

KZN CTC BULLETIN February 2017

Welcome to the first bulletin of the KZN CTC for 2017. Click on any link below to be redirected to the full online version of the bulletin.

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Articles in the bulletin are

- [Recent Events: KZN CTC Planning Session](#)
- [Feature Article](#)
- [Industry News](#)

1. RECENT EVENTS

1.1 KZN CTC PLANNING SESSION

The KZN CTC Executives were invited to a planning session, to discuss and give input into the activity plan for the 2017 financial year. The purpose of the workshop was to gather input from relevant stakeholders in order to plan relevant and beneficial activities for 2017.

Other events organised by the KZN CTC are as follows:

Date	Event
	Executive
19 October 2016	Exco Meeting
19 October 2016	Executive Training Session: Investment Climate Study
23 November 2016	Black Industrialists Scheme Briefing
08 February 2017	Exco Meeting
08 February 2017	KZN CTC Planning Session
	World Class Manufacturing
13 October 2016	Innovation Session: Implementing Total Quality Management (Gelvenor Textiles)
	Small and Medium Enterprises
April- November 2016	SME Firms Priority Setting and Direct Intervention
	Skills Development Programme
Aug- Nov 2016	Marburg (Port Shepstone) TRACE

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2 THE CONCEPT OF INDUSTRIAL SYMBIOSIS AND THE CTFL INDUSTRY

2.1 INTRODUCTION

The automotive and other sectors have, for a number of years, been under increasing social and regulatory pressure to reduce their harmful impact on the environment (ICCT; 2014). In South Africa, the clothing and textiles industry has lagged in the adoption of environmentally friendly practices (Mehta, Goyal; 2015).

On a global scale, the fashion, apparel and textiles industry accounts for 10 % of carbon emissions, being the second largest industrial polluter after oil. Globally, 24% of all insecticides and 11% of all pesticides are used in cotton farming. It is the single largest pesticide-consuming crop in the world, with adverse effects on soil and water. As a whole, the fashion industry is the second biggest polluter of freshwater resources globally (Conca; 2015).

Cotton farmers are not the only contributors to environmental waste in the value chain. Every production process involved in textile production and garment construction produces some kind of indirect or direct environmental waste. The implementation of lean practices goes some way to reducing this waste. Little consideration is, however, given to the environmental impact of raw material wastage. By way of an example, it is also estimated that 15% of the textiles intended for clothing manufacture end up on the cutting room floor (Textile Future; 2016).

This article looks at some examples of South Africa and foreign initiatives to reduce raw material waste through a process called Industrial Symbiosis. Basically, ensuring that direct waste is reused, or processed for reuse. This lowers overall demand for raw materials.

2.2 ACA THREADS – REUSING THREAD SPOOLS

The Western Cape has a programme to facilitate waste reduction initiatives, the Western Cape Industrial Symbiosis Programme. The first case study is one of the initiatives that have come through this programme.

ACA Threads, a sewing thread manufacturer, has initiated one such initiative. The company purchases back empty thread spools from their customers. This is mutually beneficial as it generates extra income for the customers and reduces their waste. The empty spools are then cleaned and re-used in the production process at ACA Threads, reducing their costs as they do not have to purchase new spools. Damaged spools are sold to the injection moulder to be reground.

ACA has seen considerable benefits from this initiative over a 5 year period:

- The company has saved more than R460 000 through recovering and re-suing units
- The savings have made the company more competitive

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- ACA Threads has managed to generate new sales from customers interested in the sustainable approach
- ACA's customers have saved more than R55000 by landfill diversion
- The company has paid more than R41 500 back to their customers
- 7 tons of non-biodegradable polypropylene diverted from landfills
- The spools are cleaned by 2 charitable associations, an income of R120900 has been generated.

Please access the full case study by clicking [here](#).

2.3 FARBE DESIGNS AND CSK MATERIAL HANDLING – RECYCLING TEXTILES

A second initiative facilitated by the Western Cape Industrial Symbiosis Programme (WISP) is a partnership between Farbe Designs and CSK Material Handling.

Farbe is a clothing manufacturer based in Stellenbosch. With over 20 years of experience in the industry. The firm designs and manufactures high quality promotional, corporate, sports and leisure wear. The firm reached out to Stellenbosch Municipality for assistance in implementing a waste management programme. They were put in touch with WISP which was able to determine that Farbe produced approximately 2 tonnes of underutilised textile, plastic and paper waste monthly.

CSK Material, a KwaZulu Natal based company, is involved in the collection of plastics, paper and textiles for the purposes of recycling. A partnership was formed between CSK and Farbe in which CSK collects Farbe's dry recyclable materials. The textiles are shredded to produce fibres that are sold to various manufacturers of underfelt for carpets. The plastic and paper waste is recycled normally to produce recycled plastics and paper.

As a result of the partnership, Farbe has been able to divert approximately 20 tonnes of textile and recyclable waste annually from landfills, creating about R8000 per annum in economic benefits.

Please access the full case study by clicking [here](#).

2.4 THE H&M FOUNDATION –RECYCLING BLENDED FABRICS

Nowadays it is possible to recycle single fibre fabrics such as denim and wool. Garments are however often made from a blend of different fibres to alter the fit, style and longevity. Blended fabrics account for a high proportion of all products, yet no commercially viable technologies exist to separate, sort and recycle these.

The H&M Foundation, a global non-profit through H&M, has a mission to improve living conditions by investing in people, communities and innovative idea. The Foundation has partnered with the Hong Kong Research Institute of Textiles and Apparel (HKRITA) to develop new technologies to recycle blend textiles into new fabrics and yarns. These technologies will be licensed widely to ensure broad market access.

Please access the full article by clicking [here](#).

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2.5 CONCLUSION

The development of production processes using lower amounts of energy, water, pesticides and hazardous chemicals is an important consideration for all players in the clothing, textiles, footwear and leather value chain. Moreover, finding innovative solutions to re-use and recycle waste materials from the production process is becoming increasingly important.

A key aspect of improving the environmental impact of the value chain is consumer behaviour and education in terms of how they select, care for and dispose of clothing and footwear. Retailers can significantly influence this behaviour through regulation and value chain support. But, also through consumer education initiatives. .

The cases provided in this article provide examples of innovative solutions undertaken by suppliers, manufacturers and retailers in waste reduction. The South African examples required no new investments from both ACA Threads and Farbe. It was simply a matter of thinking about their waste materials in a different way.

2.6 REFERENCES

Conca, J. (2015). Making Climate Change Fashionable - The Garment Industry Takes On Global Warming. Retrieved from: <https://www.forbes.com>

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3 INDUSTRY NEWS

3.1 SUPPLY CHAIN NEWS

[Textile industry can boost South African economy: Minister](#)

By: Fibre2Fashion, 27 Feb 2017

The textile industry is one of the most strategic platforms through which South Africa can bolster trade of its local products, Jeff Radebe, minister for planning, monitoring and evaluation, has said. The textile manufacturing industry is an ideal model for sustainable entrepreneurship as it encourages productivity, hard work and self-reliance.

[Competition watchdog probes R10-billion school uniform monopoly](#)

By: Bongani Mthethwa, Taschica Pillay and Matthew Savides, 18 December 2016

The Competition Commission is investigating large South African school uniform groups over pricing concerns.

3.2 RETAILER NEWS

[Slump hurts Truworths most](#)

By: Colleen Goko, 17 February 2017

Truworths has reported the worst decline in interim sales volumes of all the listed retailers on the JSE.

[Woolworths to buy Australian men's fashion retailer Politix](#)

By: Nqobile Dlodla, 5 October 2016

Woolworths Holdings plans to buy Australian men's fashion brand Politix through its subsidiary, Country Road Group.

Your Ideas

If you have any ideas for improvement or would just like to get in touch, please contact
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