

Valuing Our Clothes: the environmental cost of UK fashion



Cecile Martin
Textiles Technical Specialist
WRAP

7 November 2018



WRAP's
vision is a
world in which
resources
are used
sustainably



Clothing consumption and impacts



In the EU and UK,
clothing is ranked
fourth in terms of its
impact on the
environment...

...only housing,
transport and
food have
greater impacts



Sustainable
design, sourcing
& production

Extending the
useful life of
clothes

SCAP 2020

Sustainable Clothing Action Plan


YOUR
CLOTHES

Getting best
value from reuse
& recycling

Keeping clothes
out of landfill

**TEXTILES
BANK**

SCAP2020: Signatories



Retailers & brands

Arcadia

YOUR M&S

WHISTLES

Sainsbury's

PRIMARK®

arco®
Experts in Safety

ASOS
discover fashion online

F&F

next

TED BAKER
LONDON

MANTIS
WORLD

Charities & recyclers



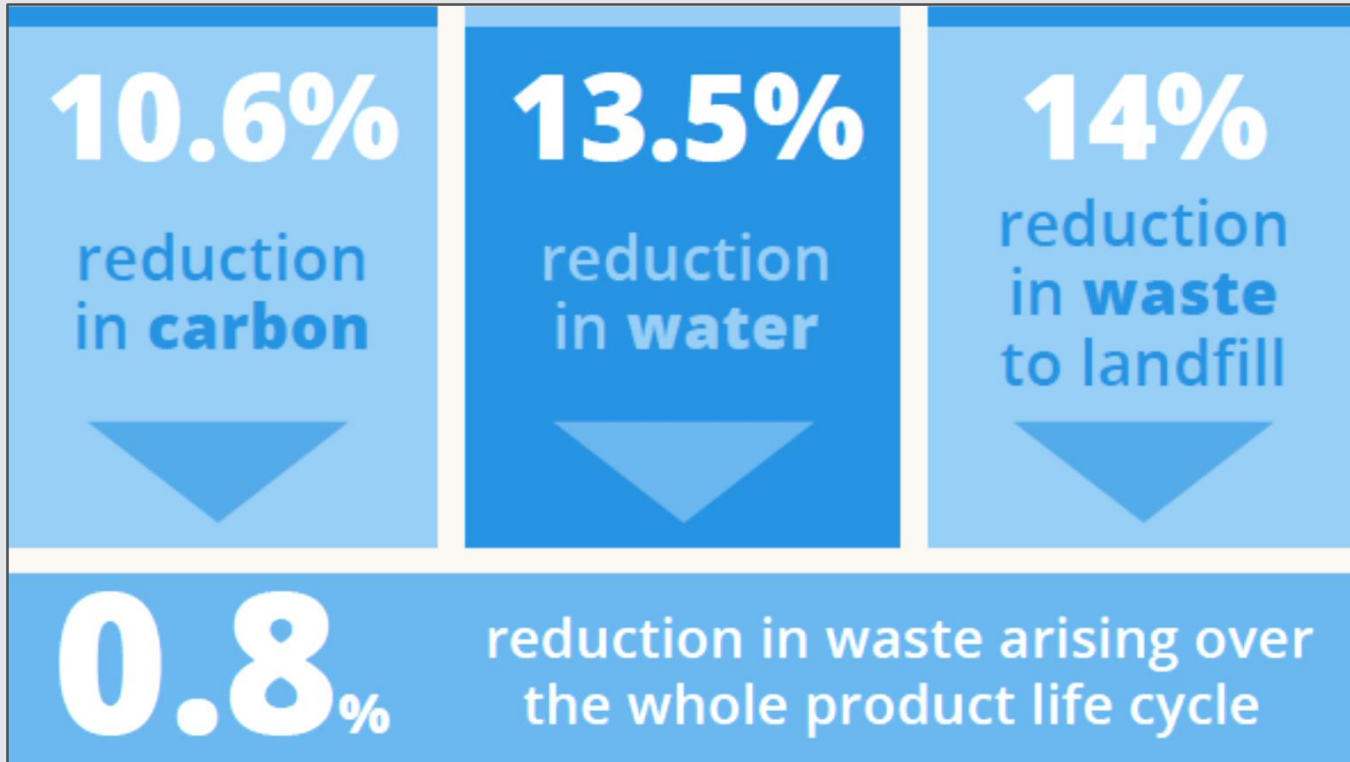
Working from an evidence base



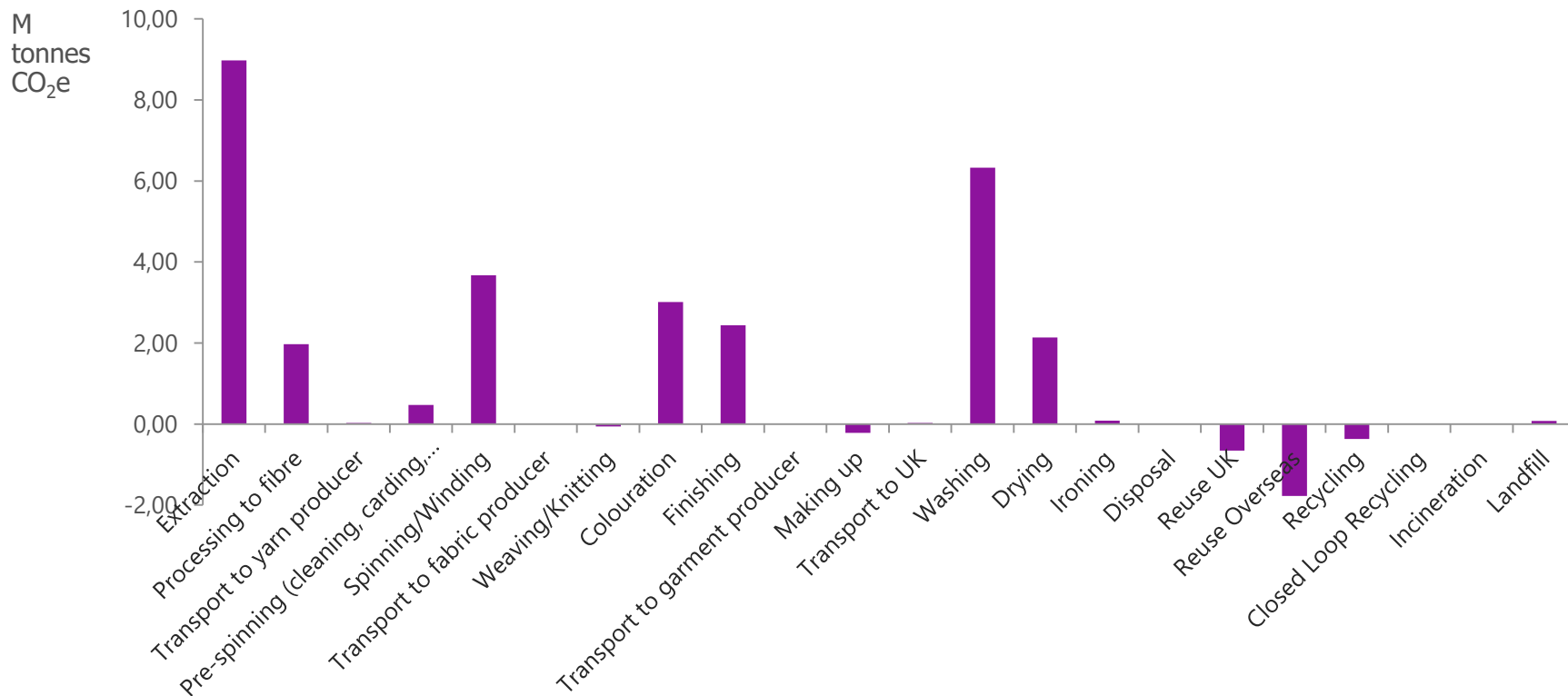
Key findings

- The amount of clothing in household residual waste has reduced by **50,000 tonnes**
- **700,000 tonnes CO₂e** saved through people changing their clothing care habits
- Switching to **sustainable fibres** - biggest opportunities for environmental savings
- There are more savings that can be achieved through a shift to a **circular economy**

SCAP achievements 2012 – 2015



Carbon footprint by process for clothing sold in the UK in 2016




A world map where different regions are colored based on water risk levels. The colors range from light yellow (low risk) to dark red (extremely high risk). High-risk areas (red and dark red) are concentrated in parts of Asia, Africa, and Australia. Lower risk areas (yellow and orange) are found in North America, Europe, and parts of South America and Africa. A large white circle is overlaid on the map, containing text.

10,000 - 20,000 litres

water to
produce 1kg of
conventionally grown
cotton

Overall Water Risk

- Low risk (0-1)
- Low to medium risk (1-2)
- Medium to high risk (2-3)
- High risk (3-4)
- Extremely high risk (4-5)



In 2016, clothing production and
processing for the UK market
produced an estimated

800,000

tonnes of

supply chain waste.

Most of this arises in Asia.

Opportunities to drive change in the clothing industry

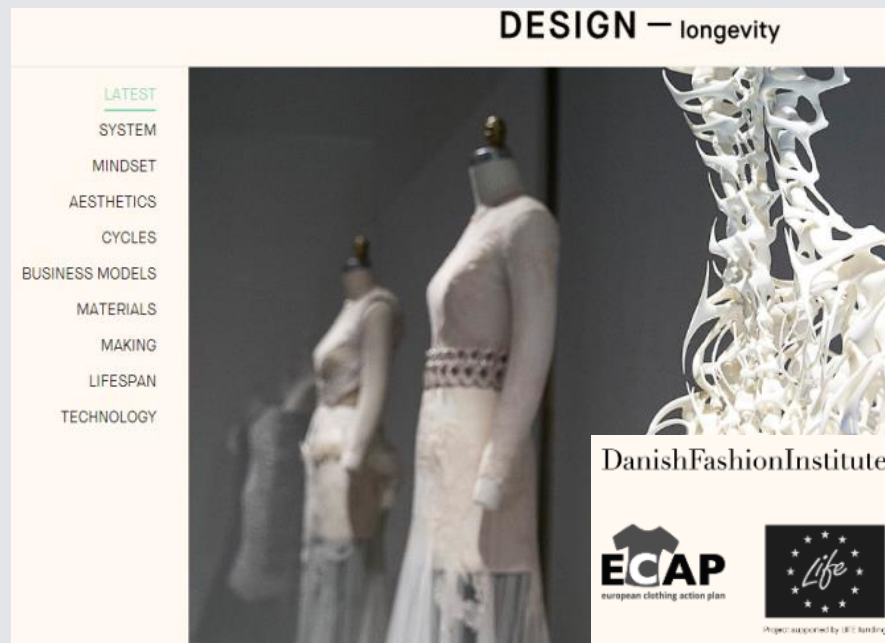
wrap



Designing clothing made to last



www.wrap.org.uk/sustainable-textiles/scap/extending-clothing-life



<https://designforlongevity.com>

Selecting sustainable fibres and fabrics

The diagram shows a circular lifecycle with segments: End of life, Raw materials & textiles, Colouration, Finishing, Garment manufacture, and Consumer. A central 'Design' circle is also present. The 'Raw materials & textiles' segment is highlighted in a dark blue color.

Raw materials & textiles

Encompasses inputs and stages associated with the raw material, through to fabric construction. Textiles refers to greige fabric that is uncoloured and unfinished.

	Recycled Polyester		Lower Impact Cotton
	Organic Cotton		Bio Based Synthetics
	Man Made Cellulose		Recycled nylon

View our bitesize videos on

Consumer guidance



www.loveyourclothes.org.uk

Re-using clothes



An increase of 10%
in **second hand sales**
could save:

3%	4%	1%
CARBON	WATER	WASTE
PER TONNE OF CLOTHING		



If 5-10% of clothing sales are
via **hire and repair** models to
extend their active life, the
savings could be:

30 - 60	80,000 -
MILLION	160,000
M³ OF	TONNES
WATER	OF CO₂e

Recycling clothes



ECAP Fibre to fibre recovery pilots
Workwear companies and fashion retailers



Fore more
information



[www.wrap.org.uk/
sustainabletextiles](http://www.wrap.org.uk/sustainabletextiles)

www.loveyourclothes.org.uk

<https://designforlongevity.com>

<http://ckh.wrap.org.uk>

www.ecap.eu.com

Any questions?



Contact

SCAP@wrap.org.uk

cecile.martin@wrap.org.uk

Thank you