

**Country (Insert country of origin of your company / organization or its headquarters' location)**

Chile

**Submitting Organization/Company**

Ecofiber Chile

**If Organization or Company, please indicate the approximate number of employees**

< 50

**Please indicate the number of employees**

22

**Title of the action**

Ensure reuse, recycle and traceability of textile waste, to prevent them from reaching landfills

**Upload your logo or an image**



**Relevant Website**

[www.ecofibrachile.cl](http://www.ecofibrachile.cl)

**Main Partners**

Zofri S.A, Almacenes Paris

**Other Partners**

Banks, municipalities

**Type of initiative**

Private

**Description of action**

Promote the reuse of textiles for as long as possible and when it can no longer be used, transform it into other products with high added value, such as thermal insulation panels. Receive and collect the largest amount of textile waste to prevent it from reaching illegal landfills in our country, especially in

the north of Chile where there is a large textile landfill.

### Type of action

Traceability & Transparency

### Please select the specific area/s of the action

Incentives

Research and Development of Innovative Solutions

Collaborative Initiatives

### Scope of the action, including a description of the value chain processes that are covered

Objective (max 200 words): Encourage the largest generators of textile waste in Chile to be the largest collection and reuse center in the country, preventing waste from reaching landfills. In addition, we want to encourage traceability from when this waste is generated, geo-location and transparency until it reaches our plant, ensuring reuse.

Commitments (max 200 words): Sign agreements with retailers, municipalities and importers of used clothing in the country. Create a blockchain traceability system to ensure the proper handling and transformation of textile waste.

Value Chain Scope: It will cover the largest clothing stores in Chile, as well as importers of used clothing in the north of the country. Tarapacá receives 85% of the used clothing in the country, being one of the countries that imports the most second-hand clothing, so with this action, we could strongly reduce the generation of waste.

### Timeframe and/or milestones for the action

- Since 2018 our company began to receive textile waste in Chile, transforming more than 400 tons per year.
- On the other hand, during the year 2022 we incorporated the use of qr code to provide traceability for generators of textile waste.
- By 2023 we estimate to be able to have a blockchain system that is more transparent and ensures 100% traceability.

### Reference instruments and sources used

<https://www.df.cl/df-lab/sostenibilidad/ecofibra-la-startup-iquiquena-de-reciclaje-textil-alista-apertura-de>

### Expected benefits and impact for the stakeholders involved

Enhanced visibility of compliance with sustainability requirements by industry actors/partners along the entire value chain

Enhanced traceability of the

social/environmental/ethical attributes of product(s)/materials along the value chain; for example, for origin, quality, sustainability performance, and compliance with health and safety requirements for consumers and workers

A measurable impact on sustainability in value chains over time, eventually verified through life-cycle assessments and/or sustainability certifications

Enhanced environmental and socially responsible consumption and production, and circularity of the value chain, that may be relevant to and inspire other countries and industry actors/partners

Management of reputational risk for manufacturers, brands and retailers who are selling the products concerned

Improved working conditions for workers along the value chain and, particularly, those who work for "suppliers to suppliers" in parts of the value chain that today are often "hidden"

## Stakeholders involved

Business and industry associations

Consumers and consumer associations

Intergovernmental organizations

Local authorities

## Key performance indicators for the action

- Percentage of reusable/recycled material
- Percentage of sample failure
- Percentage of total waste diverted from landfill and other disposal options
- Percentage of waste recycled off site
- Percentage of waste reused on site
- Pollution indicators (emissions to air, effluent, solid waste)
- Potable water consumption
- Renewable energy consumption
- Segregation rate

## Good practices

Generally, textile reuse and recycling could reduce environmental impact because it could potentially reduce virgin textile fiber production and avoid processes further downstream in the textile product life cycle. Moreover, textile reuse and recycling are more sustainable when compared to incineration and landfilling. However, reuse is considered more beneficial than recycling, mainly when sufficiently prolonging the reusing phase.

Textile reuse encompasses various means for extending the useful service life of textile products from the first owner to another. This is commonly practiced by renting, trading, swapping, borrowing, and inheriting, facilitated by second-hand stores, garage sales, online and flea markets, and charities. On the other hand, textile recycling refers to reprocessing pre-consumer and post-consumer textile waste

for use in new textile or non-textile products.

Textile recycling is typically classified as mechanical or chemical recycling. Mechanical recycling degrades waste into a decoration, construction, agricultural, and gardening use. Chemical recycling involves a process where polymers are depolymerized (polyester) or dissolved (cotton and viscose). Chemical recycling can produce fibers of equal quality compared to virgin materials. The sorted textile waste could be chemically treated to extract resources such as protein-based fibers to produce wood panel adhesives; and cellulosic fibers for bioethanol production.

**How has this UNECE-UN/CEFACT Call to Action contributed to strategic engagement and/or public awareness in support of your commitment?**

The call has put us on alert that the environmental problem caused by textile waste is growing due to fast-fashion and the only way to stop this crisis is for institutions like UNECE to get involved to provoke a call to governments where they should be created laws and regulations that promote the reuse and reduction of the generation of this waste.

**Link to relevant goal(s) and specific target(s) of the United Nations**

