

# Ralph Lauren Corporation to invest in Natural Fiber Recycling

Perfect Sourcing

August 18, 2020

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**Length:** 497 words

**Byline:** Perfect Sourcing Newsdesk

## Body

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Ralph Lauren Corporation announced a minority investment in Natural Fiber Welding, Inc. (NFW), a leading sustainable material science startup that has revolutionized the reuse of natural fibers - such as cotton waste - into patented, high-performance materials. As a part of the investment, Ralph Lauren will help scale NFW's patented process and develop first-of-its-kind performance apparel made from natural, sustainable materials.

Through this investment, Ralph Lauren looks to expand its use of recycled post-consumer cotton, helping to advance the Company's progress toward sourcing 100 percent of its key materials, including cotton, by 2025 and integrating zero-waste principles across its business. Over time, the partnership will enable Ralph Lauren to replace and reduce its reliance on non-biodegradable synthetics, such as polyester and nylon, while scaling the use of more sustainable and upcycled materials.

We have evolved and progressed our business for more than 50 years because we constantly push ourselves to think openly and differently about how to approach challenges," said David Lauren, Vice Chairman & Chief Innovation Officer at Ralph Lauren. "Today, sustainability is an area where this is especially important, and investing with partners to scale innovative solutions is a key part of our sustainability strategy. We are excited to support the work of NFW, a pioneer in this field. Their technology has the power to not only advance our work at Ralph Lauren, but effect positive change across the entire industry."

Recycled cotton is often unsuitable for use in new cotton apparel due to the short fibers created during recycling. Founded in 2015, NFW has solved this challenge with an innovative process that welds short fibers into longer fibers to create high-performance cotton yarns which can incorporate cotton and other plant-based waste fibers. This patented process transforms these materials in ways that were never possible before, creating an opportunity to reuse post-consumer cotton waste and impart performance characteristics into the fiber. The resulting upcycled material outperforms synthetic fabrics while still retaining the comfortable feel of cotton.

"We are thrilled to have the investment, support and insight of Ralph Lauren, an industry icon whose commitment to timelessness - to true sustainability - is central to who they are," said Dr. Luke Haverhals, Founder and CEO at NFW. "We look forward to working together as we scale our best-in-class technology that has the potential to transform the way companies approach fabric and sourcing."

Ralph Lauren Corporation (NYSE:RL) is a global leader in the design, marketing and distribution of premium lifestyle products in five categories: apparel, footwear & accessories, home, fragrances and hospitality. For more than 50 years, Ralph Lauren's reputation and distinctive image have been consistently developed across an expanding number of products, brands and international markets.

## Ralph Lauren Corporation to invest in Natural Fiber Recycling

**Load-Date:** August 18, 2020

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# Climate change: Hong Kong-based Ralph Lauren supplier Esquel opens green unit as textile firms aim to make China-made products sustainable

South China Morning Post.com

September 13, 2022 Tuesday

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**Section:** BIZ

**Length:** 1128 words

## Body

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The industry's green movement is in its infancy, but has great potential given global concerns and China's decarbonisation policy, industry analysts say. The market potential for sustainable fashion is huge, but greater industry coordination is needed to drive efforts, they say.

Hong Kong and mainland Chinese companies in the textile and garment industry are trying to burnish their image and do right by the environment by adopting more sustainable practices.

The industry's green movement is still in its infancy, but has great potential given global environmental concerns and China's decarbonisation policy drive, industry analysts said.

This month, Hong Kong-based Esquel Group, one of the world's largest garment producers and suppliers, opened up a green manufacturing park in Guilin, Guangxi province, to showcase its innovations and efforts in sustainable supply.

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The company, which produces clothes for brands including Tommy Hilfiger and Ralph Lauren, demonstrated what it calls waterless dyeing technology. The process reduces water use in the overall dyeing process by 95 per cent while eliminating the use of salt and reducing energy consumption by almost 40 per cent, according to the company.

Esquel has been working with research institutes across China to develop cotton with high resilience against climate change and diseases, and has also invested around US\$5 million in sustainable projects related to clean energy and smart manufacturing through its newly established Esquel Ventures.

The company reduced its carbon footprint last year by a quarter compared to 2018 levels and will achieve carbon neutrality for its owned and controlled greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) by 2050, CEO Edgar Tung said in Guilin this month.

"Esquel alone is not enough to achieve sustainable development," he said. "We must cooperate with other organizations to actively promote the concept of sustainable development."

Other fashion industry companies in China are also actively promoting sustainability.

Icicle Group, a Shanghai-based brand focusing on sustainability and use of natural fabrics, took the top spot on online marketplace Tmall's Singles' Day sale in 2020 in the luxury womenswear category, above well-known

## Climate change: Hong Kong-based Ralph Lauren supplier Esquel opens green unit as textile firms aim to make China-made products sustainable

international brands such as Theory and Sandro. Several other players in China's textile manufacturing scene, including cashmere brand Erdos Group and Hong Kong-based Crystal International Group, are also advocating sustainable fashion and including it in their business strategies.

Sustainable development in China's textile and apparel industry lags that in Europe and the US, said Karen Du, the head of Shanghai-based R.I.S.E. Lab, an organisation dedicated to sustainable fashion.

"However, with the guidance of national policies such as in environmental protection and carbon neutrality, as well as with consumers' increasing awareness of sustainable consumption, the market potential is huge," Du said.

Sustainable development in China is a top-down affair, with international and domestic policies driving brands and manufacturers, according to Vincent Djen, co-founder of Shanghai-based Remakehub, a social enterprise that provides circular solutions for fashion waste pollution.

"The US and EU have dominant voices in the fashion industry," Djen said. "They bring the trend and culture of sustainable fashion to China and affect China's fashion industry."

The fashion industry is responsible for up to 8 per cent of global GHG emissions, according to the United Nations (UN) Environment Programme last year. In 2019, the UN launched the UN Alliance for Sustainable Fashion, seeking to halt the environmentally and socially destructive practices of fashion.

Government policies demanding sustainable manufacturing also have an impact on China's garment and textile industry, according to Du. An example is Europe's promotion of the EU carbon border adjustment mechanism, which aims to impose a tax on imports manufactured in countries where decarbonisation standards fall below those of the EU.

China's own requirements for a more sustainable industry are also a major driving force, according to Djen. China announced in 2020 its goal of the whole country achieving net-zero GHG emissions by 2060. In April of this year, the central government issued guidelines on accelerating the recycling of waste textiles, a move that should further promote the industry's sustainable transition.

An increasing number of domestic brands in China are also improving their performance in sustainable development, from raw material procurement to production, according to Du. For example, both HowBottle, which turns plastic bottles into backpacks and jackets, and Klee Klee, which focuses on eco-friendly and minimal clothing designs, have gained popularity among Chinese consumers this year.

So far, China's domestic apparel and textile industry has tended to focus more on environmental sustainability, due to China's emphasis on the net-zero emission goal, than on other areas of the environmental, social and governance (ESG) spectrum, experts said.

Esquel last October issued a report highlighting its progress in meeting the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals and said that it will work on improving employees' well-being and aims to "provide decent jobs for all".

The company has been entangled in the US-China geopolitical tensions since 2020, with the US Department of Commerce placing Esquel's Xinjiang subsidiary on the Entity List for alleged use of forced labour in July 2020, which prohibits it from buying from American suppliers.

The company, which denied the accusation and filed a lawsuit against the US commerce department last year, said in a statement in 2020 that the income of its Xinjiang employees is two to three times higher than the local average, and said that it did not use any form of forced labour in its facilities.

"China has passed the early years like in the 1990s and 2000s, when the wages were not up to standard," said Djen. "Foreign countries have some prejudice against products made in China, but I think this is getting better because they're also seeing Tesla and Apple having their products made in China."

Climate change: Hong Kong-based Ralph Lauren supplier Esquel opens green unit as textile firms aim to make China-made products sustainable

Greater industry coordination would help to accelerate the sustainable transition in China's garment and textile industry, Du added.

"I hope all parties can take action, and sustainable development can no longer just stay at the discussion level," she said.

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**Load-Date:** September 13, 2022

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# UAE- Ralph Lauren Expands Its Earth Polo Offering, Reinforces Commitment to Protecting the Environment

MENA English (Middle East and North Africa Financial Network)

May 17, 2020 Sunday

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Length: 533 words

## Body

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[Link to Image](#)

[Link to Story](#)

New Earth Polo shirts made from recycled plastic bottles and dyed with a waterless process; underscores the goal to use 170 million recycled plastic bottles in our products and packaging by 2025

May 17, 2020: Amid the extremely difficult circumstances the globe is experiencing with COVID-19, it is becoming apparent in real time how dramatic human impact has been on the Earth and how quickly a change needs to be made for the better. This reinforces Ralph Lauren's aim to contribute to protecting the environment by committing to use 170 million recycled plastic bottles in its product and packaging by 2025. This Spring, the brand is expanding its Earth Polo shirt offering with a larger capsule collection consisting of new colors and designs. The Earth Polo, designed with Mother Nature in mind, is crafted from thread derived from recycled plastic bottles and dyed in an innovative process that uses zero water.

Each Earth Polo is made from an average of 12 plastic bottles. Changing the way we innovate, design and produce our products is the first of many steps we are taking as a Company to be more sustainable. For us, it all started with the Earth Polo, said David Lauren, Chief Innovation Officer. 'Ralph Lauren commits to using at least 170 million recycled plastic bottles in our products and packaging by 2025. Plastic waste is a major issue threatening the environment—we want to be part of the solution and utilize an innovative approach to create something valuable. The Earth Polo will now be offered in 19 colorways for men including long sleeve silhouettes, 7 colors for women, and 9 colors for kids, along with printed design options. The shirt is produced in partnership with First Mile, an organization with a global mission focused on sustainability and positive social impact. First Mile works with entrepreneurs in low- income communities to collect recyclable plastic bottles, which are then processed through a unique and eco-friendly manufacturing program and turned into high-quality yarn and ultimately fabric.

'When Ralph founded our company more than 50 years ago, he did so with the idea that whatever we create is meant to be worn, loved, and passed on for generations. It's with this spirit of timelessness that we approach sustainability, added Halide Alagoz, executive vice president, Chief Supply Chain and Sustainability Officer. In June 2019, the company published its full Global Citizenship and Sustainability Report, including its comprehensive strategy and goals. It pledged that by 2023, the brand will achieve zero waste to landfill across its distribution centers. It also stated that by 2025, it will achieve at least a 20% reduction in total water use across its operations

## UAE- Ralph Lauren Expands Its Earth Polo Offering, Reinforces Commitment to Protecting the Environment

and value chain, and 100% of its key production and packaging materials will be recyclable or sustainably sourced. For decades, the iconic Polo shirt has been used as a global symbol to help raise millions of dollars for philanthropic and social impact, including funding breast cancer research and care through the Pink Pony Fund, raising funds for global disaster relief.

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**Load-Date:** July 8, 2020

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# Ralph Lauren and Puma join trans-Arctic shipping ban

MarketLine NewsWire (Formerly Datamonitor)

January 22, 2020 Wednesday 12:23 PM GMT

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**Section:** RETAIL

**Length:** 353 words

**Highlight:** US fashion business Ralph Lauren Corporation and German sportswear brand Puma are among another eight companies to join a pledge to prohibit shipping through the Arctic Ocean.

## Body

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Launched in October by US sporting goods giant Nike and environmental group Ocean Conservancy, the Arctic Shipping Corporate Pledge invites companies to commit to not intentionally send ships through the fragile Arctic ecosystem. Cargo traffic through previously unnavigable ocean routes is becoming increasingly feasible as climate change causes Arctic sea ice to diminish. But while these routes can offer faster transit times, the possibility of increased vessel traffic across the Arctic poses great risk and potentially devastating environmental impacts for one of the world's most fragile regions, signatories say.

Fashion firms Bestseller, Columbia, Gap Inc, H&M Group, Kering, Li & Fung and PVH Corp were the first to join the pledge, alongside ocean carriers CMA CGM, Evergreen, Hapag-Lloyd and Mediterranean Shipping Company. The latest tranche includes sustainable footwear firm Allbirds, Canadian women's wear retailer Aritzia, and Bureo, a California based firm that designs and manufactures sports products from recycled fishing nets. Kuehne & Nagel, Hudson Shipping Lines, and International Direct Packaging have also signed up to the initiative. "These new signatories reflect a significant intention by consumer and logistics industries, including brands like Ralph Lauren Corporation, which operates more than 500 stores worldwide, and Puma, which distributes products to more than 120 countries," Daniel Hubbell, Ocean Conservancy's shipping emissions campaign manager, said in a blog post announcing the new signatories. Often referred to as "the world's refrigerator," the Arctic plays an essential role in regulating global temperatures. It is also one of the regions that is most vulnerable to climate change, with temperatures rising at twice the rate of the rest of the planet. However, while fashion firms are taking a stand against the potential opening up of trans-Arctic shipping, just-style was told last month that these routes are unlikely to ever become economically viable for the textile or apparel industry due to the cost and the limited time during which these routes are passable.

**Load-Date:** January 28, 2020



# Ralph Lauren Ties Its Sustainability and Diversity Goals to Executive Pay

Footwearnews

June 15, 2021

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Length: 710 words

## Body

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Ralph Lauren has doubled down on its commitment to the environment, to diversity and to transparency.

"The convergence of the global pandemic, climate crisis and call to action to dismantle systemic racism has been a catalyst for businesses around the world to focus and accelerate their progress toward a more equitable and sustainable future," Ralph Lauren, executive chairman and chief creative officer, and Patrice Louvet, president and CEO, wrote in the company's 64-page 2021 Global Citizenship & Sustainability report, released Tuesday. "Amid all the challenges we faced this year emerged a spirit of resilience, dedication and passion that has helped us to not only make progress on our goals and commitments, but accelerate our momentum."

The company, which has an ongoing commitment to the environment via its "Design the Change" pledge, said it plans to reduce its impact on the environment through its supply chain operations by how it affects water, energy, emissions and waste through strategic partnerships and technology choices.

The company also said that when it makes decisions around compensation, it will consider employee performance against the environmental, social and governance goals stated in the report released Tuesday.

The brand said Tuesday that by 2040, it plans to have net zero greenhouse gas emissions from operations. Ralph Lauren had previously expected to lower emissions by 30% by 2030 from fiscal 2020 levels.

Additionally, Ralph Lauren said that by 2040, it will purchase high-quality, verifiable carbon removals equivalent to its residual greenhouse gas emissions.

To achieve its goals, the company plans that by 2025, it will use 100% renewable electricity in its stores, offices and distribution centers. As well, it plans to reduce emissions in manufacturing facilities and from its raw materials by switching to fibers with lower emissions impacts, launch a circularity strategy, and debut the first phase of Color on Demand, a platform that more sustainably dyes cotton.

Already in 2021, the company said it repurposed 21.9 million plastic bottles through the use of recycled polyester fibers and that 54% of packaging volume was recyclable, reusable or sustainably sourced, putting the company on track to reach its 2025 goal.

"Climate change is one of the most complex and challenging issues of our time - one that will require innovation, collaboration, technology and a fundamental shift in behavior to solve," said Louvet in a separate statement also released Tuesday. "Our net zero goal and roadmap are anchored in our belief that through deliberate action we can

## Ralph Lauren Ties Its Sustainability and Diversity Goals to Executive Pay

deliver the change required to reduce our climate impact and help create a more sustainable future for generations to come."

Among the company's other main goals going forward: Address racial inequity from inside the company "as a voice and leader in our industry" and increase transparency by sharing workforce diversity data, climate impact data and factory disclosures.

For its diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) strategy, Ralph Lauren said in the report that it is "deeply examining bias - including looking critically at the structures and practices inside our company, how we use our voice as a leader in our industry and the role we play in portraying the American dream."

To that end, the company committed to various components around employment and recruitment, pay equity, employee wellbeing, and community engagement. Among them, the company said it plans to interview at least one Black candidate and at least one candidate from other underrepresented groups for every open role at the vice president level or above. Ralph Lauren also committed that by 2023, its global leadership team will be at least 10% Black, African or African American and at least 20% people of color.

"We are creating a culture in which all employees feel welcome and can thrive through the celebration of identities, training and by encouraging participation in employee resource groups," the report said.

More from Footwear News

Done Deals: Iconix Inks Go-Private Agreement + More BIPOC Talent Will Make Up 40% of Leadership Roles at Saks by 2023 + More Ambitious Diversity Goals Prada Intensifies Commitment to Diversity -- Inside the Brand's New DE&I Initiatives

**Load-Date:** June 15, 2021

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# RALPH LAUREN TO FACE PETA PRESSURE AT ANNUAL MEETING

States News Service

July 29, 2020 Wednesday

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**Length:** 378 words

**Byline:** States News Service

**Dateline:** New York

## Body

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The following information was released by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA):

Contact:

Moira Colley 202-483-7382

New York There is no way to source exotic skins or alpaca fleece without inflicting extreme cruelty, so when will Ralph Lauren stop selling them? That's the message that a representative of PETA, which recently purchased stock in the company, will take to its virtual annual meeting on Thursday.

PETA points out that workers in the exotic-skins industry hack open alligators' and crocodiles' necks and shove metal rods down their spines, often while they're still conscious; nail snakes to trees and cut open their bodies from one end to the other; and keep ostriches in barren dirt feedlots, force them into stun boxes, and slit their throats. The group's expose of the alpaca industry revealed that workers hit, kicked, tied down, and mutilated pregnant alpacas in Peru, the world's top alpaca producer. The reckless shearing process left them crying out and bleeding from deep wounds that were crudely stitched back up.

If Ralph Lauren truly wants to be a socially responsible company, it can start by taking alpaca wool and exotic skins off its racks, says PETA Executive Vice President Tracy Reiman. PETA is calling on it to stop selling sweaters, shoes, and accessories that sensitive alligators, crocodiles, lizards, ostriches, snakes, and alpacas suffered and died for.

The Higg Materials Sustainability Index ranks alpaca fleece as the second most environmentally damaging textile, and conservation experts have warned that the exotic-skins industry increases the risk of future epidemics, as the wild animals it uses are confined and slaughtered in filthy conditions just as animals in wet markets are creating a breeding ground for pathogens like the novel coronavirus.

Ralph Lauren previously banned fur, angora wool, and mohair following PETA exposes. Brands such as Chanel, Diane von Furstenberg, Jil Sander, Vivienne Westwood, and Brooks Brothers have all banned exotic skins, and UNIQLO, ESPRIT, and Marks and Spencer are among the brands that have banned alpaca wool.

PETA whose motto reads, in part, that animals are not ours to wear opposes speciesism, which is a human-supremacist worldview. For more information, please visit [PETA.org](https://peta.org).

**Load-Date:** July 29, 2020

## RALPH LAUREN TO FACE PETA PRESSURE AT ANNUAL MEETING

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# Ralph Lauren's Latest Fragrance Is an Eco-Friendly Ode to Natural Materials

Robb Report

April 6, 2022

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## Robb Report

Length: 390 words

### Body

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While most lifestyle brands tend to focus their eco-friendly initiatives on clothing, Ralph Lauren is expanding its sustainability mission with the launch of a new fragrance that is composed of natural ingredients for a refreshing natural scent.

Some 97 percent of the ingredients in the unisex fragrance, called Polo Earth, are drawn from natural origins. These include top notes of bergamot, Italian green mandarin and diva lavender from France; middle notes of Turkish rose and sage heart; and base notes of Haitian vetiver and bourbon geranium from Madagascar. What's left out? Sulfates, artificial preservatives and colorants.

To further minimize its environmental impact, Ralph Lauren is selling the fragrance in a refillable bottle made of 20 percent post-consumer recycled glass. The bottle is also 30 percent lighter than the brand's traditional fragrance containers and features a wooden cap that accents its overall minimalist design. Its carton is made from 55 percent recycled materials. And as a final touch, the brand has done away with cellophane wrapping to reduce plastic waste.

"We're always looking for ways to push the boundaries of what is possible and launch innovative products for our consumers that not only feel fresh and timely but will also have a place in their closets for years to come," says Ralph Lauren chief branding and innovation officer David Lauren. "Polo Earth is the latest iteration of the revolutionary work we are doing within the sustainability arena and is only the start of where we can go when it comes to creating consciously designed fragrances."

This is hardly the company's first big initiative with sustainability built into it. In May 2021, Ralph Lauren announced its Color on Demand technology, which recycles and reuses all of the water from its dyeing process, creating the world's first scalable zero wastewater cotton dyeing system. In addition, the 2022 Winter Olympics Opening Ceremony uniforms created for Team USA featured recycled polyester fibers made from post-consumer plastic bottles.

Polo Earth is available now in bottle sizes from 10 ml to 200 ml, with prices ranging from \$30 to \$152. The drop is accompanied by hand and body lotion, body wash and a scented candle made with Fair for Life shea butter all scented with the fragrance. For more details, visit [RalphLauren.com](https://www.RalphLauren.com).

**Load-Date:** April 6, 2022

# Polo Ralph Lauren unveils new uniforms for Wimbledon 2022

The Times of India (TOI)

June 23, 2022 Thursday

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**Section:** TRENDS

**Length:** 447 words

## Body

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Polo Ralph Lauren has just revealed the new 2022 uniforms for all Wimbledon on-court officials including chair umpires, line umpires, ball boys and girls, combining the heritage of the brand with modern fabrications and silhouettes. This year marks Polo Ralph Lauren's 17th anniversary as the Official Outfitter of The Championships, Wimbledon in partnership with The All England Lawn Tennis Club. Celebrating the centenary of Centre Court in its current location on Church Road, Wimbledon, the new Polo Ralph Lauren Wimbledon uniforms are inspired by the elevated sense of style that spectators bring to The Championships. The umpire uniform features iconic variations of timeless Ralph Lauren style.

The belted back umpire sports coat is lined with a commemorative Ralph Lauren designed signature Wimbledon print and adorned with both Polo Ralph Lauren and Wimbledon emblems. This is paired with a wide Bengal stripe shirt that includes recycled material and stylish white trouser or white skirt with pearl button closure. Ball boys and girls wear the iconic Ralph Lauren Polo Shirt reimagined in a navy blue and white wide stripe that includes recycled material which incorporates features such as stretch, moisture-wicking properties and UV protection, all constructed for performance. Line umpire uniforms are refreshed with navy cardigans featuring a white and Wimbledon green striped cuff detail which includes recycled COOLMAX fibers, providing superior comfort in warm environments with extreme moisture management properties. Gus Henderson, Commercial Director at Wimbledon, said: "This is a special year for the All England Club as we mark the centenary of Centre Court on Church Road. To coincide with this milestone, we are delighted that all our on-court officials, ball boys and girls will be wearing newly designed uniforms produced by our partner, Polo Ralph Lauren. Given our organization's commitment to be Environment Positive by 2030, it is fantastic to see Polo Ralph Lauren is prioritizing environmental sustainability in the production of the on-court uniforms for Wimbledon." The Polo Ralph Lauren Wimbledon uniforms are focused on comfort, breathability and moisture management along with Ralph Lauren's signature craftsmanship. The uniforms embrace more sustainable, innovative fabrics for optimal performance and style - featuring products made with recycled materials and other fabrics that are produced according to standards that consider communities and the environment. Committed to responsible design principles, Ralph Lauren creates timeless products that aim to contribute to positive social and environmental impact. For Reprint Rights: [timescontent.com](https://timescontent.com)

**Load-Date:** June 22, 2022

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# Sustainability - News: Ralph Lauren Is Now Member Of The US Cotton Trust Protocol

Apparel Online

November 1, 2022

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**Length:** 315 words

## Body

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Ralph Lauren Corporation, an iconic global luxury brand, is now member of The US Cotton Trust Protocol ('Trust Protocol'). This membership will support Ralph Lauren in its efforts to scale sustainable practices in US cotton production. Aligned with timeless by design, Ralph Lauren is working to improve soil health through programmes that support regenerative agriculture practices and rigorous impact measurement, believing that these efforts are fundamental to building a resilient cotton industry in the US and globally. Launched in 2020, the US Cotton Trust Protocol is aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), recognised by Textile Exchange and Forum for the Future, and part of the Sustainable Apparel Coalition, Cotton 2025 Sustainable Cotton Challenge, Cotton 2040 and Cotton Up initiatives.

The Trust Protocol drives continuous improvement in six key sustainability areas-land use, soil carbon, water management, soil loss, greenhouse gas emissions and energy efficiency. It integrates these sustainability metrics from Field to Market's Fieldprint(R) Platform, enabling enrolled growers to measure the environmental impacts of their operation and identify opportunities for continuous improvement. Katie Ioanilli, Chief Global Impact & Communications Officer at Ralph Lauren said, "Cotton makes up more than threequarters of our total material use, and we are committed to ensuring this critical fibre is fully sustainably sourced in our portfolio by 2025. Our ambition requires collaboration and partnership with organisations like Trust Protocol as we work together to make progress on sustainable cotton goals - within our business and the wider industry." "We are proud to welcome Ralph Lauren as a new member and aid in their efforts to advance better sustainability practices within the industry," said Dr. Gary Adams, President of the US Cotton Trust Protocol.

**Load-Date:** November 21, 2022

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# VF Foundation joins Ralph Lauren-backed US Regenerative Cotton Fund

just-style global news

April 12, 2022 Tuesday 11:53 AM GMT

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**Length:** 505 words

**Byline:** Beth Wright

## Body

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The VF Foundation is the private grantmaking organisation funded by VF Corporation, one of the world's largest apparel, footwear, and accessories companies with brands including Vans, The North Face, Timberland, Smartwool, JanSport and Dickies. With its partners, The VF Foundation strives to innovate and problem-solve in collaborative ways to drive transformative, lasting change with the vision of creating a more equitable and sustainable world.

The USRCF, meanwhile, is a farmer-facing, science-based initiative designed to support long-term, sustainable cotton production in the United States, with the goal of eliminating 1m metric tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e) from the atmosphere by 2026.

This initiative complements our corporate efforts to advance regenerative agricultural practices by taking a farmer-centric approach to scale these practices and measure their impacts when growing cotton, a key material used by VF brands and across the apparel industry, says Gloria Schoch, executive director, the VF Foundation and director of global impact, VF Corporation.



## VF Foundation joins Ralph Lauren-backed US Regenerative Cotton Fund

The VF Foundation's support of the USRCF directly contributes to the Institute's efforts in Texas, where approximately 60% of US cotton is grown. Support will help establish farmer-to-farmer mentoring networks, conduct economic analysis of regenerative soil health systems, increase access and opportunity for minority students in scientific leadership positions, and establish Soil Health and Soil Carbon Targets so growers know how healthy their soils can become and how much carbon they can draw down.

In 2019, VF Corporation set ambitious science-based targets and committed to sourcing 100% of its top nine materials from regenerative, responsibly sourced renewable or recycled sources by 2030, as a key pathway to achieve its climate goals.

We are grateful for The VF Foundation's past support that served as a catalyst for establishing the USRCF to assist cotton farmers and their advisors across the US with building resilience to drought and mitigating the effects of climate change, says Dr Cristine Morgan, chief scientific officer and leader of the US Regenerative Cotton Fund. Widespread adoption of regenerative agricultural practices is hindered by lack of information on the business case, locally relevant education programmes and grower networks, and locally established Soil Health and Carbon Targets. These measures can arm growers with specific knowledge to demonstrate how much their soil health can improve and how that healthier soil can translate into drought resilience, yield stability, profitability, and drive additional benefits.

The USRCF works to unite the interests of farmers, partners, and financial supporters around soil health as the foundation for regenerative agriculture. The Fund was initiated in 2021 with a founding grant from the Ralph Lauren Corporate Foundation to the Soil Health Institute.

Participating partners of the Fund include Cotton Incorporated, National Cotton Council, and Field to Market.

**Load-Date:** April 18, 2022

# Ralph Lauren cotton project gains climate innovation recognition

MarketLine NewsWire (Formerly Datamonitor)

November 9, 2021 Tuesday 12:57 PM GMT

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**Section:** RETAIL

**Length:** 526 words

**Highlight:** Ralph Lauren Corporation welcomed the selection of the recently launched US Regenerative Cotton Fund as an Agriculture Innovation Mission for Climate (AIM for Climate) Innovation Sprint Partner. It is a joint initiative created by the United States and the United Arab Emirates to support investments in climate-smart agriculture over the next five years. The selection was announced during the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow.

## Body

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The Ralph Lauren Corporate Foundation committed an inaugural grant to the Soil Health Institute to launch the US Regenerative Cotton Fund (USRCF) last month. Described as a first-of-its-kind initiative to support long-term, sustainable cotton production in the United States, the Fund aims to eliminate 1m metric tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e) from the atmosphere by 2026. It is supported by a US\$5m grant from the Ralph Lauren Corporate Foundation and will initially operate in four states - Arkansas, Texas, Mississippi, and Georgia - and will look to expand into Alabama, North Carolina, Missouri, California, and Oklahoma as these nine states represent 85% of US cotton production. "We must come together as a global community to address the challenges of today so that future generations inherit a world filled with natural beauty and inspiration.

That's why we are working toward our Net Zero goal, and it's why the US Regenerative Cotton Fund, created through partnership between the Ralph Lauren Corporate Foundation and the Soil Health Institute, complements our goals. We're honoured that this work is recognised as an AIM for Climate Innovation Sprint Partner," says Patrice Louvet, president and CEO of Ralph Lauren Corporation. Recently, the company also joined a series of commitments reflective of the scope and mission of COP26 that underscore ongoing efforts made as part of its Global Citizenship and Sustainability goals. They include: We Mean Business Coalition - G-20 Climate Statement: Aligned with the company's recent announcement to achieve net zero global greenhouse gas emissions from its operations and value chain by 2040, the Ralph Lauren Corporation signed a statement in support of urging G-20 nations to strengthen their Nationally Determined Contributions by at least halving global emissions by 2030 and committing to achieve net zero emissions by no later than 2050. Clean Energy Demand Initiative: To use the company's scale to create impact, the Ralph Lauren Corporation is actively advocating for cost-effective and robust clean energy procurement options in several key global markets where the company operates or sources its products. Textile Exchange - Preferential Tariff Project: As a member of the UN Fashion Industry Charter for Climate Action and the Textile Exchange, the Ralph Lauren Corporation signed a policy statement issued to all COP26 participating nations requesting that policymakers work closely with the apparel, textile, and footwear industry to

## Ralph Lauren cotton project gains climate innovation recognition

develop thoughtful trade policy mechanisms, specifically those that would drive the adoption of environmentally preferred materials and enable achievement of the Textile Exchange's industry goal of a 45% greenhouse gas emissions reduction by 2030 in the pre-spinning phase of textile fibre and materials production, in line with the Paris Agreement. These efforts all build on the company's work to pioneer, foster, and scale sustainable innovation through partnerships and investments, including its work with Natural Fiber Welding Inc and Color on Demand, and aligns with its commitment to the climate goals identified in the Paris Agreement.

**Load-Date:** November 22, 2021

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# PETA Targets Ralph Lauren, Versace Owner in Exotic Skins Clash

Sourcing Journal

August 3, 2022

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Length: 759 words

## Body

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Animal activists are storming the boardroom to urge some of the world's biggest brands to vote out exotic skins.

At Capri Holdings' annual meeting on Wednesday, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals pushed the Michal Kors, Jimmy Choo and Versace owner to end the "egregious cruelty" of using alligator, snake, crocodile and ostrich hides.

Speaking on behalf of Emmy Award-winning actor Gillian Anderson, the animal-rights group praised Capri's recent \$6.2 million acquisition of a 30 percent stake in Desserto, a Mexican firm that makes a vegan leather using cactus fronds.

"Capri clearly understands that the future of fashion lies in animal-free and environmentally responsible materials that appeal to today's informed and socially conscious consumers," PETA, a Capri stockholder, said. "Given that Capri has pledged to do its part to make alternative, low-impact materials a reality for the fashion industry, the company must do more to uphold this pledge, starting with no longer sourcing exotic-animal skins."

Capri did not respond to a request for comment.

On Thursday, PETA will be locking horns with Ralph Lauren. Its question to the Team U.S.A. outfitter will be the same: When will it join Burberry, Chanel, Stella McCartney and others in shedding exotic skins?

"Behind every alligator-skin belt or ostrich-skin handbag is a sentient animal who endured a horrific death for corporate greed," the cruelty-free champion, which has purchased stock in the preppy purveyor, said. "PETA is calling on Ralph Lauren to get with the times and preserve wildlife, not pimp it out by selling exotic skins."

PETA said that Halide Alagöz, Ralph Lauren's chief supply chain and sustainability officer, has "falsely claimed" that the use of exotic skins may support species survival, biodiversity and ecosystem conservation, though "nothing could be further from the truth."

From Southeast Asia to southern Africa, PETA operatives have exposed the "horrors of the exotic skins trade," it said. Last month, PETA Asia documented workers in Indonesia "bashing pythons in the head with a steel hammer, suspending and nailing them to a wooden bar, jamming hoses down their throats, and pumping them full of water until they swelled to nearly double their size, then slitting them open with a razor blade."

The organization said it plans to reference in its shareholder question a 2020 study that named Ralph Lauren among brands that had more than 5,600 illegal wildlife products seized by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service between 2003 and 2010. Ralph Lauren was implicated in 29 percent of those products, the majority of

## PETA Targets Ralph Lauren, Versace Owner in Exotic Skins Clash

which comprised exotic leather. The Cradle to Cradle collaborator said that more than 80 percent of the items linked to it were shell-related, however.

"Products made from exotic skins constitute an extremely small portion of our overall portfolio," Ralph Lauren told Sourcing Journal. "When it comes to the sourcing of these materials, Ralph Lauren, with the support and guidance of relevant NGOs and scientists, engages in responsible practices that emphasize animal welfare, species conservation and the protection of biodiversity and ecosystems."

In both cases, PETA is appealing to the brands' bottom lines. Nine out of 10 Gen Z consumers, who, together with millennials, wield \$352 billion in spending power, want companies to demonstrate environmental and social consciousness in their business practices, it said.

"Forward-thinking companies are meeting the growing demand for sustainable, animal-friendly products by offering vegan leather options made from pineapples, mushrooms, apples, cacti and more," PETA added.

Some conservationists say that the exotic skins trade, when conducted responsibly, can help species flourish while creating sustainable livelihoods for rural communities. Gucci boss Kering, which operates its own python farm in Thailand, for instance, says its snakes are raised in the "best conditions for animals, farmers and the ecosystem." LVMH Moët Hennessy, which owns Louis Vuitton, launched in 2019 what it calls the first responsible crocodilian leather sourcing standard. The alternative, their supporters say, is more plastic products.

Now that fur has all but ceded the cultural war, however, exotic skins have become fashion's next animal-welfare battleground. Besides Burberry, the most notable names to strip free from the rarified materials in recent months include luxury e-tailer Moda Operandi and Puig, the parent company of Carolina Herrera, Dries Van Noten, Jean Paul Gaultier and Nina Ricci.

**Load-Date:** August 3, 2022

# US' Ralph Lauren to join GFA's Strategic Partners group

Indian Retail news

September 30, 2021 Thursday

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**Length:** 381 words

**Dateline:** New Delhi, 2021-09-30 14:13:53

## Body

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September 30 -- Ralph Lauren Corporation, the global leader in premium lifestyle products, will be joining the Strategic Partners group of Global Fashion Agenda (GFA), the leading non-profit for industry collaboration on sustainability in fashion. By joining the partnership, the brand aims to help lead the fashion industry's journey towards a more sustainable future.

Ralph Lauren will play an active role in developing Global Fashion Agenda's thought leadership platform - including the Fashion CEO Agenda, the two entities said in a joint statement.

Global Fashion Agenda's circle of hand-picked industry leaders also includes ASOS, Bestseller, H&M Group, Kering, Fung Group, Nike, PVH Corp, Sustainable Apparel Coalition and Target.

Ralph Lauren has been prioritising sustainability in fashion and its most recent innovative steps include developing Color on Demand, a platform that aims to transform how the fashion industry dyes cotton, introducing a circularity strategy and increasing transparency across social and environmental impacts.

Most recently, the company announced the integration of key ESG metrics into its executive remuneration and its ambitious goal to achieve net zero global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from its operations and its value chain by 2040.

Federica Marchionni, CEO, Global Fashion Agenda, said: "Ralph Lauren Corporation is devoted to improving its sustainability performance and advancing progress in the industry as a whole. I am thrilled to welcome it to our Strategic Partner group, which represents the diverse segments of the fashion industry - spanning luxury, lifestyle,

## US' Ralph Lauren to join GFA's Strategic Partners group

e-commerce, high street and supply chain management. Through this partnership, I am confident that we can create even more impact in our pursuit of a prosperous industry for both planet and people."

Patrice Louvet, president & CEO, Ralph Lauren Corporation, said: "At Ralph Lauren, we understand that creating a more sustainable and equitable world requires collective action and deep collaboration. As we focus on identifying breakthrough solutions that have the potential to be scaled across our industry, we look forward to working together with the Global Fashion Agenda and its partners to drive meaningful change."

The partnership is effective from October 1, 2021.

**Load-Date:** September 30, 2021

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# Ralph Lauren joins Global Fashion Agenda's Strategic Partner Group

just-style global news

September 28, 2021 Tuesday 1:00 PM GMT

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**Length:** 401 words

**Byline:** Beth Wright

## Body

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Ralph Lauren enters Global Fashion Agenda's new strategic partnership with the aim to help lead the fashion industry's journey toward a more sustainable future through bold action on sustainability. It will play an active role in developing Global Fashion Agenda's thought leadership platform including the Fashion CEO Agenda.

Global Fashion Agenda's circle of hand-picked industry leaders also includes Asos, Bestseller, H&M Group, Kering, Fung Group, Nike, PVH Corp, Sustainable Apparel Coalition and Target.

Throughout its history, Ralph Lauren has prioritised sustainability in fashion. The brand's most recent innovative steps include developing Color on Demand, a platform that aims to transform how the fashion industry dyes cotton, introducing a circularity strategy, and increasing transparency across social and environmental impacts.



## Ralph Lauren joins Global Fashion Agenda's Strategic Partner Group

Most recently, Ralph Lauren announced the integration of key ESG metrics into its executive remuneration and its ambitious goal to achieve net zero global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from its operations and its value chain by 2040.

Federica Marchionni, CEO of Global Fashion Agenda says: Ralph Lauren Corporation is devoted to improving its sustainability performance and advancing progress in the industry as a whole. It is a legendary brand known across the globe for its timeless style, and so it has the power to inspire and influence industry change at scale. I am thrilled to welcome it to our Strategic Partner group, which represents the diverse segments of the fashion industry spanning luxury, lifestyle, e-commerce, high-street, and supply chain management.

She adds: "Through this partnership, I am confident that we can create even more impact in our pursuit of a prosperous industry for both planet and people.

Patrice Louvet, president and CEO at Ralph Lauren Corporation adds: At Ralph Lauren, we understand that creating a more sustainable and equitable world requires collective action and deep collaboration. As we focus on identifying breakthrough solutions that have the potential to be scaled across our industry, we look forward to working together with the Global Fashion Agenda and its partners to drive meaningful change.

The partnership is effective from 1 October.

Louvet will present a keynote speech at CFS+ the upcoming digital edition of Copenhagen Fashion Summit, which is taking place on 7-8 October 2021.

**Load-Date:** September 28, 2021

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# Ralph Lauren launches US regenerative cotton project

just-style global news

October 29, 2021 Friday 12:53 PM GMT

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**Length:** 858 words

**Byline:** Beth Wright

## Body

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The Institute's US Regenerative Cotton Fund (USRCF) is described as an industry-first farmer-facing, science-based initiative that will support long-term, sustainable cotton production in the United States, with the goal of eliminating 1m metric tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e) from the atmosphere by 2026.

The USRCF will initially operate in four states – Arkansas, Texas, Mississippi and Georgia and will look to expand into Alabama, North Carolina, Missouri, California, and Oklahoma as these nine states represent 85% of US cotton production.

At the Ralph Lauren Corporate Foundation, we work to make the dream of a better life a reality by championing equity and creating positive change in communities around the world," says Roseann Lynch, Ralph Lauren Corporation's chief people officer and head of the Ralph Lauren Corporate Foundation.

"Partnering to scale solutions that build community resilience are powerful ways to positively impact people's lives, now and for the future. The US Regenerative Cotton Fund is an ambitious effort crafted in

## Ralph Lauren launches US regenerative cotton project

partnership with the experts at the Soil Health Institute that puts growers at the centre of creating a sustainable future for US cotton production.

Dr Cristine Morgan, chief scientific officer for the Soil Health Institute and leader of the US Regenerative Cotton Fund adds: “We are very grateful for the opportunity to promote soil health and to assist cotton farmers across the US with storing more carbon, building drought resilience, and mitigating the very effects of climate change that are impacting us all.”

She adds: To achieve widespread environmental benefits from regenerative agriculture means we must understand farmers’ needs and experiences when adopting these practices. Adoption is hindered by a lack of information on the business case, locally relevant soil health education programmes, and until now, knowledge of how healthy a given soil can become and what that means for improving drought resilience, yield stability, economics, and other benefits for farmers.

The Ralph Lauren Corporate Foundation and the Soil Health Institute say significant opportunity exists for expanding adoption of climate-friendly soil health practices in cotton production. Based on data from the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Census of Agriculture, only 8% of cotton cropland is managed using cover cropping and 21% is managed using no tillage.

The USRCF will empower cotton farmers to adopt regenerative practices, like cover cropping and no till, in a way that benefits their operation. Regenerative agricultural practices can address issues important to both consumers and the environment, such as climate change, water quality, and pollinator habitat. The programme will also help to ensure farmers can generate long-term value for their operations, including increased profitability.

The USRCF is supported by a \$5m grant from the Ralph Lauren Corporate Foundation. Currently, cotton makes up more than 80% of Ralph Lauren Corporation’s total material use. As part of Ralph Lauren’s global citizenship and sustainability goals, the company has committed that by 2025, 100% of key materials, including cotton, will be sustainably sourced.

The Foundation’s USRCF initiative complements Ralph Lauren’s work to pioneer, foster and scale sustainable innovation through partnerships and investments including its work with Natural Fiber Welding, Inc and Color on Demand.

Additionally, the USRCF will work to unite the interests of farmers, partners, and financial supporters around soil health as the foundation for regenerative agriculture. Participating partners of the Fund include Cotton Incorporated, National Cotton Council, and Field to Market.

Dr Gary Adams, president and CEO of the National Cotton Council and president of the US Cotton Trust Protocol adds: We like to see this level of engagement from a US non-profit like SHI that is focused on delivering benefits to cotton growers. We look forward to working synergistically with the SHI team to improve soil health at scale and make US cotton the most regenerative fibre in the world.

The Soil Health Institute will work closely with cotton farmers to help them measure and monitor the environmental, societal, and economic benefits of soil health management systems on their operations. Through the USRCF, improvements in soil health and carbon sequestration will be measured through an approach developed by the Soil Health Institute called soil health and soil carbon targets. The USRCF will also engage with Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), specifically those with agricultural programmes, to develop increased access to career paths in decision-making positions in US agriculture and establish mentoring programmes to help prepare the next generation of scientists and leaders in agriculture.

Ralph Lauren said earlier this year it aims to achieve net zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2040, a goal that builds on an existing commitment to lower absolute GHG emissions across its operations and supply chain by 30% by 2030 compared to Fiscal 2020 levels.

Ralph Lauren launches US regenerative cotton project

**Load-Date:** October 29, 2021

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