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Sustainability Glossary

At Calvin Klein, we push culture and fashion forward through progressive design and values. Our approach to sustainability is no different. That's why we're recreating our iconic designs with more sustainable fibers – aiming to reach 100% sustainably-sourced cotton, viscose and wool by 2025 and polyester by 2030.

This Glossary is an overview of the sustainable materials and processes we use and how they are verified. You can learn more about our sustainability strategy, goals and progress here.

More Sustainable Materials

ORGANIC COTTON

Organic cotton is grown free from synthetic pesticides, synthetic fertilizers and genetically modified seeds. These methods aim to support biodiversity, healthy ecosystems and improve soil quality (source: Textile Exchange).

How is it verified? Organic cotton is certified to standards such as GOTS (Global Organic Textile Standard) and OCS (Organic Content Standard).

TRANSITIONAL COTTON

Transitional cotton, also known as in-conversion cotton, is grown using organic farming methods during the period it takes the farmer to receive the organic certification. This process of transition takes approximately three years, or until the land qualifies to be certified organic under national or international organic standards (source: Textile Exchange).

How is it verified? Transitional cotton is certified to standards such as GOTS (Global Organic Textile Standard) and OCS (Organic Content Standard).

RECYCLED COTTON

Recycled cotton is made from pre-consumer (e.g. waste created during manufacturing) or post-consumer (e.g. used textiles) cotton waste. Recycled cotton reduces the need for harvesting new cotton fibers (source: Textile Exchange).

How is it verified? Recycled cotton is certified to standards such as GRS (Global Recycled Standard) and RCS (Recycled Claim Standard).

REEL COTTON

REEL cotton is produced by independent farmers in India who completed the first year of the three-year REEL Program. The REEL program, managed by Cotton Connect, trains farmers on agricultural practices that seek to improve soil health and water management. Aligned to the regional needs, practices may include reducing synthetic pesticides, synthetic fertilizers or irrigation water use, while focusing on increasing yields and crop success at the smallholder farms (source: Cotton Connect).

How is it verified? Farmer training is verified to the Cotton Connect REEL Code of Conduct for Responsible Environment Enhanced Livelihoods.

REGENERATIVE COTTON

Regenerative cotton is grown using farming methods that seek to improve soil health, watersheds and biodiversity. Regenerative farming methods are selected at each location based on context, climate, and soil type. These methods may include reducing tilliage, use of cover crops to reduce soil erosion, crop rotation, and minimizing the use of synthetic fertilizers and pesticides (source: RegenAgri).

How is it verified? Regenerative cotton is certified to standards such as RegenAgri.

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Animal Fibers

Wool, Down & Leather

At Calvin Klein, we aim to source materials of animal origin in a humane, ethical and sustainable manner with respect to animal welfare, and species conservation. You can learn more about our Animal Welfare Policy here.

RECYCLED LEATHER

Recycled leather re-uses existing leather materials, maintaining the original structure of the material. As an example, this leather can be sourced from disassembled garments and re-sewn into new products (source: Textile Exchange).

How is it verified? Recycled leather is certified to standards such as GRS (Global Recycled Standard) and RCS (Recycled Claim Standard).

RECYCLED LEATHER FIBER

Recycled leather fiber is created by reprocessing leather materials into a new material. Made from leather particles, small pieces or powder derived from pre-consumer (e.g. manufacturing facilities) or post-consumer leather (e.g. used leather products) that are combined to form a new material (source: Textile Exchange).

How is it verified? Recycled leather fibers are certified to standards such as GRS (Global Recycled Standard) and RCS (Recycled Claim Standard).

LEATHER WORKING GROUP

Leather Working Group provides environmental stewardship audits for leather tanneries to assess how leather is manufactured and what inputs are used during processing (source: Leather Working Group).

Calvin Klein is a member of Leather Working Group and requires any product labeled with Leather Working Group (LWG) to source its leather from a facility audited by Leather Working Group.

RECYCLED WOOL AND CASHMERE

Recycled wool and cashmere are created by reprocessing existing materials. The materials are often sourced from fabric cuttings and used woolen clothing, reducing the need for sourcing new fibers (source: Textile Exchange).

How is it verified? Recycled wool and cashmere are certified to standards such as GRS (Global Recycled Standard) and RCS (Recycled Claim Standard).

RESPONSIBLY SOURCED WOOL

Responsibly sourced wool and alpaca fibers are sourced from sheep farms certified for responsible animal and land management practices. These practices seek to support areas such as nutrition, living environment, and overall health of the animals (source: Textile Exchange).

How is it verified? Responsibly sourced wool and alpaca use materials certified to standards such as RWS (Responsible Wool Standard), and RAS (Responsible Alpaca Standard).

RESPONSIBLY SOURCED DOWN

Responsibly-sourced down and feathers are sourced from duck or goose farms certified for responsible and ethical production practices. These practices seek to support areas such as nutrition, living environment, and overall health of the animals (source: Textile Exchange).

How is it verified? Responsibly sourced down is certified to standards such as RDS (Responsible Down Standard) and TDS (Traceable Down Standard).

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Synthetics

Polyester, Nylon, Polyurethane

RECYCLED POLYESTER, NYLON, ACRYLIC AND ELASTANE

Recycled synthetics, such as polyester, nylon, acrylic, and elastane are created by reprocessing existing materials. Synthetic fibers originate from petroleum, so recycled materials reduce demand for new extraction of fossil fuels. Pre-consumer inputs generally come from excess or waste material within the manufacturing process, while post-consumer inputs are from items already used by consumers, such as recycling plastic bottles to create polyester fibers and clothing (source: Textile Exchange).

How is it verified? Recycled polyester, nylon, acrylic, and elastane are certified to standards such as GRS (Global Recycled Standard) and RCS (Recycled Claim Standard).

RECYCLED TPR

Recycled Thermoplastic Rubber (TPR), was created by reprocessing existing rubber materials. Synthetic materials originate from petroleum, so recycled materials reduce demand for new extraction of fossil fuels (source: Textile Exchange).

How is it verified? Recycled TPR is certified to standards such as GRS (Global Recycled Standard) and RCS (Recycled Claim Standard).

RECYCLED PU

Recycled polyurethane (PU) was created by reprocessing existing materials. Synthetic material originate from petroleum, so recycled materials reduce demand for new extraction of fossil fuels. It can be made with both pre-and post-consumer materials that are melted into new resin or shredded, ground and then blended with a bonding agent (source: Textile Exchange).

How is it verified? Recycled polyurethane (PU) is certified to standards such as GRS (Global Recycled Standard) and RCS (Recycled Claim Standard).

REPREVE® POLYESTER

REPREVE® is a type of recycled polyester that uses plastic waste as a feedstock for its material by diverting water bottles from waste streams and reprocessing them into recycled polyester. The plastic is broken down into pellets, extruded into a fiber, and spun into polyester yarns. The REPREVE® company works with brands to quantify how many water bottles are recycled into fiber through the incorporation into a brand's REPREVE® collection (source: REPREVE).

How is it verified? REPREVE® polyester is certified to GRS (Global Recycled Standard) or RCS (Recycled Content Standard).

Man-Made Cellulosics

Viscose, Lyocell, Modal

LYOCELL, MODAL, VISCOSE SOURCED FROM CERTIFIED RESPONSIBLY-MANAGED FORESTS

Modal, lyocell, and viscose are types of man-made cellulosic fibers. Wood pulp or other cellulose plant materials are dissolved then processed into fibers to make yarn and fabrics. The cellulose material can be sourced from certified responsibly managed forests. Responsible forestry supports forestry conservation efforts, to enhance biodiversity and ensure the wood used is not contributing to deforestation (source: Forest Stewardship Council).

How is it verified? The wood or cellulose inputs are certified to the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC®), or the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC).

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TENCEL MODAL

Lenzing's TENCEL™ modal is a branded modal fiber manufactured by Lenzing. Fibers are made from energy-self-sufficient wood pulp sourced from beech trees in responsibly managed forests. Responsible forestry supports forestry conservation efforts, to enhance biodiversity and ensure the wood used is not contributing to deforestation (source: Lenzing).

How is it verified? The fabrics hold a Lenzing Fabric Certificate and the source material is certified to FSC (Stewardship Council (FSC®), or the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC).

TENCEL LYOCELL

Lenzing's TENCEL™ Lyocell is a branded lyocell fiber created by Lenzing. The fibers are created from wood pulp sourced from responsibly managed forests. Responsible forestry supports forestry conservation efforts, to enhance biodiversity and ensure the wood used is not contributing to deforestation. Lenzing also manufactures its TENCEL™ Lyocell fiber in a closed loop spinning process which recovers and reuses 99% of the water and solvent to lower the environmental impact of fiber production (source: Lenzing).

How is it verified? The fabrics hold a Lenzing Fabric Certificate and the source material is certified to FSC (Stewardship Council (FSC®), or the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC).

TENCEL LYOCELL x REFIBRA

Lenzing's TENCEL™ Lyocell x REFIBRA™ fibers are made from pre-consumer cotton textile waste and wood pulp sourced from certified responsibly managed forests. It utilizes around 30% upcycled cotton scraps (i.e. from garment production) and 70% wood pulp. Through the addition of the cotton scraps TENCEL™ Lyocell x REFIBRA™ fibers reduce the need for virgin raw materials (source: Lenzing).

How is it verified? Lenzing fibers have a Lenzing Fabric Certificate and are certified to standards such as GRS (Global Recycled Standard) and RCS (Recycled Claim Standard) for recycled material and Forest Stewardship Council (FSC®), or the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) for the wood pulp.

LENZING ECOVERO

LENZING™ ECOVERO™ viscose fibers are a more sustainable alternative to conventional viscose made by Lenzing. Derived from wood pulp sourced from certified responsibly managed forests, their production process reduces the generation of greenhouse gas emissions and water pollution by up to 50% when compared to conventional viscose (source: Lenzing).

How is it verified? The fabrics hold a Lenzing Fabric Certificate and the source material is certified to FSC (Stewardship Council (FSC®), or the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC).

CIRCULOSE

Circulose® is a new material using a technology that transforms pre- and post-consumer textile waste into a pulp for man-made cellulosic fibers. Created by Renewcell, fibers made with Circulose® use recycled cotton textile waste as a raw material. The Circulose® production process is powered by 100% renewable energy (source: Renewcell).

How is it verified? Circulose® is certified to RCS (Recycled Claim Standard).

INFINNA

Infinna™ is a man-made cellulosic fiber (MMCF) created out of cotton-rich post-consumer textile waste, using Infinited Fiber Company´s patented chemical recycling technology (source: Infinited)

How is it verified? Infinna™ fibers are certified to RCS (Recycled Content Standard).

More Sustainable Processes

LOWER IMPACT DENIM

Denim has traditionally used intensive processes to create the "wash" or the final look of the garment, from color to fading to whiskering. Lower Impact Denim achieves its finished look using a lower impact process, with less water, energy, or chemicals when compared to an industry standard approach (source: Jeanologia).

How is it verified? The impact of the wash process is monitored through a measurement tool developed by sustainable solutions experts called Jeanologia.