

Clothing and the Environment

The apparel industry accounts for 10% of global carbon emissions and is the 2nd largest industrial polluter, second only to oil. The apparel market, a \$3 trillion global industry, produces synthetics like polyester fiber, which takes 200 years to decompose.

Eileen Fisher Inc. is an American [privately held company](#) founded by Fisher in 1984. As of 2003, 35 percent of the company's clothing was manufactured in the United States while the rest was made in [China](#) in compliance with [Social Accountability International's SA8000](#).^[7] **SA8000** is an auditable certification standard that encourages organizations to develop, maintain, and apply socially acceptable practices in the workplace. It was developed in 1989 by **Social Accountability International**, formerly the **Council on Economic Priorities**, by an advisory board consisting of [trade unions](#), [NGOs](#), civil society organizations and companies.^[1] The SA8000's criteria were developed from various industry and corporate codes to create a common standard for social welfare compliance.

Fisher's company emphasizes [sustainability](#), with 70% of the cotton used in its clothing sourced from [organic cotton](#). In order to reduce [fabric](#) and fiber waste, the company started a recycling program. Customers donate their "gently used" Eileen Fisher clothing in return for a \$5 gift certificate per article. After [dry cleaning](#), the garments are resold—with the income funding business grants for women and leadership programs for young women.^{[9][10]}

- Watch 3 min video <https://www.sourcemap.com/blog/2017/10/7/how-eileen-fisher-maps-supply-chains-exclusive-interview-with-megan-meiklejohn-video>
- Watch presentation with Patagonia 1.5 hours <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n87kHoWS3OU>
- Recycling Your Fashion for a Better Future – H&M, etc. http://www.impactingourfuture.com/sponsored/recycling-your-fashion-for-a-better-future?utm_source=propeller
- You're Probably Going to Throw Away 81 Pounds of Clothing This Year https://www.huffpost.com/entry/youre-likely-going-to-throw-away-81-pounds-of-clothing-this-year_n_57572bc8e4b08f74f6c069d3
- Apparel industry's environmental impact: <https://www.clothingmatters.net/critical-reading.html>