

ZoneWorks Peer Share May 2015

Textiles – Reuse and Recycling

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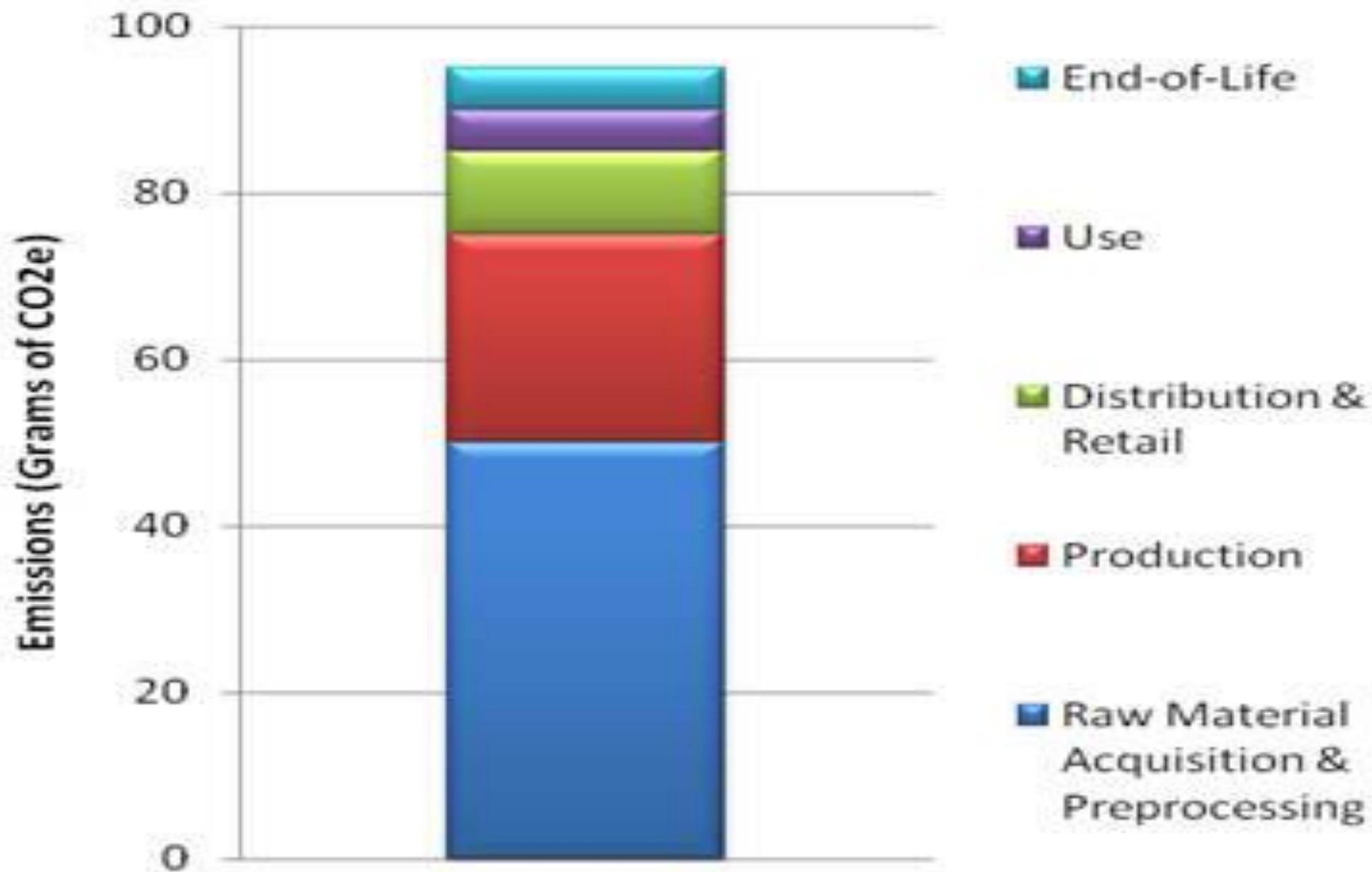


T-Shirt Travels

- **Inspired by the Book**

The Travels of a T-Shirt in the Global Economy: An Economist Examines the Markets, Power and Politics of the World Trade.





“Ever toss a stained T-shirt in the trash? So many Americans do that 11.1 million tons of textiles end up in landfills each year.

“stained, ripped, mismatched or out-of-fashion.”

What Is Not Getting Reused/Recycled

- According to the [U.S. EPA](#), a whopping 85% of all discarded textiles – 12 million tons – are sent to U.S. landfills every year
- [Big City: San Franciscans send 4,500 pounds of textiles to landfill every hour.](#)
- Small County: Humboldt Waste Management Authority – 2,859 tons/yr.
 - 4.4% textiles in overall waste (characterization study – 2011)
 - 6% in Arcata, a college town

Textiles: Options for Reuse

- Thrift Stores
 - Non-Profit -
 - St. Vincent DePaul, Salvation Army, Goodwill, Rescue Mission, churches
 - Private
 - Vintage stores, Consignment Shops
- Selective or Less Selective

Thrift Store Sales - Or Not

- It sells –your t-shirt is now someone's usable clothes option
- It does not sell fast and is greatly discounted - may still be used as a t-shirt or used as a craft/art supply - t-shirt rugs.
- It does not sell and needs to be moved out of store



It Does Not Sell

- Some stores have Free bins. Rescue Mission has a separate entrance for free left over clothes and household items.
- In-house products. Saint Vincent DePaul's – rags, and more.
- Thrift Store Unsold Textile Collection Program
 - Baled textiles sent to a sorting business – locally, state, international
 - EcoGroovey (local), United Textile in state, Soex (in state, international company)
 - Sorted into material type, sold to U.S end markets or overseas

Drop Boxes for Textiles – Private or Non-Profit, or a collaboration



**Host a
Drop Box**



Curbside Collection of Textiles

- Towels,
- Clothing,
- Blankets,
- Sheets
- Shoes

Product: American Textile: Wiping Clothes

- RMDZ loan bought new machinery, laundry- and material-handling equipment, and working capital to expand inventories.
- The company collects the textiles from local textile graders, thrift stores, commercial laundries, hospitals, hotels, and clothing manufacturers, then markets the used materials for reuse, repurpose, and reprocess.





Bag of Rags



Textile Recycled Products

- Most of the 12 million tons of textiles we send to the landfill each year can be reused or recycled.
- United Fibers, a company that turns textiles into insulation
- Flooring
- Auto industry,
- Packaging,
- Cushioning in stuffed toys, insoles, and bags.

Make Rags in your community for local use

- Importing rags into your county, paying money to buy them.
- Exporting unused textiles out of your area.
- Plug the leak of money going out to buy rags and textile resources going out of the area.

San Francisco's Zero Waste Plan

- **Clothes piling up?**
- **[Drop off unwanted clothes, shoes and linens at a location near you.](#)**
 - Locations all of the city – sponsored drop off bins
- [Clothes & accessories](#) (sweaters, jeans, single socks, boxers, belts, purses, etc.)
- [Shoes](#) (sneakers, boots, heels, slippers)
- [Linens](#) (towels, sheets, tablecloths)

Peer Share

- Where are your textiles going?
- Reuse/Thrift Stores? Sorting and textile grading? New market production?
- Are you having challenges with thrift stores being more selective?
- Market ideas?
- Questions?

Company: Base 41

- Owners

- Shauna Ford-Potter
- LaSalle Thompson

- Presentation

- Ask Questions – share ideas – suggest resources -