



SUSTAINABILITY: OUR SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

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SUSTAINABLE

Dear Readers,

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals, which serve as a roadmap for a sustainable future drawn by the United Nations, act as a global compass. At Oz Simge Tekstil, guided by these important goals, we are fully aware of the environmental and social responsibilities that come with the apparel industry. In this regard, we are committed to embracing sustainability principles in all our processes from production to consumption, and to deepening our efforts in this field day by day.

In this bulletin, our aim is to transparently share with you the steps we have taken towards achieving a more sustainable approach to fashion, while at the same time raising social awareness and contributing to the spread of sustainability consciousness.

UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

At the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Summit held in New York on September 25, 2015, world leaders came together and adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) consisting of 17 goals and 169 targets. These goals aim to eradicate poverty in all its dimensions and ensure the common prosperity of humanity by the year 2030.

THE GLOBAL GOALS For Sustainable Development



An aerial photograph of a dense, vibrant green forest. A winding river, appearing as a bright blue line, meanders through the center of the forest. Patches of white mist or low clouds are scattered throughout the scene, particularly around the edges of the forest and near the river. The overall atmosphere is serene and natural.

SUSTAINABILITY

It is not about saving today, but about living without borrowing from the lives of future generations.

Sustainability:

There is no single universally accepted definition of sustainability. In 1987, at the meeting of the World Commission on Environment and Development, it was defined as “meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.” It means ensuring the continuity of production, diversity, and consumption while remaining both socially and ecologically enduring.

Therefore, every action taken must be in harmony with nature. No effort at either the individual or institutional level should disrupt the balance of nature; on the contrary, it should directly or indirectly contribute to maintaining this balance permanently.



ÖZ SİMGE TEKSTİL AND SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES

ÖZ SİMGE TEKSTİL AND SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION

- We believe that placing sustainable development at the core of our strategy enhances both our long-term success and our social impact. We began our operations in the ready-to-wear sector in 1992 and carried out our first export in 1996.
- In 2005, when sustainability was not yet a widely recognized concept, we adopted a visionary approach by initiating organic product exports under our brand “Profondita.” Today, as the Öz Simge Tekstil family, we see expanding our sustainable production activities on behalf of distinguished brands as one of our primary objectives.
- In this direction, our sustainable production rate, which was 25% in 2022, increased to 40% in 2023, and reached 50% as of 2024. In addition to our certifications—GOTS, OCS, OEKO-TEX 100 for organic products, and GRS, RCS, OEKO-TEX 100 for recycled products—we also closely follow new international certification systems that support sustainable production.





ECOTIM SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM

- Since September 2024, we have been actively participating in the "ECOTIM SUSTAINABILITY" project, carried out in collaboration with the Turkish Exporters Assembly and Dokuz Eylül University.
- By joining the ECOTIM program, we have taken a significant step to enhance our knowledge and practical skills in the field of sustainability. Through training with our mentor under the ECOTIM program, led by the Turkish Exporters Assembly (TİM) and Dokuz Eylül University, we created a roadmap for sustainability.
- With our sustainability team, we had the opportunity to learn best practices in the industry and to develop our own projects. We also increased our team's awareness and engagement in sustainability.

WASTE MANAGEMENT AND ZERO WASTE AT ÖZ SİMGE TEKSTİL

- We minimize waste generation and promote recycling.
- With the “Zero Waste Certificate” we received in 2023, we document our approach to resource and waste management based on circularity.
- During production, we separate fabric scraps and collaborate with textile companies to ensure their recycling.
- Our company continuously works on improving waste management and resource efficiency. In this context, practices such as repurposing and reusing stock fabrics are encouraged.





UTILIZATION OF ORGANIC WASTE

- On our sustainability journey, we go beyond theory and take concrete steps.
- In this regard, in March 2025, we invested in a compost machine at our company to process food waste and contribute to the circular economy.
- With the compost machine, we reduce the amount of waste generated while producing natural fertilizer and food for our animal friends.
- This investment is part of our waste management approach and serves our goal of using natural resources more efficiently.

WATER MANAGEMENT AT ÖZ SİMGE TEKSTİL

We use innovative technologies in our production processes to optimize water consumption and ensure efficient use of water.

In addition, with the filtration system we have installed, we purify tap water to obtain high-quality drinking water. By using a water purification system, we prevent the energy consumption caused by bottled water production and distribution.

During the purification process, we consume less energy, which not only reduces costs but also contributes to the more efficient use of energy resources.

Compared to 2023, we reduced our water consumption by 29% in 2024, achieving significant savings. On June 10, 2023, we switched to sensor-operated faucets to further reduce water usage.

Our water consumption, which was 1,111 m³ in 2023, decreased to 861 m³ in 2024, resulting in a 29% reduction and substantial savings.



BEST PRACTICE EXAMPLES

Second-Hand Corner:

In line with the 12th goal of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, "Responsible Consumption and Production," we established a second-hand corner in our company, initiating a solidarity practice among our colleagues. The second-hand items are directed to individuals and institutions in need.

Clothing Support for Newborns through Upcycling Method:

By producing baby clothes from leftover fabric edges, we provide clothing support to the newborn units of hospitals.



THE ENVIRONMENTAL FOOTPRINT OF FAST FASHION

Every year, approximately 92 million tons of textile waste are generated worldwide. This means that every second, a truckload of clothing is discarded.

Fast fashion production plays a significant role in this growing waste problem. Only 1% of the garments produced in the industry are recycled into new clothing. This extremely low recycling rate poses a major challenge for waste management and sustainability.

It is reported that during a 90-minute football match, 5,400 truckloads of textile waste are released into the environment; every year the textile industry uses 215 trillion liters of water, which equals 86 million Olympic swimming pools; and annually, 92 million tons of textile waste are generated globally—equal to the weight of 9,109 Eiffel Towers.

Our Water Footprint: Every Drop Counts 💧

💧 The textile industry exerts significant pressure on natural resources globally.

🌍 Worldwide, the sector consumes about 215 trillion liters of water annually—enough to fill 86 million Olympic-sized swimming pools.

👕 Producing a single T-shirt requires an average of 2,700 liters of water.

➡ This equals the amount of drinking water needed by one person for approximately 2.5 years.

As **Öz Simge Tekstil**, we are determined to optimize our production processes to ensure water savings with this awareness.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF THE READY-TO-WEAR SECTOR

Water Consumption and Pollution

The ready-to-wear industry consumes approximately 93 billion cubic meters of water annually, accounting for about 4% of global freshwater usage. If production continues at this pace, water consumption is expected to increase by 50% by 2030.

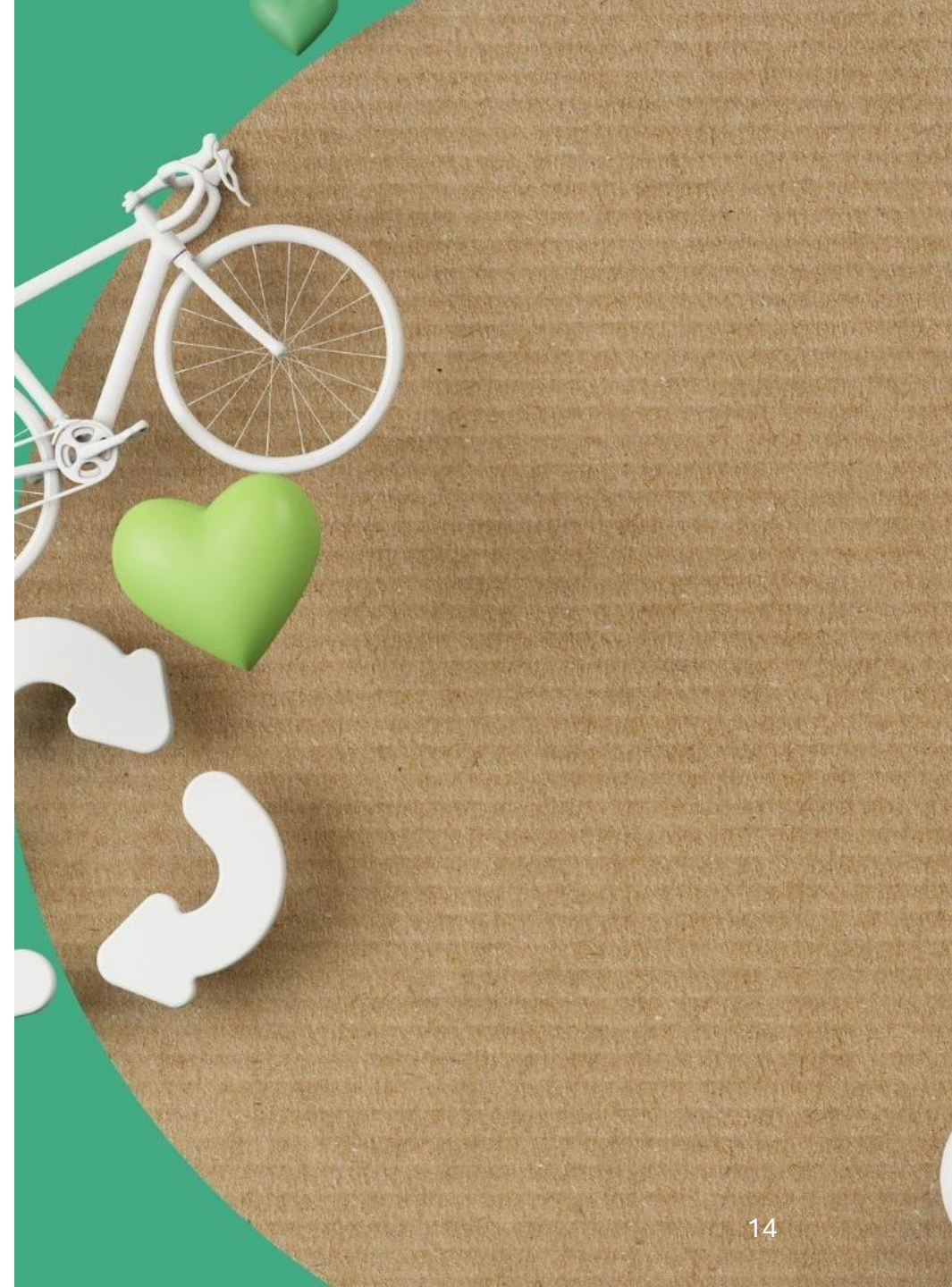
Textile production is responsible for nearly 20% of industrial wastewater worldwide. This pollution poses serious threats to aquatic ecosystems and human health.

Carbon Emissions

The overall fashion industry is reported to account for about 10% of global carbon emissions. As a sub-sector, the ready-to-wear industry bears a significant share of these emissions. Fast fashion practices, in particular, contribute to higher carbon emissions through the rapid production and consumption of low-quality, short-lived garments. This rate exceeds the combined emissions from international flights and maritime shipping.

Microplastic Pollution

Garments made from synthetic fabrics release microplastic fibers during washing. These microplastics enter the oceans, threatening marine life and infiltrating the food chain.



MARCH 30 – INTERNATIONAL ZERO WASTE DAY

Today, while addressing the issue of sustainability, we must always keep in mind how critical the theme of “Zero Waste in Fashion and Textiles”, which was the main theme of the March 30 International Day of Zero Waste that we recently celebrated, is for our sector.

In Paris, the capital of France, a digital exhibition themed “March 30 International Day of Zero Waste” was opened at the headquarters of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). Based on the 2025 main theme of “Zero Waste in Fashion and Textiles”, the exhibition aimed to raise awareness within the scope of the Zero Waste Day.

The exhibition conveyed the message that people already have sufficient resources and products and therefore can reduce their consumption habits. At the same time, it emphasized that there are enough solutions, knowledge, and people for change, and underlined that a better future is therefore possible.





BANGLADESH CASE: CHALLENGES IN RECYCLING

Bangladesh, the world's second-largest ready-to-wear producer, generates approximately **577,000 tons of textile waste** annually. However, most of this waste is not recycled and harms the environment.

Deficiencies in waste management and lack of infrastructure make achieving sustainability goals more difficult.

Recycling Capacity: Only 5–7% of this waste is recycled.

Export and Waste Management: About 55% of the waste is exported to recycling facilities abroad, while the remainder is used as filling material, for energy production, or is partially discarded.

Potential Economic Loss: Due to inadequate recycling policies, Bangladesh loses an estimated 5 billion USD in potential export revenue each year.

Recycling Technologies and Investments: Some local companies are investing in advanced technologies such as chemical recycling.

However, infrastructure gaps and transparency issues limit these efforts.

Fashion that shines under the lights leaves a lasting footprint in the shadows.

The European Union has ushered in a new era for fashion in 2025: Sustainability is no longer a choice — it's a legal obligation.

In this context: 👗 Digital Product Passport (DPP) — every garment will digitally reveal where it was made, the materials used, and its carbon footprint.

♻️ Recyclability becomes mandatory. Brands are now responsible for the entire life cycle of their products.

🚫 Greenwashing is no longer tolerated. Environmental claims must be supported by verifiable certification.

Ecodesign Regulation — durability, repairability, and reusability are now prioritized over fast fashion.

📍 London Fashion Week has aligned its collection criteria with EU sustainability standards, becoming — for the first time — a sustainability-focused fashion week.



SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGIES IN READY-TO-WEAR



1. Use of Certified and Responsible Materials

- Prefer eco-friendly fabrics such as organic cotton, recycled polyester, modal, and bamboo.
- Use raw materials with sustainability certifications like OEKO-TEX, GOTS, RCS, and FSC.

2. Working with Energy- and Water-Efficient Suppliers

- Choose suppliers that produce fabrics and accessories with low water consumption and use renewable energy. .
- If you do not dye in-house, ensure that dyed fabrics are produced with environmentally friendly processes.

3. Waste Reduction and Scrap Management in Production

- Reduce fabric waste with digital pattern placement.
- Repurpose leftover fabrics for accessories, small items, or special “upcycled” collections.

4. Sustainable Packaging

- Use recyclable or compostable materials instead of plastic packaging.
- Prefer FSC-certified papers for labels and shipping boxes.



**ZERO
CARBON
2050**

5. Principle of Long-Lasting Design

- Produce timeless, durable, and classic pieces that avoid fast fashion cycles.
- Prioritize stitch quality, durability, and functionality.

6. Take-Back and Reuse Programs

- Launch collection campaigns for unused clothes.
- Establish partnerships for reuse, donation, or recycling.

7. Consumer Awareness

- Provide information on labels or websites such as “How to wash?” and “How to extend lifespan?”
- Share content on sustainable wardrobes and slow fashion via social media.

8. Transparency and Reporting

- Share information about your production processes—such as carbon footprint, water consumption, and recycling rates—transparently.
- Report your sustainability commitments annually.

9. Workers’ Rights and Social Sustainability

- Offer safe, fairly paid, and ethical working conditions.
- Develop active policies for workers’ welfare, training, and occupational health.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF CONSUMER HABITS

It is a fact that the environmental pressure in the ready-to-wear sector arises not only from production processes but also from consumer habits.

Rapidly changing trends, the perception of low prices, and shorter product lifespans increase textile waste day by day

The average lifespan of clothing worldwide has decreased by 36% over the past 15 years.

Every year, millions of tons of textile products are discarded while still in usable condition.

In Turkey, approximately 33% of textile products released to the market become waste.

Frequent purchasing of low-priced products shortens usage periods.

Social media-driven fast-changing trends encourage more shopping.

Declining repair habits lead to clothes being discarded due to minor defects.



SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY IN READY-TO-WEAR

The ready-to-wear sector constitutes a large portion of global employment, providing a livelihood for millions of people. However, this high employment capacity also brings significant social responsibilities.

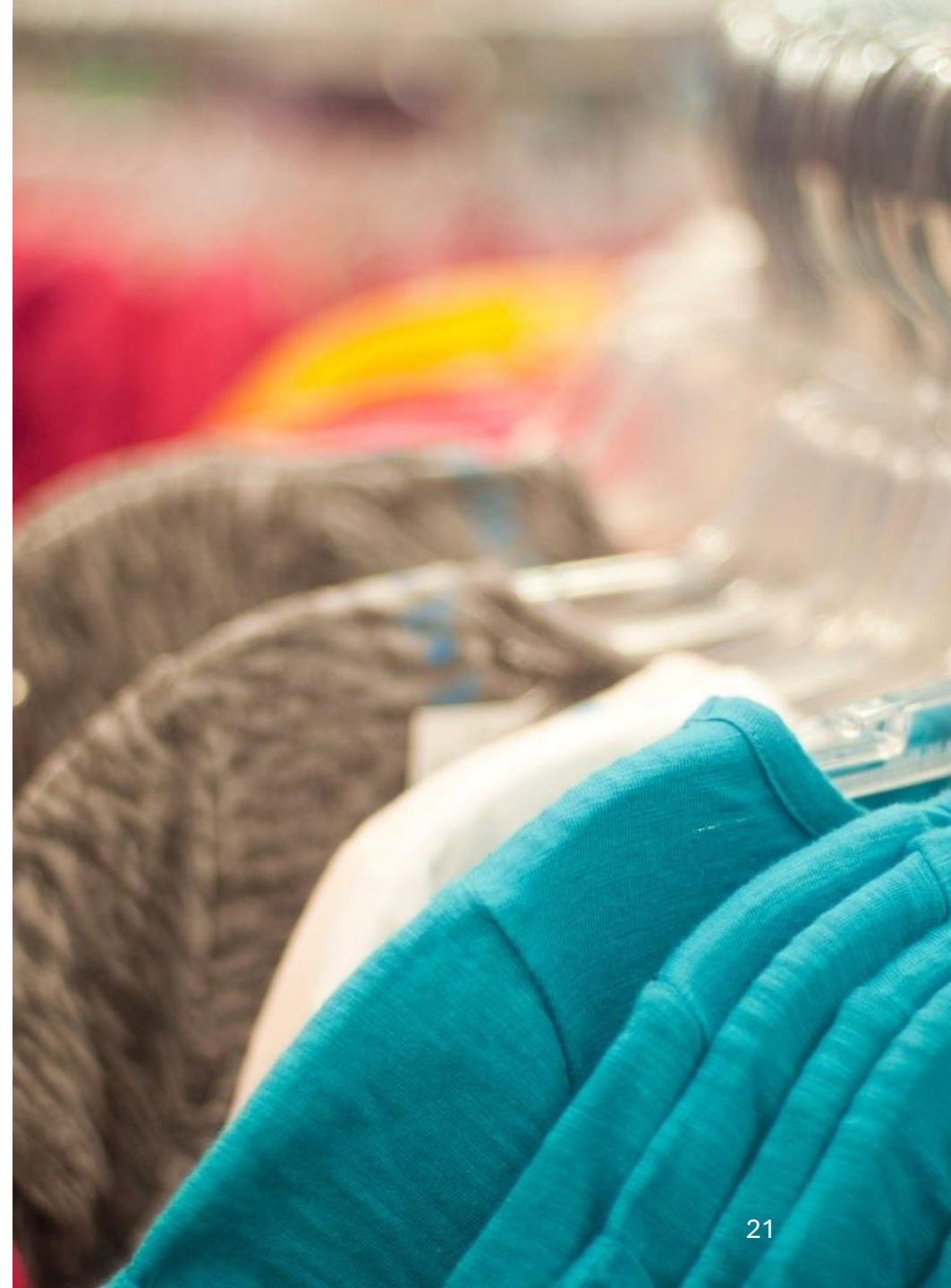
Social sustainability is measured not only by reducing the sector's environmental impacts but also by ensuring human rights, fair and safe working conditions.

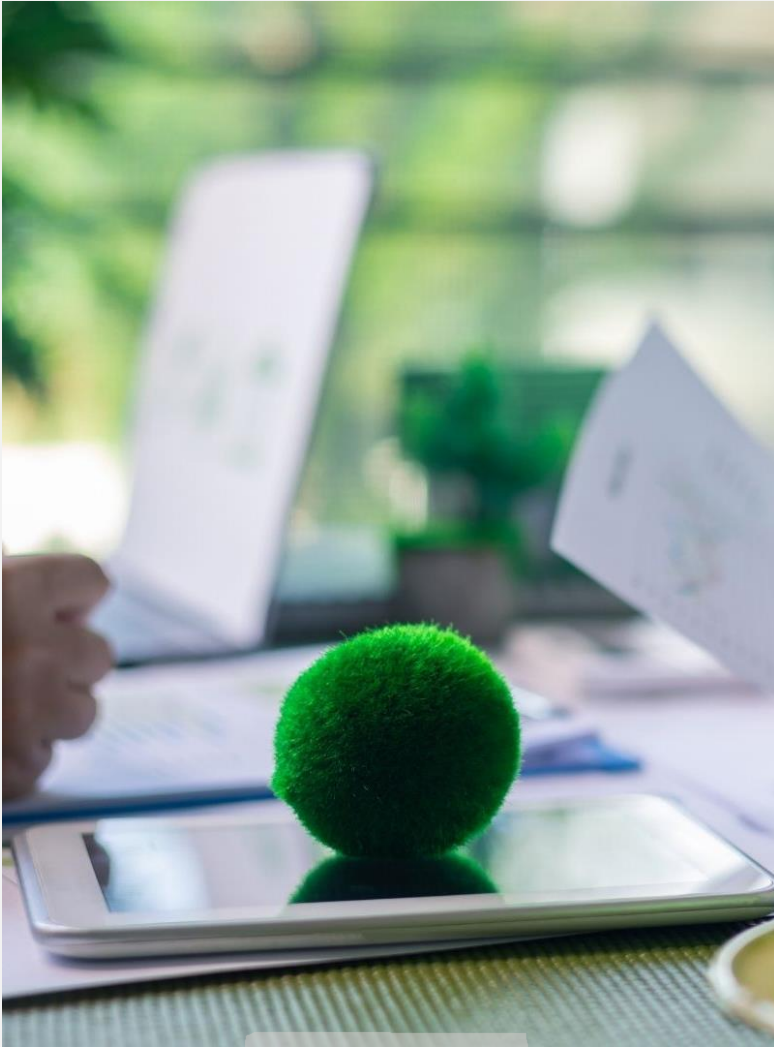
Human-Centered Approach

- Social sustainability means protecting the rights of every individual in the production chain and improving quality of life.
- Fair wages, equal opportunities, safe workplaces, trade union rights, and combating child labor are the cornerstones of this approach.
- Supporting and empowering women, who make up a large share of the workforce, is also an essential component of social sustainability.

Ethical Practices in the Supply Chain

- Most social risks in the ready-to-wear sector occur in the lower tiers of the supply chain. Therefore, it is critical for companies to ensure social compliance not only in their own facilities but also among their business partners.
- Ethical audits, contractual compliance requirements, and regular monitoring systems can help reduce these social risks.





Part of Corporate Responsibility

- Today, social sustainability is an inseparable part of corporate responsibility. Companies in the sector are expected to focus not only on economic success but also on social impact.
- Accordingly, projects that generate social benefits, educational support programs, regional development efforts, and practices aimed at employee well-being are becoming increasingly widespread.

Walking into the Future with Responsibility

- Ready-to-wear companies that embrace social sustainability strengthen their own longevity while also guiding the sector with a safer, fairer, and more inclusive business model.
- Human-centered approaches are gaining greater importance every day for long-term success.

- In this era where sustainability in the ready-to-wear industry has become not an option but a necessity, we at Öz Simge Tekstil wholeheartedly embrace this transformation.
- The steps we take—reducing our environmental impacts, prioritizing social benefits, and supporting economic sustainability—are planned not only to contribute to today's world but also to tomorrow's.
- The sustainability approach we share with you in this bulletin reflects the steps we have taken in the past, the experiences we have gained, and the vision we carry for the future.
- We believe that a sustainable understanding of fashion is only possible through collaboration, transparency, and determination, and we invite all our stakeholders to take shared responsibility on this journey.
- With the hope of working together for a more livable world and a more conscious industry...

Thank you...

