

Inventory of Initiatives and Organizations Advancing Safer Chemicals and Products



GC³ Green Chemistry &
Commerce Council

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The Green Chemistry and Commerce Council (GC3) was formed in 2005 and provides a forum for participants to discuss and share information and experiences related to advancing green chemistry and design for the environment as it pertains to sustainable supply chain management. The GC3 is a project of the Lowell Center for Sustainable Production at the University of Massachusetts Lowell.

The Lowell Center for Sustainable Production uses rigorous science, collaborative research, and innovative strategies to promote communities, workplaces, and products that are healthy, humane, and respectful of natural systems. The Center is composed of faculty, staff, and graduate students at the University of Massachusetts Lowell who work with citizen groups, workers, businesses, institutions, and government agencies to build healthy work environments, thriving communities, and viable businesses that support a more sustainable world.

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Inventory of Initiatives and Organizations Advancing Safer Chemicals and Products

Introduction

At the 2011 Green Chemistry and Commerce Council (GC3) Roundtable, the “Engaging Retailers in the Adoption of Safer Products” Project Group (Retailer Project Group) determined it would be useful to develop an inventory of initiatives and organizations relevant to retailers that are advancing sustainability efforts with a focus on safer chemicals and products. The goal of this project is to provide background information to help participants determine the appropriate activities of the GC3 retail project group.

Twelve initiatives/organizations relevant to retailers that have some focus on safer chemicals and products were identified based on suggestions from the Retailer Project Group, members of the larger GC3 and independent research conducted by Lowell Center for Sustainable Production staff. In all but two cases, the information has been verified by the organization or initiative. Our summary table can be found in Appendix 1. Summary findings from reviewing these organizations as a group are as follows:

- All of the efforts are **voluntary**.
- Some efforts are **sector** specific (Apparel and Footwear International RSL Management Working Group (AFIRM), Global Apparel, Footwear and Textile Initiative (GAFTI), Outdoor Industry Association (OIA), Retail Industry Leaders Association (RILA), Sustainable Apparel Coalition (SAC)), while other efforts encourage cross-sectoral collaboration (Business-NGO Working Group (BizNGO), Business for Social Responsibility (BSR), Coalition for Environmentally Responsible Economies (Ceres), International Chemical Secretariat (ChemSec), Green Chemistry Network (GCN), Green Products Roundtable (GPR), and The Sustainability Consortium (TSC)). Some projects within the cross-sectoral collaborations are sector specific, e.g., BSR’s Apparel, Mills and Sundries project or the product sector working groups within TSC.
- The **mission** of some efforts are focused on a particular project e.g. AFIRM’s RSL Toolkit or the Sustainable Apparel Coalition’s Sustainable Apparel Index, while the **mission** of other efforts is wider e.g. TSC aims to develop standards and tools to measure and report on the sustainability of products and the topic of toxics is managed by the Measurement Sciences Working Group and piloted by the individual sectors.
- Some **projects** that fit the mission of the organization are decided collaboratively by participants/members e.g. BizNGO while other organizations focus more on one-on-one research projects e.g., Ceres and GCN.
- **Fees** for participation or membership range from free participation/membership e.g. BizNGO and GCN, to project fees being evenly divided between participants/members e.g. AFIRM and the Sustainable Apparel Coalition’s initial phase, to fees based on size and/or revenue e.g. BSR, Ceres, GPR, OIA, RILA, and TSC.
- **The GC3 “Engaging Retailers in the Adoption of Safer Products” Project Group can fulfill a unique role for the retail industry. None of the organizations reviewed are broadly oriented to help retailers advance safer chemicals and products throughout supply chains, though some sector-specific projects are working to advance this goal. A unique role for this group can be advancing retail sector leadership in the movement towards safer chemicals and products throughout supply chains.**

AFIRM (Apparel and Footwear International RSL Management Working Group) Phylmar Group, Inc.

Mission: To reduce the use and impacts of harmful substances in the apparel and footwear supply chain. AFIRM has developed an RSL Toolkit as part of its mission. The toolkit provides an overview of how to begin to implement an RSL program. Many brands have also developed RSL guidelines, and suppliers are encouraged to use these where available. The Toolkit is based the American Apparel and Footwear Association (AAFA)'s RSL and Implementation Guide. The group's ultimate goal is to improve consumer satisfaction with products.

Purpose: To provide a forum to advance the global management of restricted substances in apparel and footwear, communicate information about RSLs to the supply chain, discuss concerns, and exchange ideas for improving RSL management.

Member Companies: Currently 15 companies are members: Adidas-Group, C&A, Gap, H&M, Hugo Boss, Levi Strauss & Co., New Balance, Nike, Pentland, PUMA, s.Oliver, Timberland, VF Corporation and Warnaco.

Structure:

- Member companies meet in person on an annual basis to provide a forum for discussion, exchange and professional development.
- Member companies participate in telephone conference calls.
- Task forces are organized that explore and report out on special topics (e.g., Vendor Event, Toolkit).
- Member companies communicate through a password protected website.

Relevant Work Products:

- Development of a "Master RSL Table" which is updated twice a year. This table includes the RSL lists of 7 AFIRM companies plus the BSR list)
- Sharing laboratory auditing materials
- Discussions of risk assessment processes for the apparel and footwear industries

Membership Fees:

- Annual fees are based on the projects AFIRM decides to pursue in a calendar year and the costs to the coordinating organization Phylmar Group; AFIRM companies vote to approve the amount, evenly divided among participating companies.

Website: <http://www.afirm-group.com>; <http://www.afirm-group.com/index.html>;
<http://www.phylmar.com/apparel-and-footwear-international-rsl-management-working-group/> ; Toolkit:
<http://www.afirm-group.com/final%20toolkit%20copy/AFIRMToolkitOct08.doc>

Contact: Elizabeth Treanor: 916-486-4415; etreanor@phylmar.com

BizNGO (Business – Non Governmental Organization Working Group)

Mission: The Business-NGO Working Group (BizNGO) promotes the creation and adoption of safer chemicals and sustainable materials in a way that supports market transitions to a healthy economy, healthy environment, and healthy people.

Purpose: To model collaboration between NGOs and businesses to accelerate the transition to a safer, healthy economy.

Member Companies: BizNGO includes over 170 participants from businesses that are chemical users (downstream of chemical manufacturers), environmental organizations, government agencies and universities.

Structure: BizNGO is a project of Clean Production Action, a non-governmental organization whose mission is to “design and deliver strategic solutions for green chemicals, sustainable materials and environmentally preferable products.” BizNGO is a collaboration of NGO leaders and businesses that is creating a roadmap to encourage the widespread use of safer chemicals in consumer products. Twenty-two organizations from the environmental community and the electronics, health care, furnishing and retail sectors founded the group in 2006. Participants work on projects within working groups.

Relevant Work Products:

- The Guiding Principles for Chemicals Policy Project: As more and more businesses seek to replace toxic chemicals with safe alternatives, a clear roadmap is needed on how to proceed. The Guiding Principles for Chemicals Policy is a strategy for promoting, developing and using chemicals that are environmentally preferable across their entire life cycles. The group is now focused on how to implement these principles.
- “BioSpecs” Project: Purchasing specifications for more sustainable biobased food service ware products: In 2009, the Business-NGO Working Group and the Sustainable Biomaterials Collaborative (SBC) released the Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Specifications for Compostable Biobased Food Service Ware -- or "BioSpecs." The BioSpecs provides a framework for buyers to assess the sustainability of compostable biobased food service ware products during three stages of their life cycle: (1) biomass production, (2) manufacturing, and (3) end of product life.
- Policy Initiatives Project: This group is working to influence chemicals policy reform at the federal and state levels.
- Annual Meeting: The meeting is held by invitation only, for users and consumer of chemicals.

Membership Fees: There are no membership fees. Participants agree to support the mission, issue areas and objectives of the Working Group

Website: <http://www.bizngo.org/about.php>

Contact: Mark Rossi: 781 391 6743; mark@cleanproduction.org

BSR (Business for Social Responsibility)

Mission: BSR's mission is to work with business organizations to create a just and sustainable world through corporate social responsibility (CSR).

Purpose: A leader in corporate responsibility since 1992, BSR develops sustainable business strategies and solutions through consulting, research, and cross-sector collaboration. BSR uses its expertise in environment, human rights, economic development, and governance and accountability to guide global companies toward creating a just and sustainable world.

Member Companies: A global network of more than 250 member companies with offices in Asia, Europe and North America. Associate membership is also open to NGOs, government agencies, academic institutions, foundations, and trade associations.

Structure: BSR prefers to work with companies that have an interest and commitment to improving their overall performance in key corporate social responsibility (CSR) areas and function more in a consulting capacity. There are no standards for CSR performance that must be achieved before a company can become a member of BSR.

Relevant Work Products:

- Mills and Sundries Project: Leading apparel and retail companies are working together with their mill and sundry suppliers to develop a set of sustainability principles, diagnostic tools and reporting mechanisms to create a sustainable model for boosting the bottom line while benefiting workers and the environment.

The project to date has focused on conditions in supplier facilities, including chemical management practices, rather than product chemicals. However, there is currently discussion within the working group about how to approach issues of chemical management at supplier facilities and they are interested in identifying greener chemicals/safer alternatives as part of their effort to disseminate information to suppliers.

- Annual Meeting: Many retailers participate in the annual meeting which engages attendees in CSR discussions.

Membership Fees: Annual dues are based on gross revenues

Less than \$1 billion = \$5,000 dues (or \$2,500 for associate membership)

\$1 billion - less than \$5 billion = \$11,000 dues

\$5 billion - less than \$10 billion = \$16,500 dues

\$10 billion - less than \$20 billion = \$22,000 dues

\$20 billion - less than \$50 billion = \$27,500 dues

\$50 billion or more = \$33,000 dues

There are also working group fees.

Website: <http://www.bsr.org/consulting/working-groups/>

Contact: Apparel, Mills & Sundries Project: Julia Nelson: 415 984 3200; jnelson@bsr.org; Fengyuan Wang: fwang@bsr.org

Ceres (Coalition for Environmentally Responsible Economies)

Mission: CERES' mission is to integrate sustainability into day-to-day business practices for the health of the planet and its people.

Purpose: Ceres leads a national coalition of investors, environmental organizations and other public interest groups working with companies to address sustainability challenges such as global climate change and water scarcity.

Member Companies: There are approximately 80 member companies in the Ceres Company Network, including retailers. Approximately 25 of these are Fortune 500 companies with the remainder ranging in size. The group covers 20 sectors with the majority in 10-12 sectors.

Structure: Ceres engages individual companies in the following four core components for sustainability: corporate governance; stakeholder engagement; corporate disclosure; and sustainability performance. This customized engagement is specific to the company's sustainability needs.

Relevant Work Products:

- Ceres work with member companies is based upon a framework that Ceres developed called the Ceres Roadmap for Sustainability. This document is a guide for companies looking to develop comprehensive sustainability strategies. One component of this is sustainable product design. <http://www.ceres.org/company-network/ceres-roadmap>
- Footwear and Apparel Initiatives: Ceres works with footwear and apparel companies, industry associations, investors, regulators and other stakeholders to reduce the environmental and social impacts of products and activities both at the company level and throughout global supply chains. Examples of their work includes:
 - Helping develop Timberland's "Green Index" and "Nutritional Label," which measures and discloses the impact of its footwear with regard to climate impacts, chemical use, factory conditions and resource consumption
 - Providing key advice and feedback on the Outdoor Industry Association's "Eco-Index," a shared platform for companies to evaluate the environmental impacts of the materials and design of their products
- Annual Meeting: Many retailers attend the meeting focused on integrating sustainability into business models, investments strategies, and advocacy work.

Membership Fees: Ceres Company Network membership dues are based on company size and annual revenues and range in cost from \$2,000 to \$40,000.

Website: <http://www.ceres.org/industry-initiatives/footwear-and-apparel>

Contact: Kristen Lang: 617.624.0700 x128; lang@ceres.org

ChemSec (International Chemical Secretariat)

Mission: The International Chemical Secretariat known as ChemSec was founded in 2002. The goal of this group is consistent with the Swedish government goal of a “toxic free environment by 2020.” To achieve this, ChemSec is working to reach broad acceptance in society of the concepts of precaution, substitution, polluter pays and right to know.

Purpose: In Europe, ChemSec serves as a catalyst for dialogue between business, government and NGOs and works collaboratively to reduce the use of toxic chemicals and support legislation that promotes the use of safer alternatives.

Member Companies: Current members of the ChemSec Business Group are: B&Q, Boots UK Ltd., Dell, Eureau, Ikea, L’Oreal, Sara Lee, Skanska, Sony Ericsson, and The Swedish Construction Federation. A number of companies engage in the group on an ad-hoc basis, such as Apple, Puma and H&M.

Structure: ChemSec, is a non-profit organisation Based in Göteborg, Sweden. It was founded in 2002 by four Swedish environmental organisations: Swedish Society for Nature Conservation, WWF Sweden, Nature and Youth and Friends of the Earth Sweden and funded by the Swedish government. These NGOs are the ChemSec member organizations and are represented on the ChemSec board. The ChemSec staff includes a team of chemists, political scientists, business experts and communicators.

Relevant Work Products:

- ChemSec Business Group: First convened in 2004, the group is a forum for downstream enterprises including retailers and manufacturers of consumer goods to work together to support toxics use reduction. The companies involved support stricter chemicals legislation and are actively seeking to avoid hazardous substances in production processes and throughout their supply chains. Their actions are in response to consumer demand, risk management, and other business priorities.

The group is non-sector-specific and seeks a diversity of representation as companies in different sectors often face similar challenges and can apply similar solutions. The group meets to discuss and achieve a greater understanding of how to improve chemicals management. The Business Group has also been actively involved in the development of the SIN List, a list of hazardous chemicals developed by ChemSec that delineates Substances of Very High Concern in accordance with the criteria in the EU chemicals regulation REACH.

Membership Fees: Individual participating organization’s funding obligations are based on costs linked to specific activities or work products in which they voluntarily chooses to take part.

Website: <http://www.chemsec.org/>; <http://www.chemsec.org/business-dialogue/industry-initiatives/chemsec-business-group>;
http://www.chemsec.org/images/stories/publications/ChemSec_publications/ChemSec_Business_Group_Charter.pdf

Contact: Nardono Nimpuno: +46 736 93 96 17; nardono.nimpuno@chemsec.org; Jerker Ligthart: +46 31 799 91 29; jerker.ligthart@chemsec.org

GAFTI (Global Apparel, Footwear and Textile Initiative)

Mission: Founded in 2010, GAFTI aims to be the global voice of the apparel, footwear and textile industries. Its goal is to reduce complexity, increase clarity and drive transparency through setting standards that inspire the confidence of member organizations, government / regulatory agencies and ultimately the consumer.

Purpose: GAFTI is an initiative to bring retailers, brands, mills and factories together to improve efficiencies and set standards globally. As there is no single source of requirements, there is a lack of standardization in the apparel, textile, and footwear industry. This gap results in multiple and sometimes conflicting requirements for suppliers from their various customers.

Member Companies: Members represent all parties involved in the development, manufacture and distribution of apparel, textiles and footwear including: brands, retailers, manufacturers, agents, mills, trim suppliers, associations, and testing and compliance firms.

Structure: GAFTI is an independent, self governing body, composed of a diverse group from the development, manufacture and distribution of apparel, textiles and footwear. It is not a trade association but partners with a number of trade associations including but not limited to American Apparel and Footwear Association, International Apparel Federation and the Outdoor Industry Association. A Board of Advisors was set up at the time GAFTI was founded and includes 10 leaders from across the supply chain.

Relevant Work Products:

- **Product Safety:** The Product Safety Committee of GAFTI is focused on working with governments, brands, retailers and other industry organizations to help reduce the complexity of assuring that global product safety requirements are met. It strives to achieve common global testing methods, common global RSLs, and common global labeling requirements.
- **Sustainability:** The Sustainability Committee of GAFTI is focused on promoting sustainable sourcing in the design, manufacture and distribution of products. Groups will focus on developing recommendations in areas such as agricultural processes, dry & wet materials processes, material consolidation, air freight vs. vessel or land, and use of organic cotton, recycled polyester, etc.

Membership Fees: Corporate membership is \$1,000 / year (Up to 6 representatives can participate); individual membership is HK\$200/year.

Website: <http://www.gafti.org/template?series=4&article=11>

Contact: Andre Leroy: +852.6625.6249; andreleroychina@gmail.com

GCN (Green Chemistry Network)

Mission: The GCN aims to promote awareness and facilitate education, training and practice of green chemistry in industry, commerce, central, regional and local government, academia and schools.

Purpose: GCN aims to help chemical companies and chemists by sharing best practices, promoting green technology transfer and providing data to show that adoption of green practices can also provide cost benefits for industry.

Member Companies: Originally based at the University of York in the UK, the organization is now independent with approximately 600 members. The majority of members are non-UK retailers, manufacturers, academics, trade associations & NGOs, and 70 are based in the US. About half of the US members are from universities and colleges; the other half are from businesses, some large, e.g., DuPont, and others are smaller sustainability focused businesses.

Structure: The network was initially launched in 1998 with funding from the Royal Society of Chemistry. Current funding is from research projects with some funding from a number of commercial companies directly servicing consumer markets. There is a chairman, board of trustees, and an advisory group of 10 members including academia, businesses, regulatory representatives and NGOs that meets annually to discuss on-going projects and agree on future direction. The network:

- Establishes and supports not-for-profit research centers focused on R&D in green chemical processes & regional networks for the promotion of green chemistry
- Runs specific-themed projects targeting key areas and groups
- Acts as a source of expertise in areas relating to green chemistry

Relevant Work Products:

- Green Chemistry & the Consumer Project: This ongoing project is aimed at delivering knowledge and understanding of green chemistry to consumers and retailers, and includes all chemical-dependent consumer products including clothing, furnishing, electronic goods, personal care products and food. The project also aims to engage representatives from throughout the entire supply chain and to encourage direct involvement of the retail trade in green chemistry research.
 - The GCN holds an annual symposium in connection with this theme, which is also targeted at relevant trade associations, academics and industries – one scheduled for October, 2011 focused on food waste utilization and had relevance for food producers/retailers and, in turn, their customers.
 - Current activities are mostly one-on-one research projects with manufacturers in the consumer sector.

<http://www.greenchemistrynetwork.org/pdf/GCCOpportunities.pdf>;

<http://www.greenchemistrynetwork.org/consumer.htm>;

<http://www.greenchemistrynetwork.org/gcp.htm>

Membership Fees: There are no membership fees.

Website: <http://www.greenchemistrynetwork.org/index.htm>

Contact: Heather Hamilton: heather.hamilton@greenchemistrynetwork.org

GPR (Green Products Roundtable) The Keystone Center

Mission: The GPR's mission is to provide collaborative leadership that improves the decision-making capabilities of product manufacturers, institutional and commercial buyers, and other marketplace actors and that accelerates the uptake of greener products into commerce.

Purpose: To: (a) reduce confusion in the "green" marketplace and (b) improve the production and buying decisions of product manufacturers, institutional purchasers, and eventually, consumers.

Member Companies: GPR consists of approximately 35 stakeholders involved in different aspects of green products manufacturing, distribution, certification, research, and consumer education.

Structure: The Keystone Center formally launched the GPR in October 2009 and is the independent convener and facilitator. The Roundtable grew out of increasing concern among stakeholders from the private sector, government, non-profits, and certifiers that there is a lack of clarity around what constitutes a green product and what the appropriate roles are for the government and private sectors. The GPR is currently positioning itself to transition its work into a new entity, informally referred to as the IRB or Independent Respected Body. The IRB is being created as a North American entity to help guide market actors on the legitimacy of a broad range of environmental marketing claims, including relevant standards, and eco-labels. It will provide services, assistance and tools to institutional and commercial buyers, retailers, distributors, and manufacturers, e.g., a set of best practice guidelines, and specific tools for understanding which attributes, standards, and eco-labels address specific environmental hotspots for a given product category.

Relevant Work Products:

- **Framework for Differentiating Green Products:** A framework is being developed to link environmental and human health product impacts for particular product categories with standards and certification systems that seek to address those impacts. The framework attempts to bridge the gap between life cycle-based and environmental attribute-based approaches to defining greener products. When it is completed and populated with the relevant data, the Framework will connect all key aspects of specific inquiries and help clarify when a product with specific environmental claims is meaningfully "greener" than typical alternatives in the product category.
- **Organizational Practices Matrix:** The GPR has identified major categories of organizations currently engaging in the green commerce marketplace and has refined a set of preferred practices that can be used to determine and drive the credibility of organizations involved in promulgating environmental marketing standards and claims. This matrix will help manufacturers, retailers, standard-setters, labelers and others review and improve their practices.

Membership Fees: Membership dues are based on a sliding scale dependent on size and type of organization ranging from \$2,500 (NGOs) to \$20,000. Those interested in membership are encouraged to contact The Keystone Center.

Website: <http://www.keystone.org/spp/environment/Green-Products-Roundtable>

Contact: Judy O'Brien: 202-452-1592; jobrien@keystone.org

OIA (Outdoor Industry Association)

Mission: OIA's mission is to ensure the growth and success of the outdoor industry through four key pillars of activity: advocacy for recreation and trade policy at both the federal and state levels; environmental and social responsibility initiatives, including the Eco Index / Apparel Index; research, education, and business intelligence; and promotion of youth engagement in the outdoors.

Purpose: OIA is the leading trade association for the outdoor industry, representing more than 4,000 manufacturers, distributors, suppliers, sales representatives and retailers of outdoor recreation apparel, footwear, equipment and services.

Member Companies: There are over 1,200 members of OIA, a combination of manufacturers, distributors, suppliers, sales representatives and retailers in the outdoor industry.

Structure: OIA is a trade association for companies in the active outdoor recreation business.

Relevant Work Products:

- **Eco Working Group:** The OIA Eco Working Group (EWG) consists of more than 100 outdoor businesses who have collaborated since 2007 to develop the industry's first product-level environmental assessment tool – the Eco Index. The tool is designed to advance sustainability practices within the outdoor industry, providing companies throughout the supply chain with a way to benchmark and measure their environmental footprint, allowing them to identify areas for improvement and make informed sourcing and product life cycle decisions. The Eco Index beta website is available: www.ecoindexbeta.org
- **The Apparel Tool:** In collaboration with the Sustainable Apparel Coalition, the second version of the OIA Eco Index - called the "Apparel Tool" - has now been developed and is being pilot tested in fall 2011. The Apparel Tool uses the OIA Eco Index framework and original content as its foundation, while also incorporating Nike's Materials Sustainability Index data - providing the functionality for product designers and developers to begin making data-driven materials sourcing choices to reduce environmental impact.
- **Chemicals Management Working Group:** This group is run in partnership with the Sustainable Apparel Coalition. Its goals are to develop chemicals/toxicity content for the Index as well as to establish a shared framework and approach to supply chain chemicals management for the apparel, footwear, and equipment sectors.
- **Outdoor Retailer Tradeshow:** OIA is the title sponsor of this twice-annual event.

Membership Fees: Eco Working Group dues with OIA membership range from \$500 to \$10,000; Eco Working Group dues for non-OIA members range from \$1,000 to \$20,000.

Website: <http://www.outdoorindustry.org/eco>

Contact: Tel: Beth Jensen: 303.444.3353; bjensen@outdoorindustry.org

RILA (Retail Industry Leaders Association)

Mission: RILA provides a forum where members can conduct discussions aimed at understanding common operational practices, areas of concern, and pragmatic solutions to problems in the retail sector. It also acts as the retail industry's advocate in Washington, informing lawmakers of the impact and consequences of the decisions they make.

Purpose: RILA is structured to focus on five core areas where retailers can collaborate to make a difference: supply chain; asset protection; finance; human resources; and enterprise issues (sustainability, privacy).

Member Companies: There are more than 200 members including retailers, product manufacturers and service suppliers.

Structure: RILA is a trade association for the US retail industry leaders. RILA has a Board of Directors who set RILA's strategic direction. RILA staff members determine the issues within the focus areas. Members collaborate with their peers to seek excellence within their own enterprise and pursue positive changes for the industry at-large.

Relevant Work Products:

- **Product Stewardship Working Group:** Composed of product designers, buyers, and environmental sustainability and CSR executives at member companies, the Product Stewardship Committee's goal is to find effective and cost-conscious ways to reduce the environmental footprint of consumer products. The scope of its work includes performing studies and research to better understand the impact of consumer products through life cycle analysis and green chemistry, improving communication throughout the supply chain, and designing better product packages and labels. The group discusses a number of issues related to consumer product manufacturing's environmental impacts, including chemicals and toxics.

Membership Fees: Based on annual revenue

\$100 - 500 million \$5,000 dues

\$500 m - 1 billion \$10,000 dues

\$1 - 5 billion \$15,000 dues

\$5 - 10 billion \$25,000 dues

10 - 25 billion \$35,000 dues

Over \$25 billion \$50,000 dues

http://www.rila.org/email/Retail%20Membership_Kit%20-%20WEB.pdf

Website: <http://www.rila.org/sustainability/Pages/default.aspx>

Contact: Adam Siegel: 703.600.2066; Adam.Siegel@retail-leaders.org

SAC (Sustainable Apparel Coalition)

Mission: The Sustainable Apparel Coalition (SAC) is working to reduce the environmental and social impacts of apparel and footwear products around the world by framing a pre-competitive, universal index to measure and benchmark sustainable practices and products for use by the entire apparel and footwear sector.

Purpose: To lead the industry toward a shared vision of sustainability built on an industry-wide index for businesses to use to measure and evaluate apparel and footwear product sustainability performance. This will include priorities for action and opportunities for technological innovation, while improving current factory social and environmental processes through pre-competitive collaboration.

Member Companies: The Sustainable Apparel Coalition is a group of sustainability leaders in the apparel and footwear industry, and currently has over 40 members including leading apparel and footwear brands, retailers, manufacturers, NGOs, academic experts and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. To date, membership is by invitation only. The Coalition plans to expand membership in early 2012.

Structure: The Coalition is coordinated by Blu Skye Consulting who is developing the Coalition's structure and governance, providing meeting planning and facilitation, and coordinating development of the Apparel Index. To date, members have developed a prototype apparel index that is currently being pilot tested by SAC and OIA members through January 2012. Membership in the Coalition will be opened to any companies who wish to participate in early 2012.

Relevant Work Products:

- The Apparel Index: The Sustainable Apparel Coalition's first major project is the development of a common, industry-wide tool for measuring the environmental and social performance of apparel products and the supply chains that produce them. This index builds off the Outdoor Industry Association Eco Index and the Nike Apparel Environmental Design Tool and will later be expanded to footwear. OIA members are also developing equipment-specific Index content. The Index includes measures for water use and quality, energy/greenhouse gas, waste, chemicals/toxicity, and social/labor with a goal of reducing environmental and social impacts of production. An initial set of deliverables that include evaluation of existing measurement efforts and development of a prototype index is being pilot tested by Coalition companies in fall/winter 2011.

Membership Fees: All for-profit Founding Circle members pay the same amount of annual dues regardless of size or revenue. Seed funding has been solicited from some of the larger companies to support the development of the index in 2011. Seed funding is also being sought from philanthropic donors. A sliding-scale funding model will be instituted in early 2012.

Website: <http://www.apparelcoalition.org/home>

Contact: Rick Ridgeway: Rick_ridgeway@patagonia.com (SAC co-founder); Elissa Loughman elissa_loughman@patagonia.com (CMWG co-chair); Scott Echols scott.echols@nike.com (CMWG co-chair); Greg Scott gscott@mec.ca (Chemicals Management Working Group leader)

TSC (The Sustainability Consortium)

Mission: The Sustainable Consortium is working to collaborate, design and implement credible, transparent and scalable science-based measurement and reporting systems that are accessible for all producers and users of consumer products.

Purpose: TSC is a global effort to advance science to drive a new generation of innovative products and supply networks that address environmental, social and economic imperatives, specifically by developing standards and tools to measure and report on the sustainability of products and better inform decision makers. The Sustainability Consortium is not developing an index but is building the scientific basis for future indexing efforts.

Member Companies: The Sustainability Consortium has two levels of membership for suppliers, manufacturers and retailers: Tier One members (currently 51) can participate in the Steering Committee and in any sector working groups and/or consortium working groups. Tier Two members (currently 23) can participate in sector working groups. There are also 8 NGO and government organizations participating.

Structure: As of January 1, 2011 the Consortium adopted a new governance structure including a Board of Directors with corporate, NGO and university members, and several Advisory Councils (academic, civil society, and corporate) to facilitate stakeholder involvement in The Sustainability Consortium's decisions. TSC is jointly administered by Arizona State University and the University of Arkansas.

Relevant Work Products:

- The Measurement Sciences Working Group (MSWG): Focuses on establishing credible, accurate, and leading edge methods for characterizing the environmental and social impacts arising from the production of consumer goods. The MSWG has subcommittees that focus on different aspects of product assessment. The subcommittee on Life Cycle Impact Assessment (LCIA) is harmonizing the latest assessment methods and approaches in coordination with the UNEP-SETAC and the UN Life Cycle Initiative. The subcommittee is reviewing methods for human and ecological toxics impact assessment including recent developments in the USETOX method.
- The Home and Personal Care Working Group (HPCWG): Comprised of home and personal care manufacturers and suppliers. HPCWG is charged with piloting and customizing methods developed by the MSWG with the goal of building a consistent, practical and life cycle based approach to product level sustainability information reporting for all home and personal care products. Although all working groups will address toxics in products, the HPCWG has had a particular focus on this issue.
- Additional Sector Working Groups that include a focus on toxic chemicals: These include the Toy Sector Working Group, Packaging Working Group and Electronics Sector Working Group. The Retail Sector Working Group is working to align retailers regarding how to use the work products of TSC.

Membership Fees:

Tier I (3 year commitment):

- \$100,000/year (500 or more employees)
- \$25,000/year (fewer than 500 employees and/or less than \$500M in annual revenue)
- \$10,000/year (government organizations; does *not* include organizations representing specific product, trade or business sectors)

Tier II (3 year commitment):

- \$50,000/year (500 or more employees)
- \$10,000/year (fewer than 500 employees and/or less than \$500M in annual revenue)

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Appendix 1

Below is a summary table of the twelve initiatives / organizations reviewed:

Name of Group	Purpose	Can Retailers Participate?	Who's Involved?	Industry Sector	Projects that Address Toxics in Products
AFIRM (Apparel and Footwear International RSL Management Working Group)	Manage restricted substances in the apparel and footwear industry globally	Yes	Manufacturers and retailers	Apparel and footwear sectors	- RSL Toolkit based on the AAFA RSL and Implementation Guide
BizNGO (Business – Non Governmental Organization) Working Group	Promote the creation and adoption of safer chemicals and sustainable materials	Yes	Businesses, government agencies, NGO's, retailers and universities	All sectors downstream of chemical manufacturers	- Guiding Principles for Chemicals Policy and Implementation Guide - Policy Initiatives for Advancing Safer Chemicals and Sustainable Materials - Biospecs Project for Biobased Tableware
BSR (Business for Social Responsibility)	Guide global companies toward creating a just and sustainable world through their CSR efforts	Yes	Businesses, NGOs, retailers and universities	All sectors	- Mills and Sundries Working Group
Ceres (Coalition for Environmentally Responsible Economies)	Integrate sustainability into day-to-day business practices	Yes	Businesses, investors, NGOs and retailers	All sectors	- Footwear and Apparel Initiatives
ChemSec (International Chemical Secretariat)	Strive for a toxic free environment by 2020 through promoting concepts of precaution,	Yes	Associations, businesses and retailers	All sectors	- ChemSec Business Group

	substitution, polluter pays and right to know				
GAFTI (Global Apparel, Footwear and Textile Initiative)	Bring the apparel, footwear and textile industries together globally to improve efficiencies and set standards	Yes	Associations, brands, manufacturers, mills, retailers, and testing and compliance firms	Apparel, footwear and textile sectors	- Product Safety Committee - Sustainability Committee
GCN (Green Chemistry Network)	Facilitate education, training and practice of Green Chemistry in industry, commerce, government, academia and schools through a worldwide network	Yes	Associations, manufacturers, NGOs, retailers and universities	All sectors	- Green Chemistry and the Consumer Project
GPR (Green Products Roundtable)	Bring more clarity to the green products marketplace	Yes	Certifiers, distributors, educators, manufacturers, researchers and retailers	All sectors	-Framework for Differentiating Green Products - Organizational Practices Matrix
OIA (Outdoor Industry Association)	Ensure the growth and success of the outdoor industry throughout the supply chain	Yes	Distributors, manufacturers, retailers, sales representatives and suppliers	Outdoor industry sector	- Eco Working Group (Eco Index)
RILA (Retail Industry Leaders Association)	Collaborate with a network of retailers on five core issues: supply chain, asset protection, finance, human resources, and enterprise issues	Yes	Manufacturers, retailers and suppliers	All sectors	- RSI Sustainability Working Group
SAC (Sustainable Apparel Coalition)	Develop an industry-wide index for business to use to measure and evaluate	Membership will be opened in	Brands, government agencies, manufacturers,	Apparel and footwear sectors	- The Sustainable Apparel Index

	apparel and footwear product sustainability performance	2012	NGOs, retailers and universities		
TSC (The Sustainability Consortium)	Build the scientific base for understanding environmental and social impacts of products throughout their life cycles	Yes	Government agencies, manufacturers, NGOs, retailers and suppliers	All sectors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Measurement Sciences Working Group - Sector Working Groups (some are addressing toxics in products)