



Textile Waste - Decision Tree

START

Prevent

What planning and forecasting processes have been implemented to reduce excess inventory?

Reduce

What processes have been implemented to reduce defects and misprints?

How has product and decoration been designed to ensure longevity to maximize re-wear?

Reuse/Recycle

What category of materials do you have on hand?

Textile Scraps

Decorated Product

Undecorated Product

Are you able to use textile scraps in your operations, e.g. shop rags?

Does the product need to be destroyed for brand protection or quality issues?

Can the product be held in inventory for future orders?

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

Use scraps until no longer usable

Does your municipality recycle textiles?

Find a textile recycler who offers certificates of destruction and derives maximum value from materials, e.g. recycling/downcycling

Keep in inventory

Find a local non-profit for in-kind donation

YES

NO

Contact your municipality to locate drop-off locations or schedule pick-up, where available

Contact a textile recycler to recycle materials

Find a local non-profit for in-kind donation

Recovery

Contact a waste-to-energy provider to dispose of materials

Disposal

AVOID

Developed by Emily Gigot, SanMar, in collaboration with industry colleagues.