Dan Rain, Chair, NYSAR3 Textile Recovery Campaign Recycling Coordinator, Town of Bethlehem, Albany County, NY
Textile Recovery Campaign Update

- Statewide Stakeholder Summit April 10th
- Conference session and discussion, and a working group meeting at the NY Fed. Conf., May 20th
- Project Assistant Lauren Laibach hired
- PR/Education Subcommittee organized under leadership of Melissa Young and Andrew Radin
- Website began, campaign logo, facebook and twitter
Textile Recovery Campaign Update

- Partnership with SMART/CTR solidified, and with their support developed media toolkit, finalized website, first webinar held Oct. 23rd.
- Statewide outreach and survey, events organized, resolutions passed and pledges signed
- Ribbon cutting and kickoff: Nov. 5th
- Campaign Launch: America Recycles Day: Nov. 15th!
Your jeans are thirsty!

- 2,900 gallons over the life of one pair of jeans = 10978 Liters
- The UN determines that each person should have access to 20L of clean water/day.
- So one pair of jeans reused would supply about 549 people’s water needs for a day
Or at 24 bottles/case, about 457 cases of bottled water
"Clothes" the Loop NY

A partnership between

The New York State Association for Reduction, Reuse, and Recycling (NYSAR®), in collaboration with the Council for Textile Recycling (CTR) and the Secondary Materials and Recycled Textiles Association (SMART), is launching a statewide textile recovery campaign on November 15, 2014 (America Recycles Day), with the goal to spur local action from all New York State residents to divert their unwanted textiles from the waste stream through recycling.

The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation has determined that approximately 1.4 billion pounds of clothing and textiles are disposed of in the state annually. NYSAR®, SMART, and CTR have estimated that the market value of these discarded textiles exceeds $200 million, and that over 9,000 jobs would be created across NY state if those materials were recovered for reuse and recycling.

Acceptable Materials

- Clothing
- Underwear
- Coats
- Shoes/Boots
- Sneakers
- Belts
- Purses/bags
- Hats
- Stuffed animals
- Linens
- Pillows
- Curtains/Drapes
- Towels
- Rags

Drop off:

- Ripped
- Stained
- Missing buttons
- Broken zipper
- One of a pair
- Dirty
- Damp
- Has odor

In condition:
List of Acceptable Materials

Acceptable Textile Items for Recycling

Even clothes and textiles which are no longer wearable or useable can still be donated! Rather than putting them in the trash or a blue bin, they must be brought to a specific textile drop-off point (generally either a permanent bin or a retail location) or a textile collection event. To find drop-off points nearest to you, use our searchable database and check our list of events.

The following items can be donated in any condition (torn, worn, stained, missing buttons, broken zippers, shoe without a mate, etc.) as long as they are clean, dry, and odorless. Please note - not all textile collectors and events will accept everything from this list. Please check with collectors in your area to find the closest location for the items you wish to recycle.

Footwear (single or in pairs):

- Shoes
- Heels (wedges, pumps)
- Flats
- Sandals
- Flip Flops
- Boots (work boots, dress boots, winter boots)
- Sneakers
- Cleats
- Slippers

Clothing:

- Tops (T-shirts, blouses, shirts, tank tops)
- Sweaters
- Sweatshirts
- Dresses
- Outerwear (coats, jackets, blazers)
Textile Recovery Locations

Use the form below to look up Textile Recovery Locations near your City or Zip Code:

Enter your City or Zip Code:

Distance:

10 Miles

Search »
“Clothes” the Loop:

List of Acceptable Materials
Find a Collection Location Near You
Other Take-Back Programs
Events & Pledges
What Happens to Donated Clothes and Textiles
Featured Collectors
Private and Non-Profit Sector Collaboration
Other Links and Resources

Manufacturer, Retailer and Other Take-Back Programs

Options for recycling textiles abound! In addition to permanent collection sites and special collection events, other options are available to you for giving unwanted clothing and footwear a second life.

The following clothing and footwear manufacturers and retailers operate their own take-back programs for textiles:

H&M Don’t Let Fashion Go To Waste – Clothing only; any brand
The North Face Clothes The Loop – Clothing only; any brand
Patagonia Common Threads – Patagonia clothing only
Puma Bring Me Back – Clothing and shoes; any brand
Nike Reuse-A-Shoe - Athletic shoes Only; Any Brand

Find out more with these articles from GreenBiz.com:

Why American Eagle, H&M, Nike and Puma want your hand-me-downs

Also check out these innovative programs:

ThreadUP - Order a bag to fill with like-new women’s, juniors, and kids clothing. Receive up to 90% of the resale value in the form of shopping or gift cards

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Click here for the complete...
Events and Community Pledges

Local collection events taking place on and around America Recycles Day (Nov. 15th):

- **Onondaga County** is holding a special textile collection event at the local mall.
- The St. Lawrence Environmental Management Council, the Local Living Venture and the Salvation Army, Massena, have partnered to host multiple collection events throughout the county. The collected textiles will be available to thrift/reuse stores in the county and the leftovers will be picked up by the Salvation Army.
- **Colton Pierrepont Central School District’s Environmental Club / Green Team** will be collecting jeans and t-shirts, from which they will make reusable shopping bags that will be distributed at the school’s Winterfest.
- The City of Buffalo and Erie County with the newly created Western New York Coalition for Donated Goods (WNYCDG) are hosting collection events throughout the fall and holiday season. Visit their website for more information.
- The **Town of Bethlehem** is partnering with the Bethlehem Central School District and the Delmar Farmers Market to hold a collection event and launch an on-going public education program.
- **Tompkins County** will be holding textiles collection at their Food Scraps Recycling Drop Spots. This a special addition taking place only on November 15th.
- The **Fort Drum Military Installation** will be hosting a textile collection event on post and the collected textiles will go in the St. Paul Textile sheds that they have on post.
- **Girl Scout Troop 50145**, of the South Jefferson Service Unit, is having a textile collection event.
- The **NY State Department of Environmental Conservation’s Central Office** is hosting a collection event on America Recycles Day. In addition to the other items collected for reuse and recycling, DEC staff can bring in unusable textiles for recycling.

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  - Linens
  - Pillows
  - Curtains/Drapes
  - Towels
  - Rugs

In condition:

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- Damaged
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Click here for the complete list.
The following communities and organizations are undertaking activities in support of this campaign:

- **OCRRA** has passed our resolution.
- **Rockland County** is doing press events and a radio piece.
- The **Town of Yorktown** has signed our resolution and aims to have a new Textile Recovery Program in place by January 1, 2015.
- **Clinton County**, in conjunction with Casella Resource Solutions, is doing a press release and advertisements on the web and at local businesses.
- **St. Pauly Textile** is asking its members to bring in clothing to donate on America Recycles Day.
- **Oneida-Herkimer** has passed our resolution.
- Both solid waste boards in **Erie County** (Northeast Southtowns Solid Waste Management Board and Northwest Communities Solid Waste Management Board) have passed our resolution.
- **USAgain** is sponsoring an America Recycles Day Challenge where participating schools across the country compete to collect the most clothes for recycling during the month of November.
- The **Development Authority of the North Country**, which serves Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence Counties has passed our resolution.
- The **Jefferson County Transfer Station**, **Town of Adams Transfer Station**, **Town of Champion Transfer Station**, **Town of Clayton Transfer Station**, **Town of Henderson Transfer Station** and the **Town of Wilna Transfer Station** are all participating by handing out flyers promoting the Textile Recovery Campaign and encouraging residents to bring their textiles to the transfer stations on America Recycles Day. Each transfer station has a St. Pauly Textile shed onsite.
- The **Lewis County Transfer Station** is participating by handing out flyers promoting the Textile Recovery Campaign and encouraging residents to bring their textiles to the transfer station on America Recycles Day. The transfer station has a St. Pauly Textile shed on site.
- The **Town of Eden** has passed our resolution.
- A **Cornell University** student, Autumn Newell, is conducting a survey on the habits and behaviors around clothing and household textile disposal of U.S. residents.

View the resolution supporting our statewide recovery campaign [here](http://www.nysat3.org/page/events--pledges-75.html).
Other Links and Resources

Media Tool Kit - Everything you need to spread the word about this campaign!

Other Documents - Guidance for Recycling Coordinators, Local Resolution Supporting Textile Recovery Campaign, and Bin Best Management Practices

Our Partners - CTR and SMART

Textile Recovery in the News - See how this important issue has been trending in the media

WEBINAR: Telling the Story of Textile Recovery in Your Community - An in-depth guide to using our Media Tool Kit

Other:

Thread Documentary

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Special thanks to all the members of the Textile Recovery Campaign Committee, NYSAR, SMART and CTR that have assisted with the campaign planning!

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