Forest talk

How can democratization of the forests contribute to a sustainable textile industry?

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Södra is Sweden’s largest forest-owner association with more than 50,000 forest owners as its members.

Södra was founded in 1938 on the idea that we are stronger together.

Together we will grow a sustainable tomorrow / society.
With roots in the forest we create the future

Our members both inherit the forest from their parents and borrow it from their children
The forest

As a carbon sink
A thriving countryside
Biodiversity
Substitution of fossil material
Renewable and circular textile

OnceMore® is the world’s first large-scale process for recycling blended fabrics.

It was launched in 2019 with 3 percent recycled textile content, now we are reaching a share of 20 percent recycled textile content, and our target is 50 percent.

With OnceMore®, Södra is making an important contribution in the shift towards a sustainable textile industry.
The OnceMore® process

TODAY!
TEXTILE WASTE 20%
COTTON & POLYESTER
70 % / 30%
BRIGHT COLORS

RENEWABLE WOOD

TOMORROW!
TEXTILE WASTE 50%
MIXED COLORS AND MATERIALS

BACK TO THE TEXTILE VALUE CHAIN AS DISSOLVING PULP FOR VISCOS AND LYOCELL

THE ONCEMORE® PROCESS
What our garments consist of!

And what we eventually need to recycle

Cotton 43%
Polyester 19%
~ 10% PolyCotton
Unknown 8%
Acrylic 12%
Viscose 6%
Polyamide 4%
Wool 5%
Unknown 8%

Källa: Re-fashion, Characterisation study of the incoming and outcoming streams from sorting facilities. 2023 Terra.
How can democratization of the forests contribute to a sustainable textile industry?

If you ask forest owners in southern part of Sweden what they dream about – without being governed by regulations and other circumstances, a recent survey by Linnaeus University gives an indication…

…it is about adapted tree species, about creating deciduous forests, more varied forest management, mixed forests and biodiversity.

Take time to listen to those who own the forest because their mindset of combining goals enables many different values to be developed in the forest!

Full article: The potential to develop environmental values on privately owned forest land in southern Sweden (tandfonline.com)
LCA
Benefits of OnceMore®
Net-zero climate impact

89% less water

54% less energy

Avoids disposal of 0.75kg of textiles in landfill or incineration for each kg of dissolving pulp produced