



Fibersort Working Group

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 supplies textile-to-textile recyclers with large volumes of quality-assured feedstock for their processes and is therefore a key technology to enable the transition to a circular system.

Why does the industry need Fibersort

- Textiles require a tremendous amount of resources to be produced, including water, CO₂, chemicals, 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 feedstock (ie. old garments/textiles that have been sorted into specific fibre categories).
- Reaching the widespread implementation of an efficient and automated textile sorting process, to create textile recycling feedstock for these technologies is therefore essential.

Impact for collectors, sorters and recyclers

- Currently 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

- Support the creation of new markets for low-value textiles.
- Increase the availability of sustainable textiles for the future.
- Learn about a circular value chains, recycling technologies and recycled fibres.

Working Group Goals

- Present the Fibersort technology for industry review and feedback.
- Identify potential barriers, market influences, policies, and other factors that can impact the long-term implementation of the Fibersort technology.
- Define standard grade groups and end-markets for future Fibersort users to produce feedstock 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

- **Online Webinars**
- **List:** Recycling feedstock grades, availability, and certification requirements. (Published December 2018)
- **List:** Barriers, market factors, policies, and other factors impacting transition to automated sortation of post consumer textiles in NWE. (Published May 2019)
- **Report:** Policy recommendation to catalyze the uptake of recycled fibres into the apparel industry through the use of Fibersort technology. (Public)
- **Report:** Case studies describing key barriers and success factors for effective Fibersort market uptake in NWE. (Public)

Types of stakeholders involved

- Textile Collectors
- Textile Sorters
- Chemical and Mechanical Recyclers
- Industry related NGOs
- Academia