



Sudbury Silk Mills Sustainability update - April 2022

Sudbury Silk Mills is a vertical production jacquard weaving mill in Sudbury Suffolk. The entire process from yarn dyeing, warping, jacquard program designing, weaving to finished fabric can be followed through the factory. There over forty looms in operation at the mill, with the businesses producing a wide range of fabrics of exceptional quality, custom-woven to order and despatched worldwide for luxury Fashion and Furnishings.

There are three companies weaving at Sudbury Silk Mills, each with their own unique offering. While customer activity is managed independently by each specialist team, non-commercial activity such as Sustainability is managed with representation from each company.

Recognising the importance of sustainable textile production but also the scale of the commitment involved, a steering group for Sudbury Silk Mills provides overall strategic direction to a network of working and action groups, covering Oeko-Tex accreditation, Environmental Management and Environmental Performance. Membership of these groups is made up from employees of varying positions across the three businesses for companywide engagement.

This means we can benefit from a wider depth of experience and make a more significant impact on Sustainability.

Sudbury Silk Mills are focussing on three key areas. **Oeko-Tex accreditation**, **Carbon footprint reduction** and **Textile waste**. There is a culture change across the business which puts Sustainability at heart of our future decision making.



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Oeko-Tex accreditation

We received the evaluation of our final submission at the start of March and over the past couple of months we have been working to advance our application and provide extra evidence.

We have now progressed to being able to book external accredited testing to validate our internal reporting.



Carbon Footprint reduction



Our new method of measuring will be our carbon score in tonnes per million of turnover, so that more business no longer negatively reflects on our carbon footprint. **From 2015-2021 we had a long-term reduction of -13.52% in tCO₂e/million.** We will look to re-evaluate our existing target based on reviewing the data around this new intensity ratio (tCO₂e/million).

There is an ongoing **finishing machine project** focusing on consolidating batch finishes to reduce energy consumption. This has meant that the machine has on average reduced from being on for 11 hours to 4 hours per day, so on for 64% less time. **Projecting a yearly saving estimate of -6,840 kgCO₂e and -1.6% of total kgCO₂e.**

Our medium-term goal is to work through our larger energy consuming functions in turn, to **identify improvements**. Longer term we are looking into **renewable energy** and alternatives to natural gas, this now feeds into any equipment replacement programmes, not necessarily just replacing like for like.



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Textile waste

Closing the financial year with an amazing achievement in our **production textile waste reduction**. In 20/21 we had 4.05% of textile waste compared to 2.42% in 21/22, making the **reduction a significant 40% less**. This is thanks to everybody's efforts and initiatives such as, the weaver's checklist which has helped to focus orders being right first time.

The LMB 360 degrees textile recycling container collected approx. **four tonnes of textile waste**, which was from waste fabric accumulated for quite a few years and kept in storage. This maintains our **zero to landfill** as well as zero to incineration of textile waste.

Our Environmental Performance Team are focusing on further clarifying the **green channels** available for the 2% of textile waste so we can all help to maximise the most responsible channels.



The mill shop and supply chain have been working on a **waste yarn project** to firstly look at donating waste yarn, then maximising sales through different channels via the shop. Already **22kg of waste yarn has been donated**.



Communicating Change

Our Sustainability brochure can be found on our websites and will be updated **annually**, alongside regular updates throughout the year to share sustainable activity across the business.



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