Fibersort Producer Network

Fibersort is an Interreg funded project based in NWE. The Fibersort technology automatically sorts large volumes of mixed post-consumer textiles by fibre type, and it does so with a high degree of accuracy. This development supplies textile-to-textile recyclers with large volumes of quality-assured feedstock for their processes and is therefore a key technology to enable the transition to a circular system.

Why does the industry need Fibersort

● Textiles require a tremendous amount of resources to be produced, including water, CO_2, chemicals, and energy. All of this embedded value is lost when these materials are landfilled or incinerated.

● High value recycling technologies require a supply of precise and constant feedstock (ie. old garments/textiles that have been sorted into specific fibre categories).

● Reaching the widespread implementation of an efficient and automated textile sorting process, to create textile recycling feedstock for these technologies is therefore essential.

Impact for brands, retailers and manufacturers

● Consumers are more aware of fashion's negative environmental impact.
● Resources are becoming increasingly scarce.
● Fibersort is an exciting opportunity to close the loop in fashion.

Benefits for brands, retailers and manufacturers

● Support the creation of new markets for low-value textiles.
● Increase the availability of sustainable textiles for the future.
● Learn about a circular value chains, recycling technologies and recycled fibres.

Producer Network Goals

● Present the Fibersort technology for industry review and feedback.

● Identify the potential of business models and end markets for recycled textiles.

● Identify brand, retailer and manufacturer requirements for using recycled textiles.

● Create a network of front running organisations of brands, retailers and manufacturers to collaborate and close the loop in fashion.

Producer Network Deliverables

● **Online Webinars**

● **Report:** Potential of business models and end markets to increase the use of recycled textiles, including product and performance expectations for recycled fibres (Public).

● **Report:** Policy recommendation to catalyze the uptake of recycled fibres into the apparel industry through the use of Fibersort technology. (Public)

● **Report:** Case studies describing key barriers and success factors for effective Fibersort market uptake in NWE. (Public)

Types of stakeholders involved

● Producers:
  ○ Apparel brands
  ○ Designers
  ○ Retailers
  ○ Manufacturers
● **Industry related NGOs**
● **Academia**