

Sweden's H&M reports 80% sustainable material usage in 2021



Swedish multinational clothing brand Hennes & Mauritz (H&M) has reported that 80 per cent of its resources are either recycled or sourced in more sustainable ways. The brand has tripled the share of recycled materials from 5.8 per cent to 17.9 per cent in 2021 and aims to reach 30 percent by 2025. Its scope 1 and 2 emissions decreased by 22 per cent compared to its 2019 baseline (-34 per cent compared to last year), and scope 3 emissions decreased by 9 per cent compared to 2019 baseline (+6 per cent compared to last year).

H&M has introduced a new goal to reduce its absolute scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions to achieve net-zero standards, by 56 per cent until 2030, from a 2019 baseline. Moreover, in 2021, the company has reported a reduction in its plastic packaging by 27.8 per cent, aiming to reduce the use of packaging throughout the value chain by 25 per cent by 2025, H&M stated in its Annual and Sustainability Report 2021.

The company also launched our innovative circular design tool 'Circulator', underlining our ambition to have all our products designed for circularity by 2025. The new circular business models will enable its customers to enjoy fashion in a more sustainable way by expanding the second hand platform Sellpy into 22 new European markets, amongst other examples.

From January 1, 2022, the brand will not onboard any new suppliers or supplier factories into its supply chain if they have on-site coal boilers in their factories — as part of a longer-term aim to phase out coal from its supply chain.

H&M has also collaborated with policymakers to catalyse systemic change, including joining the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Race to Zero and engaging in COP26.

In H&M's annual anonymised supplier survey, 98 per cent said they consider H&M Group to be a fair business partner (96 per cent in 2020). H&M has also contributed SEK 180.4 million to community investment initiatives, reaching 368,000 beneficiaries, the report added.

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“This year, H&M accelerated its net-zero ambitions and made progress in key areas such as material sourcing, inclusion and diversity, and circular design. H&M has partnered with others to test and scale circular materials, processes, and business models, and to progress social protection and dialogue within its supply chain,” Leyla Ertur, head of sustainability, H&M Group, said.

“We at H&M are proud that its strong recovery continued in 2021 with much-appreciated collections and products, continued customer focus and strong relations with our partners,” Helena Helmersson CEO, H&M Group, said.

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<https://www.fibre2fashion.com/news/apparel-sustainability-news/sweden-s-h-m-reports-80-sustainable-material-usage-in-2021-279871-newsdetails.htm>

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Material supply shortage hits Vietnam's textile exports



Pic: Shutterstock

Vietnamese textile firms are concerned over tight material supply affecting their export plans despite the demand for their textiles being projected to rise steadily in the short term.

The country's textile export is expected to reach up to \$43.5 billion in 2022. The sector's export prospects are getting better as top importers have reopened their economies.

Various free trade agreements taking effect is also adding to the positive expectations, according to the Vietnam Textile and Apparel Association (VITAS).

However, Garment 10 Corp. is concerned that the Chinese Zero-COVID policy and the Russian-Ukraine war will disrupt supply chains, hindering its ability to fulfil new order, according to a report in a Vietnamese English-language daily.

Garment 10 director Than Duc Viet said China remained the leading material exporter to Vietnam, accounting for half of the supply.

His corporation has planned to diversify its suppliers in the next five to ten years to be less dependent on China, but it has to accept the situation and seek support from its partners in the short term.

The situation is even worse for Dap Cau Garment JSC., which imports 80 per cent of its material from China. Its director Nguyen Duc Thang underlined delayed shipments from Shanghai as the main cause for his company's disrupted production. His company has to renegotiate with its partners to put back delivery.

Tran Nhu Tung, chairman of Thanh Cong Textile Garment Investment Trading JSC., revealed that this company would seek the substitution of Korean and Thai materials or rely on domestic materials to deal with the shortages.

Some other companies also thought of the same idea, but only deep-pocketed ones could make it work due to high costs. Those with limited financial capability normally have no choice but to ask for a delay in delivery.

Trinh Xuan Lam, chairman of Tien Son Thanh Hoa JSC., said his company had been sticking to diversification to get through a hard time but with little success. Material from other countries is insufficient to fill the gap left by China.

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According to the general department of customs, textile exports reached \$8.8 billion in the first quarter of 2022, up by 23 per cent compared to the same period last year, representing the highest quarterly growth in 10 years.

VITAS said Vietnamese textile companies are urging the government to soon approve the Development Strategy for Textile and Footwear by 2030 to make the industry self-sufficient in material production and compliant with rules of origin as stated in free trade agreements.

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<https://www.fibre2fashion.com/news/textiles-import-export-news/material-supply-shortage-hits-vietnam-s-textile-exports-280948-newsdetails.htm>

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President Biden Passes Bill Prohibiting Sale of Crib Bumpers, Aims to Reduce Possible Infant Deaths



President Joe Biden has signed new legislation that bans the sale of padded crib bumpers, which have been proven to pose risks to sleeping infants.

The Safe Sleep for Babies Act of 2021 (H.R. 3182), signed into law on Monday, prohibits the manufacture and sale of crib bumpers or inclined sleepers for infants. The bill was first introduced last May by Sen. Tammy Duckworth (D-IL), Sen. Rob Portman (R-OH) and Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-CT).

According to the legislation, crib bumpers are defined as

- Any material that is intended to cover the sides of a crib to prevent injury to any crib occupant from impacts against the side of a crib or to prevent partial or complete access to any openings in the

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sides of a crib or to prevent a crib occupant from getting any part of the body entrapped in any opening

- Includes a padded crib bumper, a supported and unsupported vinyl bumper guard, and vertical crib slat covers; and
- Does not include a non-padded mesh crib liner

A press release from Sen. Duckworth notes that the legislation seeks to protect infant lives as crib bumpers have been "proven to pose an unnecessary, deadly risk to sleeping infants." Padding has been considered a risk as infants can press their faces against the pad, leading to possible suffocation.

"The fact that these deadly products can still be found on shelves across the country is extremely confusing to new parents who don't believe stores would be selling them if they were truly dangerous to babies," Duckworth said in the release. "We should be doing everything we can to help new parents and end preventable deaths like these, which is why I'm proud to be introducing this bipartisan bill with Senators Portman and Blumenthal that would ban the sale of deadly padded crib bumpers."

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<https://www.yahoo.com/lifestyle/president-biden-passes-bill-prohibiting-180010922.html>

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