Ministerio del Medio Ambiente

Gobierno de Chile

CIRCULAR ECONOMY STRATEGY FOR TEXTILES BY 2040

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The global textile industry is currently driven by a linear production and consumption model that promotes fast fashion, characterized by short product life cycles and the constant introduction of new collections. This model entails significant environmental and social impacts, including intensive use of natural resources, high greenhouse gas emissions throughout the value chain, and massive waste generation.
In Chile, this results in a high level of clothing consumption per capita and an increasing import of second-hand garments. The large volume of textiles placed on the market, coupled with the absence of differentiated waste management systems, has led to the proliferation of illegal dumpsites—particularly in the Tarapacá Region—causing adverse effects on nearby populations, ecosystems, and the landscape.

In response to this situation, various initiatives have emerged to raise awareness and give textiles in Chile a second life, creating a valuable opportunity to transition toward a more sustainable model for the sector.

In this context, in 2023, the **Ministry of the Environment (MMA its acronym in Spanish)**, with the technical support of **Cadenas de Valor Sustentables (CAV+S)**, began the co-creation process of the Circular Economy Strategy for Textiles by 2040, aligned with the Roadmap for a Circular Chile by 2040 and Chile's international commitments on this matter. More than 2,500 people contributed to the development of this Strategy through macro-zonal and sectoral workshops, a national citizen survey on textiles, and the work of a Strategic Committee composed of representatives from the public and private sectors, academia, and civil society.

The purpose of **the Strategy is to guide actions and coordinate efforts to prevent waste generation, extend the lifespan of textiles, and promote quality, reuse, and material recovery, in order to protect human health and the environment while strengthening local economic development and innovation within the textile ecosystem. This is supported by a regulatory framework addressing design, traceability, transparency, and the social, environmental, and economic contributions of the textile sector.**

The Strategy is grounded in five key principles:**(1) Transparency;(2)Collaboration;(3)Shared Responsibility; (4)Innovation; (5)Inclusion;** Implementation will be organized along four cross-cutting areas—Circular Culture, Circular Regulation, Circular Territories, and Circular Innovation—which are shared with the national Circular Economy Roadmap.

Based on this framework, the Strategy establishes 18 initiatives and nearly 50 concrete actions aimed at achieving four priority goals by 2040:

TARGET 1:
Reduce the overconsumption of textile products.

TARGET 2:
Promote the development of formal professions and employment linked to the circular textile economy.

TARGET 3:
Increase the valorization of textile waste.

TARGET 4:
Prevent and eradicate illegal textile waste dumpsites.

The Circular Economy Strategy for Textiles in Chile is conceived as a key instrument to address the challenges of the current production and consumption model in the sector. It seeks to reduce environmental and social impacts, strengthen the local ecosystem and innovation, and drive a shift toward more sustainable and equitable practices—protecting both people's health and the environment while fostering local development and circular business opportunities within the textile sector.

TARGETS AND INDICATORS

The four targets outlined in the strategy are indicated below, distinguishing between the final results expected to be achieved by 2040 (long-term goals) and the results expected by 2030, conceived as medium-term goals that allow to measure the progress in the implementation of the instrument.
Consequently, the 2030 targets serve as intermediate milestones that help guide and assess the path toward 2040. They make it possible to verify that progress is consistent and to make any necessary adjustments along the way. The long-term goals, in turn, reflect the vision Chile aims to achieve in the field of circular economy for textiles.

TARGET	INDICATOR	BASELINE	Year 2030	Year 2040
TARGET 1: Reduce the overconsumption of textile products.	Per-capita textile consumption: kg/person/year	32 kg/person/year	Reduce by 15%	Reduce by 30%
TARGET 2: Promote the development of formal professions and employment linked to the circular textile economy	Number of jobs related to the circular textile economy	To be collected by 2026	Increase by 10%	Increase by 40%
TARGET 3: Increase the valorization of textile waste	Textiles valorized over total textile waste generated: tons valorized / tons generated	<1%	Increase to 10%	Increase to 50%
TARGET 4: Prevent and eradicate illegal textile waste dumpsites	Number of identified illegal dumpsites	To be collected by 2026	Eradicate 100% of identified dumpsites	Eradicate 100% of identified dumpsites

INITIATIVES AND ACTIONS

As mentioned above, each of the 18 initiatives are structured under one of four areas of implementation — **Circular Culture, Circular Regulation, Circular Territories, and Circular Innovation** — aligned with the Roadmap for a Circular Chile by 2040. These initiatives are intended to coordinate the efforts of public institutions, the private sector, academia, and civil society in driving a systemic transformation of the textile sector.

CIRCULAR CULTURE:

Promotes profound changes in responsible consumption, impacting everyday decisions from early childhood.

CIRCULAR TERRITORIES:

Promotes local initiatives for textile circularity, driven by territorial actors such as regional governments, municipalities, associations of municipalities, social organizations, and companies in specific territories.

CIRCULAR REGULATION:

Promotes the development and strengthening of the environmental regulatory framework by the State, including ministries, public services from different sectors, and actors in the textile ecosystem, covering the entire product life cycle and prioritizing the waste management hierarchy to promote the circular economy.

CIRCULAR INNOVATION:

Encourages innovation and transparency in the textile production sector, promoting the creation and strengthening of circular business models that involve design, traceability, and promote research and development.

CIRCULAR CULTURE

1. Circularity-conscious decisions

Provide citizens with the information they need to make responsible and conscious purchasing decisions, combined with awareness-raising and educational initiatives.

TEMPORAL HORIZON	ACTIONS	KEY ACTORS
Starting in 2025	I. Raise public awareness of the positive and negative impact of purchasing decisions through campaigns and other communication tools.	a. Ministry of the Environment b. National Consumer Service c. Municipalities and associations of municipalities d. Civil Society
	II. Promote the exchange, rental, repair, and reconditioning of textile products through campaigns, digital tools, fairs, and events that enable the exchange of knowledge.	a. Ministry of the Environment b. Universities, Technical Training Centers and Professional Institutes c. Civil Society d. Municipalities and associations of municipalities e. Private sector
	III. Strengthen the dissemination of free and accessible courses and tutorials focused on textile care, repair, and customization	a. Ministry of the Environment b. Municipalities and associations of municipalities c. Academy

2. Circular economy education from early childhood

Incorporate elements of circular economy associated with textiles into formal and informal education so that people are aware of its importance from early childhood.

TEMPORAL HORIZON	ACTIONS	KEY ACTORS
Starting in 2027	I. Incorporate the topic of circular economy for textiles into the state's environmental education course offerings (Adriana Hoffman Academy of the MMA, or others).	a. Ministry of the Environment b. Ministry of Education c. Academy
	II. Incorporate textile waste into the Solid Waste Program to obtain certifications issued by the National Environmental Certification System for Educational Establishments (SNCAE).	a. Ministry of the Environment b. Ministry of Education c. Academy
Starting in 2029	III. Incorporate content that promotes the adoption of circular economy practices with regard to clothing and other textiles into school curricula and textbooks, promoting dissemination in educational communities, with a territorial, gender, and intercultural focus.	a. Ministry of Education b. Ministry of the Environment c. Academy

3. Skills for circularity

Promote circular economy criteria in training of technicians and professionals in fields related to the textile industry, in order to develop comprehensive skills that also highlight the textile heritage.

TEMPORAL HORIZON	ACTIONS	KEY ACTORS
Starting in 2025	I. Promote the incorporation of eco-design and circularity in the value chains of the textile industry into the curricula of university and technical courses related to the textile sector.	a. Ministry of the Environment b. Ministry of Education c. Universities, Technical Training Centers and Professional Institutes
	II. Promote the preservation of historical textile heritage by teaching ancestral knowledge and providing training in occupations related to textile products.	a. Ministry of Cultures, Arts and Heritage b. Universities, Technical Training Centers and Professional Institutes c. National Training and Employment Service

CIRCULAR TERRITORIES

4. Revitalization of the textile ecosystem in the territories

Promote textile sector networks in the territories, emphasizing the establishment of partnerships, dissemination of knowledge, and inclusion of citizens.

TEMPORAL HORIZON	ACTIONS	KEY ACTORS
Starting in 2026	I. Promote local textile manufacturing and services, reuse and recovery through public financing focused on circularity.	a. Chilean ecomic development agency (CORFO) b. Technical Cooperation Service c. National Training and Employment Service d. Undersecretariat of Regional Development e. Regional Governments f. Municipalities and associations of municipalities g. Solidarity and Social Inclusion Fund
	II. Promote and strengthen partnerships between companies to consolidate locally and circularly produced textiles and services.	a. Ministry of Economy, Development and Tourism b. Sustainability and Climate Change Agency c. Technical Cooperation Service d. Production Development Corporation e. Ministry of the Environment f. Business associations (trade associations, chambers of commerce, among others)
	III. Promote the exchange of knowledge by creating meeting spaces for dissemination of projects, initiatives, and best practices.	a. Ministry of the Environment b. Municipalities and associations of municipalities c. Regional Governments d. Civil Society e. Private sector
Starting in 2027	IV. Allocate funds from the Environmental Protection Fund (FPA) to promote circular economy initiatives for textiles.	a. Ministry of the Environment b. Civil Society

5. Strengthening working conditions and skills for people in occupations that promote textile circularity

Strengthen occupations related to the textile sector through programs that contribute to technical training and formalization processes.

TEMPORAL HORIZON	ACTIONS	KEY ACTORS
2026 - 2027	I. Conduct and disseminate studies on jobs in the textile sector in Chile, establishing the baseline for Target 2 by identifying and quantifying existing jobs in the sector, as well as exploring new circular job opportunities in areas such as recycling, reuse, repair, and eco-design, with a gender perspective.	a. Ministry of the Environment b. Ministry of Economy, Development and Tourism c. National Training and Employment Service d. Chile Valora e. Associations of trades in the textile sectorl f. Waste pickers
Starting in 2026	II. Promote the formalization of occupations associated with the textile sector, strengthening occupational health and safety conditions, job stability, and access to social rights.	a. Chilean Tax Service b. Technical Cooperation Service c. Ministry of Labor and Social Security d. Ministry of Health
	III. Facilitate financing for the purchase of equipment for people working in the textile sector.	a. Chilean ecomic development agency (CORFO) b. Technical Cooperation Service c. Solidarity and Social Inclusion Fund
Starting in 2028	IV. Establish training and certification programs for people engaged in the collection, manufacture, repair, reuse, recovery, and other occupations in the textile field.	a. National Training and Employment Service b. Chile Valora c. Ministry of the Environment d. Textile trade associations e. Waste pickers

6. Local infrastructure and equipment for the circular economy in the textile sector

Facilitate the process of preventing and managing textile waste by strengthening infrastructure within the territories.

TEMPORAL HORIZON	ACTIONS	KEY ACTORS
Starting in 2026	I. Incorporate an emphasis on including activities aimed at preventing waste generation, including textiles into the Recycling Fund's (FPR) financing approach.	a. Ministry of the Environment b. Municipalities and associations of municipalities
	II. Promote the availability of spaces and equipment that enable both management of textile waste—including its collection, sorting, and recovery—and development of educational and awareness-raising activities for citizens, such as workshops, campaigns, or opportunities for clothing exchange initiatives.	a. Municipalities and associations of municipalities b. Regional Governments c. Ministry of the Environment d. Ministry of National Assets e. Ministry of Health f. Undersecretariat of Regional Development

7. Prevention and eradication program for illegal textile dumps

Prevent and eradicate illegal textile dumps, which are sources of health and environmental risks and generate a series of negative externalities, such as fire risk and insecurity.

TEMPORAL HORIZON	ACTIONS	KEY ACTORS
2026 - 2027	I. Elaborate and disseminate studies to: identify, quantify, and characterize textile waste at the national level; its disposal in authorized facilities; illegal disposal in landfills and dumps; and register landfills and dumps for textile waste (Baseline for Target 4)	a. Ministry of the Environment b. Ministry of National Assets c. Ministry of Health d. Municipalities and associations of municipalities e. Regional governments
Starting in 2027	II. Promote the allocation of resources to strengthen municipalities' capacity to eliminate illegal dumps, promoting solutions adapted to local realities.	a. Undersecretariat of Regional and Administrative Development b. Ministry of the Environment c. Regional Governments d. Municipalities and associations of municipalities
2025 - 2026	III. Develop and disseminate a guide for municipalities with orientations for managing textile donations in disaster or catastrophe situations.	a. Ministry of the Environment b. Municipalities c. Ministry of Health d. National Disaster Prevention and Response Service e. Chilean Tax Service f. Civil society organizations
Starting in 2025	IV. Strengthen enforcement regarding the transport and illegal disposal of textile waste in landfills and dumps.	a. Chilean Police b. Ministry of Transportation and communications c. Municipalities and associations of municipalities d. Regional governments
2027 - 2028	V. Elaborate and disseminate a study quantifying the environmental and social impacts associated with textile waste.	a. Ministry of the Environment b. Ministry of Health c. Academy

CIRCULAR REGULATION:

8. Regulations for importing textiles

Establishes directives and rules to be followed for the importation of textiles, with a focus on quality and durability

TEMPORAL HORIZON	ACTIONS	KEY ACTORS
Starting in 2025	I. Advocate in international forums and cooperation platforms for the establishment of a global standard for classification of used clothing, which clearly distinguishes between used clothing with real second life potential and textile waste.	a. Ministry of the Environment b. Ministry of Economy, Development and Tourism c. Ministry of Foreign Affairs d. National Customs Service e. International organizations
	II. Promote the inclusion of non-hazardous textile waste within the scope of the Basel Convention, so that its movement is subject to notification, authorization, and control mechanisms, strengthening its traceability and environmentally sound management.	a. Ministry of the Environment b. Ministry of Foreign Affairs c. Ministry of Health
2026	III. Submit legislation to control the imports of second-hand clothing, requiring that sorting of collected second-hand clothing must be done at the country of origin, in order to ensure that textile waste disguised as second-hand clothing is not imported into the country.	a. Ministry of the Environment b. Ministry of Foreign Affairs c. Ministry of Finance d. National Congress
2027 - 2028	IV. Review and update Chile's import customs codes for textiles to differentiate between new products, overstock, second-hand goods, and textile waste; and promote the adoption of these codes in the World Customs Organization's harmonized system at international level.	a. National Customs Service b. Chilean Tax Service c. Ministry of the Environment d. Ministry of Foreign Affairs e. International organizations

9. Consumer quality and safety regulations

Promotes regulations to improve the quality of textiles marketed in the country.

TEMPORAL HORIZON	ACTIONS	KEY ACTORS
2025	I. Develop a technical standard for the handling and classification of post-consumer textile waste for its reuse and recycling.	a. National Institute of Standardization b. Ministry of the Environment
2027	II. Conduct a study to evaluate alternatives and propose specific regulations for national and international e-commerce platforms dedicated to clothing sales, with the aim of ensuring greater transparency, traceability, and compliance with existing regulations.	a. Ministry of the Environment b. National Customs Service c. Chilean Tax Service d. National Consumer Service e. Ministry of Health f. Academy
2030	III. Develop regulations to ensure the quality and safety of textile products, which may address matters such as extended warranties or maximum allowable limits for groups of problematic chemical substances.	a. Ministry of Health b. Ministry of the Environment c. National Consumer Service d. Academy

10. Regulatory alternatives to promote circular economy in textiles

Seeks to evaluate regulatory and/or economic alternatives other than the EPR Law, aimed at promoting textile reuse and the preference for products with lower environmental impact.

TEMPORAL HORIZON	ACTIONS	KEY ACTORS
2027	I. Assess the costs and benefits of different regulatory options to encourage reuse, the incorporation of recycled materials into new products, and other products or business models with a lower environmental impact.	a. Ministry of the Environment b. Ministry of Economy c. Ministry of Finance d. Chilean Tax Service

11. Inclusion of textile products under Law 20.920 or the EPR Law

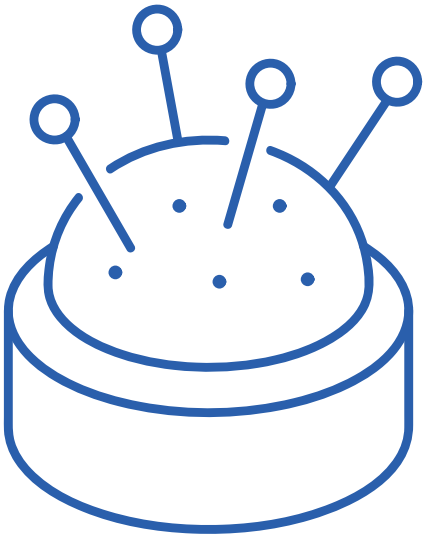
Seeks to incorporate textiles as a priority product under Law 20.920 (which establishes the framework for waste management, extended producer responsibility, and the promotion of recycling), with the aim of setting targets for textile waste recovery and establishing associated obligations.

TEMPORAL HORIZONL	ACTIONS	KEY ACTORS
2025	I. Declare textiles as a new priority product for the purpose of applying Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) under the framework of Law No. 20.920.	a. Ministry of the Environment
2025	II. Initiate the process of drafting the supreme decree establishing collection and recovery targets and other associated obligations for textile products.	a. Ministry of the Environment

12. Preventing greenwashing in the textile sector

Seeks to avoid misleading claims related to unverifiable sustainability attributes.

TEMPORAL HORIZON	ACTIONS	KEY ACTORS
Starting in 2026	I. Encourage companies to ensure that claims about sustainability attributes of their textile products are verifiable by third parties in order to prevent greenwashing.	a. National Consumer Service b. Ministry of the Environment c. Sustainability and Climate Change Agency d. Civil society



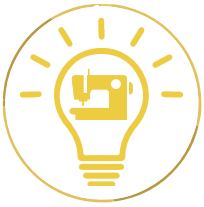
CIRCULAR INNOVATION

13. Textiles, a valuable resource from design

Recognizes textiles as a valuable resource, promoting initiatives that ensure, from the design phase onwards, that the resource retains its value for as long as possible.

TEMPORAL HORIZON	ACTIONS	KEY ACTORS
Starting in 2026	I. Highlight outstanding initiatives in the field of circular textile design, with the aim of promoting the exchange of experiences and best practices.	a. Ministry of the Environment b. Sustainability and Climate Change Agency a. Chilean ecomic development agency (CORFO) b. Companies in the textile design sector c. Civil Society d. Academy
2026 - 2027	II. Disseminate a guide to circular textile design, taking into account quality, materiality, repair and resale opportunities, disassembly, extended warranties, local labor, local raw materials, and local textile waste, among other factors.	a. Ministry of the Environment b. Companies in the textile design sector c. Academy d. Civil Society

14. Circular services and business models accessible to citizens



Actions that seek to promote innovative ventures and business models that generate environmental, economic, and social benefits in the textile sector.

TEMPORAL HORIZON	ACTIONS	KEY ACTORS
Starting in 2025	I. Promote the creation of formal enterprises and new businesses focused on reuse, repair, recycling, eco-design, servitization, and other innovative models that facilitate the transition towards a circular economy model for textiles.	a. Chilean ecomic development agency (CORFO) b. Technical Cooperation Service c. Private sector d. Ministry of the Environment
Starting in 2025	II. Promote the incorporation of business models (reuse, repair, recycling, eco-design, and servitization) and circular products in different sales channels (such as physical stores and e-commerce). .	a. Ministry of the Environment b. Sustainability and Climate Change Agency c. Private sector
Starting in 2026	III. Promote the establishment of partnerships between textile product retailers and textile repairers, with the aim of encouraging the repair of textile products, incentivizing it over the purchase of new products.	a. Ministry of the Environment b. Sustainability and Climate Change Agency c. National Consumer Service d. Manufacturing and marketing companies e. Repair companies

15. Collaboration in the pursuit of circularity in textiles

Actions that seek to coordinate efforts among actors in the textile value chain to promote circularity.

TEMPORAL HORIZON	ACTIONS	KEY ACTORS
Starting in 2025	I. Promote the development of a collaborative network of stakeholders linked to the circular economy in the textile sector, enabling citizens to raise awareness of initiatives and ventures locally and connect the supply of inputs, raw materials, equipment, and services with the demand.	a. Ministry of the Environment b. Chilean ecomic development agency (CORFO) c. Civil society d. Private sector
	II. Identify and participate in international forums with the aim of promoting the harmonization of regulations, standards, and guidelines applicable to the textile sector.	a. Ministry of the Environment b. Ministry of Foreign Affairs
	III. Promote the exchange of best practices, lessons learned, information, and investment in technologies and innovations applicable to the textile sector and waste management, through the environment chapters of Chile's trade agreements.	a. Ministry of the Environment b. Ministry of Foreign Affairs c. Ministry of Science, Technology, Knowledge and Innovation
Starting in 2027	IV. Implement circular economy business matching sessions, with territorial relevance and a gender perspective that generate direct connections and collaboration between different stakeholders in the textile sector.	a. Chilean ecomic development agency (CORFO) b. Ministry of Economy, Development and Tourism c. Ministry of the Environment

16. Research and development for circularity in textiles

Seeks to enhance local social, environmental, and economic resources through research and development projects focused on circularity in textiles.

TEMPORAL HORIZON	ACTIONS	KEY ACTORS
Starting inl 2027	I. Promote the development of R+D+i programs and projects applied to textile products and services, incorporating research into biomaterials and processes for replacing virgin materials, reducing harmful substances, and recovery and reuse.	a. Ministry of Science, Technology, Knowledge and Innovation b. National Research and Development Agency c. Chilean ecomic development agency (CORFO) d. Academy e. Ministry of the Environment f. Ministry of Health g. Ministry of Agriculture h. Private sector i. Civil society
	II. Open calls for innovation competitions on circular economy in the textile sector.	a. Ministry of Science, Technology, Knowledge and Innovation b. Chilean ecomic development agency (CORFO) c. Ministry of the Environment d. Academy e. Private sector f. Civil society
2027 - 2028	III. Define methodologies and develop technical standards to estimate the amount of microplastics released by textiles during production, use, and washing.	a. National Institute of Standardization b. Ministry of Science, Technology, Knowledge and Innovation c. National Research and Development Agency d. Ministry of the Environment e. Academy f. Private sector

17. Information and monitoring systems for textile products

Ensures the monitoring and traceability of the textile value chain in social, environmental, and economic terms.

TEMPORAL HORIZON	ACTIONS	KEY ACTORS
2030	I. Establish regulations for mandatory disclosure of information relating to textile products sold in Chile—such as material composition, origin, care instructions, repairability, recyclability, and environmental footprint—through a digital passport or other equivalent mechanism.	a. Ministry of Economy, Development and Turism b. National Consumer Service c. Academy d. Ministry of the Environment e. Private sector f. International organizations g. Civil society
2030	II. Facilitate the development of a tool for traceability and transparency in the textile value chain, from production to end of life, that includes environmental and social indicators.	a. Ministry of the Environment b. Academy c. Private sector d. International organizations

18. Circular public procurement of textiles

Considers actions for the acquisition of goods, services, or public works by the State that include any textile product.

TEMPORAL HORIZON	ACTIONS	KEY ACTORS
A partir del año 2027	I. Encourage the incorporation of circularity criteria in public procurement processes for textile products.	a. Ministry of Finance b. Ministry of the Environment c. Government Laboratory

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