SAVING WATER IS SAVING LIFE

Textile Water Stewardship Program
WATER SCARCITY AND THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY

Today, 41% of the world’s population lives in areas with severe water scarcity. (*)

The textile industry is the second largest water-use industry worldwide. (**) Therefore, changes in technology and production to reduce and reuse water is an important goal of the textile industry for sustainable development.

(*** Distribution of Percentage of Consumptive Water Use across Textiles Value Chain

An average of 2700 liters water is needed to produce a T-shirt.

Reference:
[***] Adapted from WWF report (2022): Apparel Report ¡-Eau Courant: Water Stewardship In Apparel & Textiles
Customers are becoming better informed and more aware of the environmental impact of textile and fashion products to natural resources like water. In response to higher governmental requirements and consumer concerns for environment, more and more brands have set targets to reduce water consumption and emissions into the environment to increase consumer confidence.

GAP, PVH or Ralph Lauren are global apparel brands that lead the trend:

- By modernizing water treatment system, in 2020, GAP saved 10 billion liters of water.
- PVH reduced water use throughout the supply chain by 30% in 2021 compared to 2020, equivalent to 47.3 billion liters of water saved.
- This figure of Ralph Lauren is 24%.

Source: Brand Annual Sustainability Reports

To expand the market share by deeper participation in the international supply chain, efficient use of water resource is the key strategy for Vietnam’s textile and garment industry to build its sustainable competitive advantage.
Since 2018, during the 4 years of the WWF Program Textile Water Stewardship, WWF-Vietnam has provided technical support to the textile sector to accelerate the process of green production transformation. Twenties textile and dyeing factories have cut down water use by 2 million m³ annually by implementing water saving and wastewater recycle solutions suggested by the program.

Giving Know-How: Raising awareness and capability for enterprises.

- 04 guidebooks on Greening the Textile sector, Green credit, Water and energy audit skill, and Water efficiency practices were published.
- 738 textile enterprises reached to raise water risk awareness.
- +70 textile and garment companies endorsed a collective commitment on environmental sustainability.
- 150 enterprises increased technical knowledge of water-energy effective solutions.

Providing Solution: Dedicated green credit line for the textile sector was issued!

- Concessional interest rate.
- No collateral assets required.
- Loan threshold at 100% value of purchased equipment.

Achievements: 95% targeted textile SMEs taking actions to reduce water and energy consumption as well as water pollution from 10% to 50%.

- 2 million cubic meters of water saved and recycled per year by program's supported factories.
- 133 million megajoule energy saving per year.
Trieu Tai company, a textile SME, has begun to benefit from green investments in water-energy efficiency solutions.

In total, Trieu Tai has cut its yearly water and energy use by 33% and 21%, respectively, saving roughly 100,000 m3 of water and 30 million megajoules of energy. This is the outcome of water stewardship actions recommended by the program’s resource efficiency and dyeing experts, wastewater treatment engineers.

“Reducing water and energy consumption has helped our enterprise to build up resilience amid the difficult times of Covid-19 pandemic and economic turmoil afterward. We are seeing the return from our green investments in the form of water and energy cost saving. I am grateful to technical advice and support from the WWF Textile program.”

Mr. Nguyen Truong Son, the factory’s Vice Director.
World Wide Fund for Nature in Vietnam (WWF-Vietnam) is recognised as the leading conservation organisation in the country, bringing solutions and support to the government and other key players to meet the country's development challenges.

Sponsored by SDC, HSBC, and Tommy Hilfiger, WWF has launched the 4-year Textile Water Stewardship Program in late 2018 to support the textile sector and community affected by degraded water resource toward sustainable water governance.

In the coming years, we plan to expand the Water Stewardship Program to agriculture and aquaculture sector.

Sponsored by:
SAVING WATER IS SAVING LIFE

2 million
m³/ water/year

150
enterprises increased technical
knowledge of water-energy
effective solutions

738
textile enterprises reached to
raise water risk awareness.

+70
textile and garment
companies endorsed a
collective commitment on
environmental sustainability

04
guidebooks on Greening the
Textile sector, Green credit,
Water and energy audit skill,
and Water efficiency practices
were published.

133 million
megajoule energy/year