

## STAR STORIES

### **Our Production Partners.**

O Ecotextiles searched the world to find partners who could produce consistently high quality fabrics in ways that are non-toxic, ethical and sustainable. Our growing partners do not support the sale and use of pesticides and fertilizers, chemicals that poison our soils and pollute groundwater. Our manufacturers treat their wastewater so it doesn't degrade our waterways. Their products do not contain toxic chemical residues that may be absorbed through our skin and lungs. The fabrics are produced by people being paid fair wages, working in decent conditions.

### **Better Bleaching.**

In many of our mills, hydrogen peroxide is used for bleaching and the wastewater is restored to drinking level. However, one of our mills is using a very new technology—ozone—which uses cool water (rather than having to maintain the fabric in a hot water bath for many hours). The only by-product of ozone is oxygen, which helps rather than hurts.

### **Live as We Dye.**

Our dye house, for generations a family owned business, uses low impact reactive dyes in a closed loop system, the best available choice. O Ecotextiles avoids natural or vegetable dyes because they require the use of mordants and fixatives that are not as benign. Our partner uses dyes that do not contain heavy metals or release aromatic amines, (e.g., benzidine, touluidine), and their wastewater treatment yields pristine water.

### **Brilliant Technology.**

Our partner in a former Soviet country is true-blue green by default – they never modernized. For instance, their mills run so slowly that there's no need to add toxic chemical sizing to the fibers to prevent breaking on the loom. Instead of retting with modern chemical techniques, which creates wastewater and potentially harmful effects, the workers in our mill place the fiber in the sun as they have done for generations. Is all change progress?

### **Bamboo & You.**

Our Asian partner, a dedicated conservationist, helped to develop an environmentally friendly viscose production method for our panda friendly bamboo. Viscose is usually made by putting the cellulose into a sulfuric bath. The extruded fiber is not toxic, but the leftover sulfuric acid wastewater is an environmental hazard. Our producer neutralizes the wastewater with bacteria and returns it to drinking water standards before returning it to the ecosystem. Although not a totally benign process because of the minor air pollution from the sulfuric acid, we feel that our bamboo yarn is a major positive addition to the world's current textile choices.

### **You Can Be a Star Too.**

It takes about 500 gallons (2000 liters) of water to produce one kilogram of fabric, and the total quantity of chemicals varies from 10% to 100% of the weight of the cloth. So if you used O Ecotextiles throughout your house, you would theoretically prevent the equivalent of an Olympic-size swimming pool of effluent from entering our ecosystem.