

Glossary

BHET (bis(2-hydroxyethyl) terephthalate) - A basic chemical “building block” of polyester. During chemical recycling, polyester is broken down into BHET, which can then be turned back into PET and polyester fibers.

rBHET (recycled BHET) - A chemical intermediate produced during polyester regeneration. It acts as a “building block” for making new PET and polyester.

Circular textile system - A system designed to keep textiles in use by collecting, recycling, and turning waste textiles into new materials rather than sending them to landfill or incineration.

Depolymerization - The chemical process of breaking long polymer chains, like polyester fibers, into small molecules or monomers such as BHET.

Downstream (textile value chain) - Later stages of textile production, such as spinning fibers, weaving fabrics, and making garments.

PET (polyethylene terephthalate) - The plastic material used to make polyester fibers and many everyday products such as drink bottles. Polyester is essentially PET in fiber form.

rPET (recycled PET) - PET that has been made from recycled materials instead of new fossil-based resources. Today, rPET most often comes from recycled plastic bottles rather than textile waste.

Polyester - A widely used synthetic textile fiber made from oil-based materials. It does not biodegrade and represents nearly 60% of global textile fiber production.

Post-consumer textiles - Clothing and textiles that have already been used by consumers and then discarded.

Regeneration - A chemical recycling process that breaks down textile waste and rebuilds it into high-quality raw material that can be reused multiple times.

Reju Polyester - High-quality polyester made from regenerated textile waste, designed to be recycled again and with a significantly lower carbon footprint than virgin polyester.

Repolymerization - The chemical process of turning small molecules like rBHET back into long polymer chains to create new plastic or fibers.

Upstream (textile value chain) - Early stages of the system, such as collecting, sorting, and preparing textile waste.

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