

Textile Stewardship

Thrift stores receive unwearable garments without support for residential waste.

Local government and Waste Facility operators cannot take on new textiles programs without funding a costly source separated stream with garbage rates.

Residents have no verified information on what to do with unusable textile and what materials are used in the products.

Brands are not held accountable for selling non-recyclable, non-durable materials without proper end-of-life management options that no longer place an unfair burden on charities, waste managers, and secondhand clothing markets.



GOVERNMENT ACTION AT EVERY LEVEL

Local Action

1. Green Purchasing to include contracts with reuse, repair, and recycling.
2. Buy uniforms with recycled content from brands with repair and recycling.
3. Require reporting and recycling as part of collection partnerships.
4. Start a public database of verified textile handlers.

Federal Updates

1. Remove subsidies on virgin fossil fuels.
2. Address unfair tariffs on organic and recycled textiles.
3. Invest in sustainable agriculture and domestic manufacturing for fiber and textiles.
4. Regulate PFAS & Microplastics.
5. Update labeling and standards to support sorters and recyclers.

State Policies

1. Implement tax incentives for repair for immediate relief to small businesses conducting textile sustainability services diverting garments from landfills back into reuse.
2. Pass Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) to create an industry funding source to invest in new recovery infrastructure for easy-to-recycle textiles, such as Hospitality textiles, to reduce costs & footprint for an impacted industry and share infrastructure with established stewardship programs in California.
3. Expand PFAS & microplastics regulations to engage polluters and prevent future abatement.
4. Start statewide education and outreach campaigns on waste prevention and textile recovery opportunities, both residential and commercial.

AVOIDING UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES

Equity and access are at the core of unintended consequences to avoid when developing a textile recovery program. Any textile management program being considered should protect, elevate, and invest in existing infrastructure for collection, repair, and reuse. Programs should prioritize and develop the jobs they provide to the local communities and the local services necessary for regional recovery systems.

Landfill bans do not set a plan for sustainable management and can confuse residents about what to do with unwanted clothes. This type of policy is not recommended until an adequate program with the proper infrastructure exists. Banning disposal of textiles without convenient recycling collection will result in illegal dumping, unauthorized collection kiosks, and can cost participating charities a lot of money to scale quickly.

Minimum recycled content goals are popular in plastics and packaging and can be applicable to textiles and clothing if the right precautions are taken to avoid proliferating use of synthetic and blended textiles, with recyclability, microplastic, and chemical concerns. We also want to avoid a strain on competition for recovered PET bottles, which are the predominant source for recycled polyester currently.

Read the full report and join the coalition at
<https://www.calpsc.org/textilestewardship>





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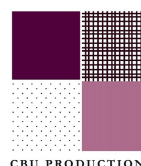
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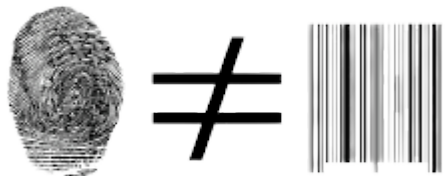


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SIGNATORIES SUPPORTING THIS REPORT

THE UNDERSIGNED STAKEHOLDERS SUPPORT THE POLICY TOPICS
IDENTIFIED IN THIS REPORT AS ATTAINABLE SOLUTIONS FOR
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MORE

COMING SOON