

22 organisations sign up to sustainable clothing commitment

Some 22 organisations including John Lewis, Marks & Spencer and Next have signed up to the Sustainable Clothing Action Plan (SCAP) 2020 Commitment which aims to reduce the environmental impact of clothing throughout its lifecycle.

The commitment, co-ordinated by the Waste & Resources Action Programme (WRAP), was launched on June 20 and will see signatories and supporters commit to reducing the waste, water and carbon footprints of clothing by 2020, against a 2012 baseline.

The 22 companies represent more than a third of UK clothing sales and consist of high street retailers, charities, recyclers and other major players in the industry.

The initiative falls under WRAP's work on the Sustainable Clothing Action Plan (SCAP) which was launched in 2009. There are four working groups within the Plan which focus on different areas - design, reuse and recycling, influencing consumer behaviour and metrics.

The new commitment is for the whole textiles industry, including recyclers, retailers, charities and suppliers.

There are seven action areas for the signatories to focus on. They are:

- Use a common assessment tool to measure the baseline position and track changes in footprint over time;
- Reduce the environmental footprint of clothing through fibre and fabric selection;
- Over the long-term, work with supply chain partners to reduce the environmental footprint of their processes;
- Extend the useful life of clothes and reduce the environmental impact of clothing in use through product design and services;
- Develop effective messaging to influence key consumer behaviours which will reduce the environmental footprint of clothing;
- Increase re-use and recycling to recover maximum value from used clothing;
- Develop actions that help keep clothes out of landfill.

The initiative has also received support from both resource minister Lord de Mauley and Scottish environment secretary Richard Lochhead who said they were pleased to see so many organisations working together to reduce the environmental impact of clothing.

The full list of signatories and supporters are: Arcadia Group; ASOS; BCR Global Textiles; Biov8tion; British Retail Consortium; Centre for Sustainable Fashion (LCF); Clothes Aid; Defra; East London Textiles Ltd; Ethical Expert; GOTS; I&G Cohen; John Lewis; Lawrence M Barry & Co (LMB); Made-By; Marks & Spencer; Next; Next Best Clothing / Bags2School; Sainsbury's; Salvation Army Trading Company; Tesco; and, Textile Recycling Association.

