



## ACT UK: a groundbreaking initiative by UK Fashion and Textile (UKFT) for Advanced Textile Circularity

ACT UK is a two-year initiative which aims to create the blueprint for an Advanced Textile Sorting and Pre-processing (ATSP) facility that will process non-rewearable textiles and enable fibre-to-fibre recycling at a scale. The initiative gathers recycling technologists, textile manufacturers, brands and retailers, collectors and sorters, academic and industry players, with funding from Innovate UK.

The project has recently launched two trials for post-consumer textile collection in car parks and by post mail to encourage the public to sort their used textiles into rewearable and non-rewearable categories. These are part of a series of experiments that will give valuable insights to optimise post-consumer textile collections and redefine the flows of non-rewearable textiles towards a more sustainable textile economy.

The first experiment is with supermarket chain Tesco and Salvation Army Trading Company (SATCoL), the Salvation Army's trading division. Individuals can donate their used textiles at 18 Tesco car parks and 2 household waste recycling centres in the East of England. The donation points have separate recycling banks for rewearable and non-rewearable clothing and textiles.



The second experiment is with retailer Marks & Spencer and charity Oxfam using postal donations. Customers can order an Oxfam postal bag and use a free postal service to donate both rewearable and non-rewearable clothes. For more information on the ACT UK textile collection trials, visit [www.acttakeback.org](http://www.acttakeback.org).



ACT UK is investigating the technology and challenges related to large-volume sorting and pre-processing of non-rewearable textiles. The project team has interviewed technology providers and key stakeholders to gather insights on available equipment and developing technologies that could satisfy the requirements of a future Automated

Textile Sorting and Pre-processing facility (ATSP). A new report “Automatic-sorting for Circular Textiles, Technology Market Review” by the Manufacturing Technology Centre (MTC) focuses on the key process areas: Fibre Identification & Sorting, Conveyance, Size Reduction and Disruptor Removal.

The project is also providing a proof of concept for a ‘Circular Textiles Ecosystem’ and outlining how a supply chain for non-rewearable post-consumer textiles into fibre-to-fibre recycling processes could work in the UK.

This involves analysing current and future scenarios of non-rewearable textile flows in the UK, including their socio-economic and environmental impacts. Trials will be run where textiles will be taken through the ATSP steps and prepared as feedstock for textile recycling systems, to be recycled into new fibre and yarn.

Find out more here <https://ukft.org/innovation/act-uk/>