



## TEXTILE RECYCLING FACT SHEET

- The textile recycling industry, with some 350 members, remove annually from the solid waste stream 2.5 billion pounds of post consumer textile product waste.
- This 2.5 billion pounds of post consumer textile waste represents 10 pounds for every person in the United States. Of this amount, approximately 500 million pounds are used by the collecting agency, with the balance sold to textile recyclers, including used clothing dealers and exporters, wiping rag graders, and fiber recyclers.
- Most of the recycling firms are small, family-owned businesses, with fewer than 500 employees, the majority having between 35 and 50 people. The industry as a whole employs approximately 10,000 semi-skilled and marginally employable workers at the primary processing level, and creates an additional 7,000 jobs at the final processing stage. Primary and secondary processors account for annual gross sales of \$400 million and \$300 million respectively.
- Textile recycling firms contribute to the revenue base of federal, state and local governments. In addition, these firms purchase a large percentage of their raw materials from charitable institutions, who in turn use these funds to house, feed, and train the less fortunate.
- Industry members are able to recycle 93 percent of the waste they process – without producing any new hazardous waste or harmful by-products.
- Textile recyclers export 61 percent of their products, thus reducing the U.S. trade deficit.
- Post-consumer textile product waste comprises about 4.5 percent of the residential waste stream, which translates into approximately 35 pounds per person, totalling 8.75 billion pounds.

### Breakdown of Recycled Post Consumer Textile Product Waste

	<u>Domestic</u>	<u>Exports</u>	<u>Total</u>
Used clothing	—	35%	35%
Fiber for reprocessing	7%	26%	33%
Wipers	25%	—	25%
Landfill	<u>7%</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>7%</u>
Total	39%	61%	100%

For further information, please call Bernard Brill at 301/718-0671.