It's time the Fashion Industry takes action on Climate & Water
The apparel sector is a key contributor to global emissions - and must take action now. Limiting global warming to 1.5°C requires rapid and measurable action at scale. Production facilities have a critical role to play in achieving the industry's goals to reduce water usage and carbon emissions 30% by 2030.1

In addition, water risk is growing and today the apparel sector is underperforming on measuring and monitoring water impact.2

Consumers and brands alike are increasingly selecting products and companies that demonstrate action and make commitments on key environmental topics like water usage and climate change.

OEKO-TEX® introduces new Carbon and Water Footprint Tool for Facilities

The Business Need
Understanding and reporting carbon emissions and water usage across the various production stages will likely be a standard requirement of every business in the future.

The Reporting Challenge
The complexity and differences across global value chains and production processes in the textile industry make the task of gathering robust environmental data very challenging.

A New Solution
OEKO-TEX® is launching a Carbon and Water Footprint Tool to provide production facilities an initial estimate and assessment on the materials and process steps that contribute most to their overall environmental impact.

1 UNFCCC Fashion Industry Charter for Climate Action, 2018 (link)
2 CDP Global Water Report, 2018 (link)
The STeP by OEKO-TEX® certification program is constantly evolving to meet changing industry requirements and to provide benchmarking and continuous improvement guidance.

**Screening Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) for Facilities**

Production facilities need simple, efficient, and credible tools to measure and report on their environmental impacts. This is why we opted for a Screening LCA.

OEKO-TEX® has partnered with Quantis, a leading science-based sustainability consultancy, to develop a transparent methodology and data models to help facilities quantify their carbon and water impacts. As facilities enter their data into the online tool, their real data inputs will be used to update initial data assumptions. These iterative improvements will contribute to building a benchmark and one of the most robust climate impact databases in the industry.

The tool’s output gives facilities first insights into carbon emissions and water usage at the facility level and per kg of material produced. It calculates impacts by production process step vs. impacts generated outside a facility’s direct influence, such as raw material production and transportation.

This enables facilities to identify the biggest opportunities for carbon emission and water reductions - whether to change materials purchased or improve operations.

**Benefits for Facilities**

- Understand production-related carbon emissions and water usage
- Identify which processes have the highest environmental impacts
- Act to reduce carbon and water usage in the future
- Report results and reduction measures to customers

**OEKO-TEX® ROADMAP TOWARDS EXCELLENCE**

**Screening Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) for Facilities**

**Industry Objectives**

- Support the fashion industry goal of 30% reduction in carbon emissions by 2030.
- Reduce industry’s impact on water.

**Value-add for Facilities**

- Demonstrate leadership
- Strengthen trust
- Grow business

**Aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**

**Carbon Footprint**

**Water Footprint**
The tool is built so that future updates can easily be made in various areas:
- Datasets
- Explanations
- User Experience

As there is no standard for production facilities nor market appetite for an expensive full Life Cycle Assessment (LCA), our approach followed five principles of a Screening LCA:
- Simplicity
- Efficiency
- Credibility
- Transparency
- Iterative

Together with industry experts, over 100 key production activities with corresponding inputs and outputs were identified and categorized:

**MAIN CATEGORIES:**
- Yarn Production
- Fabric Manufacturing
- Pre-Treatment
- Drying
- Washing
- Printing
- Finishing
- Making-up

**INPUTS/OUTPUTS:**
- Electricity
- Steam
- Water
- Chemicals
- Packaging
- Transportation
- Wastewater
- Waste Packaging

The diagram explains the rigorous process undertaken to develop the Carbon and Water Footprint Tool for STeP by OEKO-TEX® certified facilities.