



Greetings from HSY!

The recycling and recovery of all materials is important in order to reduce the amount of waste and increase the recycling rate. Even if the recycling of textiles becomes cost-effective in the future, it will not balance the environmental burden caused by their production. Everyone should control consumption in general.

Helsinki Region Environmental Services HSY is Finland's largest public environmental operator. At HSY, we provide municipal water and waste management services as well as information about the Helsinki Metropolitan Area and the environment. More than one fifth of the entire population of Finland lives in our area. We provide waste management services to residents and municipal administration and service activities in the Helsinki Metropolitan Area and Kirkkonummi. We promote the circular economy and aim for more efficient waste utilisation. Together we make the world's most sustainable urban region!

We started collecting end-of-life textiles on an experimental basis at our Sortti stations at the end of 2019. In 2022, we piloted collection in ten shopping centres, bringing collection points closer to residents and developing operations based on experiences. The amount of end-of-life textiles increased further and sorting awareness increased.

At the beginning of this year, we stopped collecting at Sortti stations, but continued it in shopping centres and established new collection points at three Recycling Centre locations in Helsinki, Espoo and Vantaa. People have found the collection points well and praised the service.

HSY has been involved in the Telaketju network for a long time – first in the Telaketju project and now in the Telavalue project. As an operator collecting end-of-life textiles, we hope that even the most challenging materials will find targets for further use. It has been a pleasure to see how a lot of work is being done around end-of-life textiles in order to implement a functional circular economy.

Greetings,

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Researcher exchange and cooperation around the new business models for circular economy

Piia Nurmi from Turku University of Applied Sciences went on a researcher exchange to the University of Borås, to the Swedish School of Textiles, in Sweden in May 2023. She spent an intense period in Borås, learned a lot and was able to present our own research. Read more about her thoughts!

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Swimwear and underwear from marine plastic waste – good or bad?

Since clothing made of plastic consumes nature's non-renewable resources, the textile industry is trying to solve the problem by using plastic collected from the sea as a material. However, there are problems with clothing made of marine plastic, although the idea of cleaning up the seas is attractive.

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Companies in Telavalue

Fiare

Fiare is a growing software company with 80 professionals offering a flexible service, ability, and top know-how. Our offices are in Helsinki, Finland; London, the UK; and Rajkot, India.

Fiare's long-standing record in creating successful marketplaces is taking on a new role in the circular economy by stitching together the key players of the textile industry. Fiare's Textile Circular Economy Marketplace is a B2B platform that aims to bring together companies with end-of-life textiles or side flows and firms enabling the circulation and reuse of materials.

Fiare's multi-vendor solution enables early adopters to gain experience with how their end-of-life textiles can be circulated and reused for fibre and non-woven products. Offering brands and retailers an avenue to integrate environmental, economic and social issues into their business operations.

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Fortum

Fortum Bio2x is developing a new kind of biorefinery concept, in which low-utilized biomass, such as straw, is used as a raw material. Lignocellulosic biomass is to be procured locally near the biorefineries, from sustainably available sources. Using organosolv fractionation technology, biomass is converted into high-quality biomaterials with good material efficiency and a small environmental footprint. Bio2X started as a research project at Fortum in 2014 and is currently moving towards commercial scale with two biorefinery projects, one in India and the other in Europe. Until now, the biorefinery concept has been proven on a pilot scale, and Chempolis' pilot plant in Finland produces samples for industrial testing and process development.

At Telavalue, we are particularly interested in the recyclability of new types of bio-based fibers and the possibility of mixing recycled fibers with straw-based fibers.

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Telaketju is an active cooperation network that aims to promote sustainable production, use and circulation of textiles.

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