

## ANTON DE KOM UNIVERSEIT VAN SURINAME

# Faculty of Social Sciences

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Date: 18-10-2023

Challenge Level: Greener

#### Responses

Tag info T-shirt

Brand-name: GILDAN Ultra Cotton

Materials: 50% Cotton and 20% Polyester

Made in Turkey

About Polyester

Factories producing polyester without wastewater treatment systems can release potentially dangerous substances including antimony, cobalt, manganese salts, sodium bromide and titanium dioxide into the environment. As an oil-based plastic, polyester does not biodegrade like natural fibres.

\_Heat releases Polyester chemicals like Antimony oxide Sb2O3, which is used to make Polyester and is a known carcinogen. With body heat, it is partially dissolved with sweat and absorbed by the skin. It can cause heart, liver, kidney and skin ailments

#### My day with T-shirt inside-out

Today was another level and also a starting point for me to go outside. If I want to be an alarm to protect this planet, then I need to be able to do this. Today I went to the store with my indoor t-shirt. I consciously chose the store because I am sure I will meet someone. There was a lady who noticed me with my t-shirt. Her face expression said it all. She must have wondered if I was really wearing my t-shirt inside-out. I took the opportunity to speak with her and told her that I am participating in the Projectgreen Challenge 2023. She did not know what the PGC2023 is, so I took the opportunity to tell her about the PGC. I also told her about the polyester fabric and its effect on people and the environment, because this fabric is one of the materials with which my t-shirt is made. The best moment was when a girl, about 6 or 7 years old, made the comment, "Mama, look, that boy has his T-shirt on inside-out." It was laughable. The mother immediately looked back, and I seized the opportunity. I greeted them and told them the reason for wearing my t-shirt inside-out, that I am participating in the #PGC2023. I immediately told them about the effects of Fast fashion on people and the environment. I have also explained in detail about the use of polyester in production. It's an extra special day. Actually, every day so far has been an extra special day in my diary, thanks to PGC2023.

The woman's statement concerned me. She said that she believes that deep within us we suspect that the environment is threatened by the things we produce and how we deal with them. She further asked if it is possible to get more than 90% of the world to lead a sustainable life on this planet. I told her that I believe in it and that is what we want to achieve. I was not a sustainable user at the time, but now a major change is taking place in me and it is exactly the same with others who become aware. There is hope for me, madam, see it this way. If there are people who see and recognize the truth and want to make a change, then we can hope. I have been made aware by others and today I make you aware too, and tomorrow you make someone else aware, and that's how we go to the top.

### **Screenshot Instagram post**



