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Day13 Greener Challenge



Fast →
Fashion and
its impacts
ft. my favorite
shirt

What is Fast Fashion? →

Fast Fashion is the industry that produces clothing in a cheap manner and in great quantity with consideration for the environment or the workers.

Usually involve fashion trends that come and go causing consumers to continually purchase and throw out.

Zara. Boohoo
H&M. Mango. Romwe
Shein. Zaful. Asos
Urban Outfitters
Pretty Little Thing. Forever 21
Uniqlo. Bershka. **GAP**
Fashion Nova
Topshop Target Hollister
American Eagle Outfitters
Banana Republic
Old Navy Athleta
Victoria's Secret
Ripcurl **Pacsun**
& many more



These places rapidly produce clothing and fashion trends without consideration of the aftermath and waste, or of the workers and the conditions they are put under.

They produce cheap clothing that doesn't include the externalized costs of labor, pollution, or other damage.

The materials may be faulty or cheap as well, with high quantity comes lower quality.

what are the environmental impacts? →

The average consumer of clothing throws away about 70 pounds of clothing every year. The global production of textile waste is 13 million tons every year, and 95% of that could be reused or recycled in some way.



Many clothing fibers of fast fashion are polyester- this releases 2 to 3 times more carbon emissions than cotton and it does not break down the way cotton does. Cotton still uses a lot of water and pesticides and the carbon footprint of it is so high because of the process to make it and the transportation.

Mills produce greenhouse gases and many release toxic fumes. The clothes that get thrown out may get burned, enter the environment, or pollute water.



what are the human impacts?

Fast fashion is largely derived from impoverished ('3rd world') countries, including Bangladesh. The workers are paid very little yet work long hours, produce a lot of goods, and work under terrible conditions

Workers are paid cents a day, but they have to continue to work to survive.



Rana Plaza Garment Factory Collapse: Bangladesh

The fast fashion factory collapsed injuring 2.5k people. Workers here were underpaid and experienced clearly awful conditions for many brands

Sweatshops

The fashion industry is built around sweat shops and exploitation of workers.



BIPOC are disproportionately impacted by the environmental and human impacts of fast fashion. It is a privilege to choose the sustainable option and it is a privilege to be able to leave your low paying job. We need to change this.



Life Cycle of A Fast Fashion Shirt (featuring my shirt)



My shirt is 100% cotton, but what does that mean? Cotton shirts are normally derived from cotton farms, in my case this is in China. Self driving machines harvest the cotton and an industrial cotton gin will separate it.

Cotton requires a lot of water and pesticides, in fact, 2,700 liters of water produce the average t-shirt
Cotton uses more insecticides/pesticides that any other crops do, this can lead to health problems for workers and environmental damage

Textile mills ship to the spinning facility (mine went to China). Machines spin and stretch yarn into slivers

Then, the slivers go to the mill where knitting machines make them into fabric that is heated and treated chemically to become white.

Fabric is dipped into dyes that can have cancer causing chemicals like mercury in them!

Cloth will go to the factories (in China) where workers experience poor conditions and low wages. They do the intricate work.

Transported to stores and suppliers where the product is sold among thousands of other articles of clothing.

From here, many clothes end up in the landfill or as litter, and some get donated or resold. I actually bought this shirt from a reseller!

Resources:

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BiSYoeqb_VY
- <https://www.businessinsider.com/fast-fashion-environmental-impact-pollution-emissions-waste-water-2019-10>
- <https://www.planetaid.org/blog/fast-fashion-continues-to-violate-human-rights>
- https://i-d.vice.com/en_us/article/vb9ppd/what-the-sustainable-movement-is-missing-about-privilege?fbclid=IwAR3m2H9k6Xi1HN3z9D3JPJSemb2Fk-GgxHJDJQkgqveg6txutzAvYi67Zg
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Fkhzdc4ybw>

pictures:

- <https://www.ft.com/content/fe86f76c-1215-11e8-8cb6-b9ccc4c4dbbb>
- https://www.pacsun.com/stores?roi=echo7-27805905015-48691567-51083050097665e91374412d93edc75c&sv_sveme=3cb5da9bb356ed6edbc4ec89c892b006
- <https://www.cotton.org/pubs/cottoncounts/fieldtofabric/dyeing.cfm>
- <https://www.xdknitmachinery.com/circular-knitting-machines-an-ultimate-guide/>
- <https://www.quilting-in-america.com/process-of-making-cotton.html>
- https://ejfoundation.org/resources/downloads/the_deadly_chemicals_in_cotton.pdf
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cotton_gin
- <https://modernfarmer.com/2014/02/china-hoards-half-worlds-cotton-supply/>
- <http://fivefigurenews.com/environment/fast-fashion/>
- <https://www.businessinsider.com/fast-fashion-environmental-impact-pollution-emissions-waste-water-2019-10>
- <https://www.nytimes.com/2015/06/02/world/asia/bangladesh-rana-plaza-murder-charges.html>