



## **TEXTILE RECYCLING: A WIN-WIN SITUATION!**

### **Environmental Facts:**

- The average North American discards over 65 pounds of clothing and textiles each year (some 2 million tons of textiles are discarded in Canadian landfills each year).
- The vast majority (89%) of discarded textiles still have 75% wear left.
- Extending the average life of clothes by just three months of active use would lead to a 5-10% reduction in each of the carbon, water and waste footprints.

### **Textile Recycling:**

- Textile recycling is very efficient - approximately 93% of all waste is successfully reclaimed (items re-sold as used clothing, reprocessed as fibres (stuffing for vehicle seats, upholstery, insulation, etc.), and converted to cloth wipes).
- Benefits associated with recycling clothing are excellent; (i) reduces the amount of pesticides/chemicals and water to make/dye new items and cuts down the pollutants and gases released in the manufacturing process.

### **What Happens to the Clothes?**

- All clothing collected is sold to importers and wholesalers in many countries of North America, Eastern and Western Europe, Africa and Asia.
- Approximately 80% of collected clothing is reused as clothes and the other 20% enters the recycling industry for bed manufacture, socks, blankets and the industrial wiper trade.

### **Interesting Fact:**

- The textiles thrown away in one year in Canada could fill Toronto's Rogers Centre (formerly Sky Dome) three times over.