

Case Study: Fibre Fragmentation from Textiles

Formation of The Microfibre Consortium, a textile research led, NGO

Why?

A textile specific understanding was required for the topic of 'microfibre loss from textiles' which in the early stages was led by the marine biology community. There was an urgent need for understanding the triggers of loss, across an aligned supply chain.

The industry was lacking a clear topic agenda and common methodology, on which to facilitate the clothing sector in mitigating the impacts created by this problem.

What?

The formation of The Microfibre Consortium, a research-led sustainable textiles NGO, working to convene the global textiles sector through The Microfibre 2030 Commitment and Roadmap.

The first and only organisation whole-heartedly focused on this topic and working on behalf of its signatories which comprises brands and retailers, researchers and affiliated organisations.

How?

Provided the strategic vision and development of:

- **Company governance** team and infrastructure
- **Agenda** setting and alignment of the industry (*The Microfibre 2030 Roadmap*)
- **Accountability platform** (*The Microfibre 2030 Commitment*)
- **Industry convening** - the global fashion and textile sector
- **Pioneering topic tools, resources and platforms** (The TMC Test Method, Data Portal and supporting reports)

The Outcome

The Microfibre Consortium was legally formed in 2018, with the release of the Microfibre 2030 Commitment and Roadmap in 2021.

Within its first 5 years to November 2023, TMC become a reputable scientific topic authority, providing leadership within its 90+ strong community, and externally to policy makers and the larger community. Within this time, it pioneered a test method, convened industry data through the Microfibre Data portal and witnessed brand product change, as a result of its pioneering work.

• Turnover	~£0.5k
• Team	7
• Signatory community	90+
• Accredited labs	55 (and technicians 180)
• Tested materials	700
• Data points	10 200

“ The Microfibre Consortium is an incredible resource for facilitating collaboration with our industry peers and guiding us on best practices.”

Katie Johnson Patagonia



Case Study: Biobased Synthetics for the Clothing Sector

Set up and led an industry working group on the topic of Bio Synthetics

Why?

Bio synthetics were causing a buzz across the industry with no industry specific agenda.

Textile Exchange members were asking for further information on this topic to help make informed business decisions within their material portfolios.

What?

A cross industry working group comprised of brands, retailers, industry organisations and suppliers, from the chemical building blocks to final product level.

How?

- The Bio Synthetics working group kicked off in 2016 at the Textile Exchange annual sustainability conference in Hamburg, with work sponsored by H&M and Nike.
- The agenda for the group was focused around addressing the key questions coming from industry and appraising and targeting work against the gaps and opportunities highlighted.
- The working group was able to leverage the collective cross industry knowledge, connections and supply base, to support progress back to the industry.



The Outcome

- **Built the business case** – Placing biosynthetics on the industry agenda.
- **Convened a stakeholder platform** - Through ongoing stakeholder topic conversations and the annual Bio Synthetics Roundtables to convene stakeholders and drive topic progress.
- **Knowledge dissemination and alignment** - Development and launch of the about bio synthetics microsite.

“ Alongside being a pioneer and an innovator, Sophie is brilliant at mobilizing action. She saw the "white space" and the need to build a community around biosynthetics.

In setting up the Biosynthetics Working Group (now a Round Table), Sophie encouraged exploration and digging deep into the challenges and opportunities. The Biosynthetics Round Table carries Sophie's legacy. It continues to grow and thrive, using Sophie's starting point of our urgent need to decouple from non-renewable fossil fuels. .”

Liesl Truscott Textile Exchange