

Top brands failing on cotton sustainability

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Based on research by



Sustainable Cotton Ranking

Assessing company performance



Commissioned by



Solidaridad



The majority of international companies using most cotton globally are failing to deliver on cotton sustainability according to new independent research published today by Pesticide Action Network (PAN) UK, Solidaridad and WWF.

Just eight companies out of 37 made it out of the red zone in the ranking research conducted by Rank a Brand, one of Europe's largest brand-comparison sites on sustainability and [corporate social responsibility](#). Only home furnishing giant IKEA, who top the ranking, score in the green zone with 12 out of a maximum of 19.5 points. C&A (9), H&M (9) and Adidas (7.75) follow in the yellow zone, while Nike (6.75), M&S (5.5), VF Corporation (3.25), and Kering (3) are in the orange zone. Another 29 companies fall in the red zone and appear to do virtually nothing on [cotton](#) sustainability.

"IKEA, C&A and H&M are showing how cotton sustainability is good for business but many top companies are failing to deliver", said Richard Holland, Director, Market Transformation, WWF. "Sourcing more sustainable cotton has never been easier so there is no excuse for companies not to offer more responsible products to customers."

"It's clear that just a few leading companies are doing the heavy lifting on sourcing sustainable cotton", said Isabelle Roger, Global Cotton Programme Manager, Solidaridad. "For the cotton sector as a whole to become sustainable, all other major companies will need to get on board."

COTTON RANKING: DETAILED RESULTS

Company name	Policy	Uptake	Traceability	Total score
Maximum score	3.50	11.00	5.00	19.50
IKEA Group	2.00	8.00	2.00	12.00
C&A Global	3.00	4.00	2.00	9.00
H&M Group	2.50	3.00	3.50	9.00
Adidas Group	2.25	4.00	1.50	7.75
Nike, Inc.	2.75	2.00	2.00	6.75
Marks & Spencer	2.00	3.00	0.50	5.50
VF Corporation	2.25	1.00	0.00	3.25
Kering	2.00	0.50	0.50	3.00
Inditex Group	2.50	0.00	0.00	2.50
Burberry Group PLC	1.75	0.00	0.50	2.25
Associated British Foods	1.50	0.00	0.50	2.00
Hanesbrands Inc.	1.00	0.00	1.00	2.00
Carrefour	1.75	0.00	0.00	1.75
PVH	1.75	0.00	0.00	1.75
Casino Group	1.25	0.00	0.00	1.25
China Resources Enterprise Ltd.	1.25	0.00	0.00	1.25
Macy's, Inc.	1.25	0.00	0.00	1.25
Hudson's Bay Co.	0.50	0.00	0.50	1.00
Walmart	1.00	0.00	0.00	1.00
LVMH	0.75	0.00	0.00	0.75
Target Corp	0.25	0.00	0.50	0.75
Fast Retailing	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.50
GAP Inc.	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.50
L Brands	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.50
Wesfarmers	0.00	0.00	0.50	0.50
Auchan Groupe	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Coach Inc.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Dillard's Inc.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Foot Locker, Inc.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Hermès International S.A.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
JCPenney	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Lotte Co. Ltd.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Nordstrom Inc.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Ralph Lauren Corporation	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Richemont	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Ross Stores	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TJX	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00



While around 10-13 per cent of global cotton supply can be classed as more sustainable, less than a fifth of this amount is actually being used as more sustainable cotton in products with the rest being sold as conventional due to lack of demand from top brands and companies.

"Lack of uptake of more sustainable cotton is a massive missed opportunity", said Keith Tyrell, Director, PAN UK. "Conventional cotton production often suffers from serious social and environmental impacts such as excessive water and hazardous pesticide use. Growing the sustainable cotton market is our best chance of cleaning up cotton and protecting worker health."

Rank a Brand scored [company](#) performance across three areas: policy, sourcing and use, and traceability. Most points were available for sourcing and use with companies assessed according to volumes used from Better Cotton, Cotton made in Africa, Organic, and Fairtrade – the four standards judged to be sustainable for this research.

PAN UK, Solidaridad and WWF are calling on all companies using large volumes of cotton to set, report and deliver on time-bound targets for cotton sustainability – companies serious about sustainability should be sourcing 100% more sustainable cotton by 2020 at the latest.

SUSTAINABLE COTTON - IT HAS NEVER BEEN EASIER



Sustainable Cotton Production. Credit: Mind The Gap Report

SUSTAINABLE COTTON - UPTAKE IS LAGGING BEHIND



Uptake of Sustainable Cotton. Credit: Mind The Gap Report

More information: Cotton Ranking report:
[awsassets.panda.org/downloads/ ... rt _june 2016 2.pdf](https://awsassets.panda.org/downloads/...rt_june_2016_2.pdf)

Provided by WWF

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