REDRESS
DESIGN AWARD

SUPPORTING STATISTICS

Redress is pleased to provide a selection of external statistics and resources to support the understanding of fashion's impact on the environment, from environmental impact, consumption, production and waste to economic impact, and to underpin the Redress Design Award and its mission.

For further information or for interviews with representatives from Redress and the Redress Design Award, please contact Shirley Aun, Communications Manager: shirleyaun@redress.com.hk.

CURRENT TEXTILE AND CLOTHING WASTE ISSUES

(Globally) Every second, the equivalent of one rubbish truck of textiles is landfilled or burned globally.
Source: Ellen Macarthur Foundation (2020 The Circular Economy: A transformative Covid 19 strategy)

(Globally) An estimated 92 million tons of textile waste is created annually from the fashion industry.
Source: Business of Fashion and McKinsey & Company, The State of Fashion 2020, New York, 2019

In Hong Kong, approximately 123,735 tonnes of textiles were sent into landfills in 2019, which is 339 tonnes per day. This is a decrease of 13.5% from 2018 figures, but up by 56% when looking at 2011 figures.
Source: Hong Kong Environmental Protection Department (2020) Monitoring of Solid Waste in Hong Kong - Waste Statistics for 2019

(Globally) Textile waste is estimated to increase by about 60% between 2015 and 2030, with an additional new 57 million tons of waste being generated annually, reaching an annual total of 148 million tons, which is equivalent to annual waste of 17.5kg per capita across the planet.
Source: Global Fashion Agenda and The Boston Consulting Group, Inc. (2017), Pulse of the Fashion Industry

NEED TO STIMULATE HYPER LOCAL MICRO CIRCULAR ECONOMIES AS FASHION'S WASTE CRISIS MOUNTS

Less than 1% of material used to produce clothing is recycled into new clothing, and just 13% of the industry's total material input is in some way recycled after it is used for clothes, representing an annual loss of USD$100 billion worth of materials each year.
Source: Ellen MacArthur Foundation (2017), A New Textiles Economy: Redesigning fashion's future, as cited in KPMG & Textile Exchange

It is anticipated that today's 20% clothing collection rate could be tripled by 2030—worldwide. With a 60% collection rate, and the same allocation to end-of-use processing as today, the industry could save more than €4 billion in value to the world economy.
Source: Global Fashion Agenda & The Boston Consulting Group (2017)

Developments in the circular economy and textile recycling are too slow with lack of investment identified
Source: The Boston Consulting Group - Financing the Transformation in Fashion (Jan 2020)

Post-Covid, hyper-local waste sourcing is increasingly important following supply chain and logistics disturbances and increased raw material prices for virgin materials. Sourcing local 'waste' materials is increasingly attractive

Source: New Threat to Retail: Rising Commodity Prices | Intelligence | BoF (2018)

DESIGNERS HOLD GREAT POWER

Around 80% of a product's environmental impact is locked in at the design stage.
Source: EU Science Hub (2018): Sustainable Product Policy

Extending the active life of 50% of UK clothing by 9 months would decrease the UK's carbon footprint by 8%, water footprint by 10% and waste footprint by 4%, per tonne of clothing.
Source: WRAP (2017), Valuing Our Clothes: the cost of UK fashion.

CLIMATE ISSUES IN THE FASHION INDUSTRY

(Globally) The fashion industry contributes to around 10% of global greenhouse gas emissions due to its long supply chains and energy intensive production. The industry consumes more energy than the aviation and shipping industry combined.
Source: UNFCCC (20189), UN Helps Fashion Industry Shift to Low Carbon

TECHNOLOGY INCREASINGLY PLAYS A VITAL ROLE IN ENABLING SUSTAINABLE FASHION INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT

Digital sampling has many advantages. It saves cost for the brand and the manufacturer. '£5-7 billion is reportedly spent on physical sampling in the apparel industry each year'
Source: ECOAGE 'How 3D Digital Design and Augmented Reality Can Slash Textile Waste In Fashion', October 2019, referencing data from EFI/Optitex

CONSUMERS ARE INCREASINGLY THE DRIVING SEAT

71% of consumers are indicating a shift towards investments in higher quality garments and a deepened interest in circular business models such as resale, rental or refurbishment following Covid
Source: Global Fashion Agenda (2020) CEO Agenda 2020 COVID-19 Edition

Nearly half of consumers are more concerned about the environment due to the pandemic, Moreover 78% believe companies should be helping them 'make decisions that improve environmental outcomes'
Source: Avery Dennison X The: Future: Laboratory. (2021). Zero Waste Futures Report

The fashion industry has shown progress toward better social and environmental performance over recent years, but the pace of industry change is slowing
Source: Pulse of the Fashion 2019 Update, Global Fashion Agenda, Boston Consulting Group, and Sustainable Apparel Coalition

Simultaneously, concerns for greenwashing are increasing. 79% of global Gen Z consumers and 66% of Millennials said they had the perception that brands are never honest, or not honest enough about how environmentally friendly their products are.
Source: Futerra Consumer research, June 2019

Growing anti-greenwashing action is increasing from consumer watchdogs / governments globally. Following a screening of websites, the European Commission revealed that national consumer protection authorities had reason to believe that in 42% of cases of companies making “green” claims, the claims were ‘exaggerated, false or deceptive’

Source: European Commision; Screening of websites for ‘greenwashing': half of green claims lack evidence, 28 January 2021