RECYCLED WOOL

THERE IS A NEED FOR MATERIAL CONCEPTS IN CIRCULAR ECONOMY AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Download the full report on recycled wool here: europeanoutdoorgroup.com

INFO
On average 5% of all clothes in containers are made from wool

INFO
Prato recycles 22 Mio kg of post and pre consumer woollen textiles and noils

INFO
Further use of recycled materials in non-wovens are insulation material, mattresses, car upholstery filling, etc

RECYCLED WOOL
Pre & Post Consumer Wool

FREQUENTLY USED STANDARDS FOR TRACEABILITY

- Responsible Wool Standard (RWS) by Textile Exchange
- Global Recycled Standard (GRS) by Textile Exchange
- Recycled Claim Standard (RCS) by Textile Exchange
- Cardato Recycled (Made in Prato)

ADVANTAGES
• Process in Europe available (Prato/Italy)
• Traceability for material content until collecting point via GRS/RCS
• Using an existing material
• Mainly no extra dyeing necessary. Saving costs in water, energy and chemicals
• Prato has 200 years of experience in this process
• Leadtime of 7-8 weeks or less

LIMITATIONS
• Traceability beyond GRS / RCS in regards to animal welfare topics
• RSL/MRSL and the chemical management
• Final product is typically a blend with low % of other fibres
• Blended yarn are challenging to recycle (again)
• Global transportation
• Legal situation varies by country in handing woollen “waste” material

WHAT NEXT?
1. Where do brands get recycled wool as an alternative material resource?
2. How do retailers find brands who use recycled wool?
3. How do consumers identify recycled wool?

Top row: post-consumer items are received pre-picked. They undergo at least two more picking stages in which they are colour sorted, and fibre-content checked, and then freed from any attached trims and labels.

Middle row: Post-production material is undergoing at least one picking stage, in which the material is colour sorted and fibre content checked.

Bottom (2) rows: Once the primary material is colour graded and sorted, it undergoes pulling, mixing to achieve specific colour shades (more rarely: overdyeing), and then follows through the traditional carding, spinning and weaving/knitting, (including finishing), and finally garmenting process as any fibre would.