



What is Fibersort?

Fibersort is an Interreg funded project based in NWE. The Fibersort technology automatically sorts large volumes of mixed post-consumer textiles by fibre type, and it does so with a high degree of accuracy. This development will provide a new market for low-value textiles and supply textile-to-textile recyclers with large volumes of quality-assured feedstock for their processes. Industry input is very important to the success of this project.

Why the industry needs Fibersort

- Textiles require a tremendous amount of resources to create, including water, CO₂, chemistry, and energy. All of this embedded value is lost when these materials are landfilled or incinerated.
- High value recycling technologies require a supply of precise and constant feedstocks (ie: old garments/textiles that have been sorted into specific fibre categories).
- There is not yet an efficient and automated textile sorting process, to create textile recycling feedstocks for these technologies.

Impact for collectors, sorters and recyclers

- Markets are soft and margins are low
- The quality and value of used clothing is decreasing
- New business opportunities are needed for the future

Benefits for collectors, sorters and recyclers

- Create new markets for low-value textiles
- Increase the availability of sustainable textiles for the future

- Learn about a circular supply chains, recycling technologies and recycled fibres

Goals of Working Group

- Present Fibersort technology for industry review and feedback
- Identify potential barriers, market influences, policies, and other factors that can impact the implementation of Fibersort over the long-term
- Define standard grade groups for future Fibersort users to make and sell feedstocks for textile recycling technologies
- Create a network of frontrunning organisations of collectors, sorters and recyclers to collaborate and close the loop on textiles

Working Group deliverables

- Remote or in-person working sessions
- **List:** Barriers, market factors, policies, and other factors impacting transition to auto-sortation of post consumer textiles in NWE (public)
- **List:** Recycling feedstock grades, availability, and certification requirements (public)
- **Report:** Policy macro-trends and recommendations (Public)
- **Report:** Case studies of barriers and success factors for Fibersort uptake in NWE (Public)
- Preview and testing of [Circle Market](#)

Types of stakeholders involved

- **Working Group:**
 - Textile collectors
 - Textile sorters
 - Chemical and mechanical recyclers
- **Producer Network:**
 - Apparel brands
 - Designers
 - Retailers
 - Manufacturers
- **Industry related NGOs**
- **Academia**

Meetings and agenda items

Timing	Task	Details
Q3 2017	Meeting 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Group Kick Off
Q4 2017	Meeting 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Update: Project progress ● Discussion: Fibersort performance results ● Data Preview: What's in post consumer textiles?
Q1 2018	Event	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Site Visit: Smart Fibersorting
Q2 2018	Meeting 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Update: Project progress ● Discussion: Fibersort performance results and business model implications, materials availability ● Tool: Circle Market invitation
Q3 2018	Meeting 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Update: Project progress ● Review: Feedstock grades, availability, and certification ● Discussion: Barriers, market factors, and policy impacting Fibersort success ● Tool: Circle Market update
Q4 2018	Meeting 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Update: Project progress ● Review: Barriers, market factors, policy take-aways ● Discussion: Post consumer textiles contents and concentrations, Fibersort business model implications
Q1 2019	Meeting 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Update: Project progress ● Review: Links between market trends and policy, Fibersort business case ● Discussion: Report concepts
Q2 2019	Meeting 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Update: Project progress ● Review: Early report drafts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Policy

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Barriers and success factors for Fibersort
Q3 2019	Meeting 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Update: Project progress ● Review: Final report draft <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Policy ○ Barriers and success factors for Fibersort
Q3 2019	Closing Event	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Site Visit: Smart Fibersorting ● Project recap and closing ● Final reports released

NOTE: Meeting timing and agendas may be adjusted depending on project progress