOMMENDATION: Maximize on natural fibers, push for upcycled and recycled materials, and keep manufacturing local in LA.

HOSPITALITY: LINENS AND LAUNDRY



The hospitality industry is one of the largest consumers of textiles globally, and the surge in visitors for LA28 will generate massive amounts of waste through daily linen changes and disposable event decor. To mitigate this impact, the industry must shift to a circular model by leveraging existing infrastructure, specifically commercial laundries.

RECOMMENDATION: Educate hotels and dorms about preferred materials and textile waste; Work with laundries to work with local repair and upcycling.

BANNERS: TOXICITY AND TAKEBACK PROGRAMS



Large-format banners and graphics often turn into non-recyclable waste because vinyl (PVC) materials are hard to process and contain harmful chemicals. The real solution? Shift procurement to sustainable, PVC-free products. These alternatives not only upcycle easily into useful products like tote bags or sun shades, but also fit right into modern recycling streams when the event ends.

RECOMMENDATION: Purchase non-toxic banners and implement a temporary collection program with reuse and recycling.

OTHER WASTE REDUCTION OPPORTUNITIES FOR LA28 (FUNDED PROGRAMS)

- Mattresses
- Carpet
- Medicine/Needles
- Paint
- Reusable Foodware
- Loose batteries



GET A GOLD MEDAL IN SOURCE REDUCTION!

The 2028 LA Olympics can set the gold standard for sustainable event textiles by building on existing programs and investing in bold ideas like textile collection bins and repair hubs. Funding local leaders like CPSC, LACI, Reusable LA, and others, will lead to major cost savings and a reduced environmental footprint from LA's upcoming events.



VISIT WWW.CALPSC.ORG/CATEXILEHUB

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Consider the following actions to engage CPSC on any of the opportunities:



Coordinate with trademark holders on product and design recommendations that align with state laws;



Request technical assistance from LASAN or CPSC on collection and processing opportunities;



Prioritize reuse/repair and impact with purchasing decisions;



Attend CPSC and LASAN's upcoming educational event.



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