

2026 GUIDE

Textile Recyclers and Repurposers in Michigan



Michigan
Sustainable
Business
Forum

Overcoming Sustainability Barriers

Textile waste can be categorized in three ways:

POST-INDUSTRIAL WASTE	PRE-CONSUMER WASTE	POST-CONSUMER WASTE
Textiles that have been cut, trimmed, or disposed of during the manufacturing process.	Textiles that have been produced but not yet sold, such as unsold apparel or surplus merchandise.	Textiles that have been produced, sold, and ultimately disposed of by a consumer.

Because businesses encounter barriers managing post-industrial and pre-consumer textile waste, these waste types are the focus of this resource guide.

Although donation centers like Goodwill or Salvation Army accept textiles for resale and reuse, this is not a viable disposal pathway for certain post-industrial and pre-consumer waste. There are many scenarios in which textiles cannot be resold and are mechanically recycled instead, such as:

- Requirement to destroy product due to brand integrity concerns
- Requirement to shred public safety uniforms
- Misprinted merchandise or overstock
- Product lacks resale value or is not accepted by resellers
- Lack of resale market for items like printed signs, flags, or sails
- Concern that donated textiles will be shipped overseas to secondhand markets

To overcome these barriers and support a more circular textile economy, this guide serves as a business directory for Michigan-based businesses that repurpose or recycle textile waste (collectively referred to as “recyclers”). Each recycler in this guide is able to guarantee that branded materials will not be resold, redistributed through donation centers, shipped to export markets, burned for fuel, or landfilled.

This guide was developed with the support of author and researcher, Amanda Boersma.

Setting Your Sustainability Objective

Although “repurpose” and “recycle” are often used interchangeably in the context of textile waste, they refer to distinct disposal methods. We recommend setting a sustainability objective: does your business want to repurpose your textile waste, recycle it, or are you still unsure of where to begin? The information provided below can help you decide.

Repurposing

Involves repairing, modifying, or upcycling items for continued use. EGLE’s [Sustainable Materials Management](#) guidelines prioritize repurposing over recycling, as it extends the lifespan of textiles while recycling ultimately brings materials one step closer to landfill.

UPCYCLING

Remanufacturing textiles into a new product, such as turning post-industrial fabric scraps into a functioning, fashionable backpack. Upcycling provides the opportunity to turn textile waste into a new product, which your business can buy back for corporate gifts or utilize for storytelling purposes.

> See [Pingree Detroit](#) and [Public Thread](#)

REUSE

Using a textile time and time again for its original purpose, such as reusing old upholstery fabric for another upholstery project.

Creative Reuse Centers accept fabric donations for reuse in community art, craft, and education projects. This method allows businesses to easily donate textile waste as an educational tool. Some Centers can coordinate logo removal if necessary.

> See [Scrap Creative Reuse](#) and [Arts and Scraps](#)

RESALE

A form of reuse where textiles are collected, sorted, merchandised and resold online or at a retail location. Resale is not included in this guide.

Recycling

Entails the chemical or mechanical transformation of materials into new products.

MECHANICAL RECYCLING

Breaks down textiles into smaller components and remanufactures them into a new product. This method is ideal for scraps or hard-to-repurpose fabrics because it offers complete destruction of clean fabrics by reprocessing them into new material such as shoddy, stuffing, insulation or industrial rags.

> See [Nextiles](#) and [Miller Waste Mills](#).

CHEMICAL RECYCLING

An up-and-coming innovation, not yet provided by Michigan-based recyclers.

Uncertain Goal?

We recommend connecting with the resources closest to *your* location.

Collectors, sorters, and graders allow your business to drop-off accepted textiles at a facility that responsibly diverts waste to mechanical recyclers.

> See [Recycle Livingston](#) and [The Greater Laingsburg Community Recycling Center](#)

Recycling brokers allow your business to outsource the decision-making to a team familiar with the textile waste market in Michigan.

> See [Metro Recycling Services](#)

The organizations in this guide responded to inquiries from Michigan Sustainable Business Forum, and assured that businesses can request transparency about where their textile waste ends up.

Preparing Your Textiles for Repurposing or Recycling

To maximize the likelihood of a successful partnership, follow these key preparation steps:

Know Your Textile

When communicating with organizations in this guide, provide as much information about your textile as possible. For finished goods, describe all fabrics used on the product, including construction (knit, woven, or nonwoven), composition (e.g., 50% cotton, 50% polyester) and fabric finishes (e.g., water resistance). If possible, provide Safety Data Sheet(s).

Identify a Partner

This guide identifies potential recycling and repurposing partners across the key regions of Michigan. Within each listing, there are criteria describing the vendor's capabilities and textile receiving requirements. "Rules of engagement" are also provided to assist with outreach and establishing a mutual partnership.

At a minimum, all vendor outreach should include:

- fabric type
- construction (knit, woven, or nonwoven)
- volume in pounds
- timeline requirements
- photo(s)

Because repurposing and recycling are business services, fees are to be expected. Please identify budgetary concerns or constraints upfront.

Coordinate Internally

Ensure you've addressed any operational needs such as vendor setup, finance approvals, or internal disposal policies from your brand or legal team. Many corporations do not allow re-distribution of corporate logos. If your fabric contains corporate logos, you may need to request a destruction service or specific recycling certification from the recycling vendor.

Repurposing Considerations

When engaging vendors such as [Public Thread](#) or [Pingree Detroit](#) to upcycle or repurpose your textile waste, begin by outlining your organization's goals. Provide details on:

- volume of material available
- type of product you are interested in creating
- budget

Whenever possible, involve your marketing and design teams in these discussions. If purchasing the upcycled product is not feasible, communicate that upfront so the vendor can recommend the most suitable partnership option.

Prepare for Shipping

If shipping multiple products, group items into bags or boxes based on fabric type. While some recyclers do not require washing, sorting, or de-trimming, others require removal of apparel notions (plastic and metal hardware), hang tags, stickers, and possible contaminants.

Stipulate Reuse or Landfill Requirement

Recycling or repurposing 100% of textile waste can be challenging. When working with businesses listed in this guide, clearly indicate whether non-recyclable materials should be donated, sent to landfill, or managed through an alternative disposal method.

Directory of Textile Recyclers and Repurposers

Southeast Michigan

Metro Recycling Services

RECYCLING BROKER

1912 Sherwood St, Sylvan Lake, MI 48320
metro-recycles.com | (248) 738-5151

Broker that sells textile waste to recyclers and can ensure waste is not resold or landfilled.

Criteria

BUNDLING REQUIREMENTS

Baled (baling can be coordinated at a local Material Recovery Facility)

ACCEPTED FEEDSTOCK

Any

TRIMS AND HARDWARE

Removal not required

FABRICS NOT ACCEPTED

Neoprene, vinyl, >6% elastane, feather/down

CONTAMINANTS NOT ACCEPTED

Film/foil, oils

Rules of Engagement

- Volume: Minimum 40,000 lbs or 48 gaylords of loose material
- Pickup available and must occur at a dock with a forklift available
- We recommend receiving a certificate of recycling if your organization does not allow re-sale of donated products

Southern Michigan

Recycle Livingston

COLLECTOR, SORTER, AND GRADER

170 Catrell Dr, Howell, MI 48843
recyclelivingston.org | (517) 548-4439

Collects and sorts textiles to shredding facilities where they are processed into products such as shoddy and insulation.

Criteria

BUNDLING REQUIREMENTS

Rolls and bolts, non-bundled (loose yardage, clothing, or textile scrap)

ACCEPTED FEEDSTOCK

Any

TRIMS AND HARDWARE

Accepted

FABRICS NOT ACCEPTED

Neoprene, vinyl, >6% elastane, leather, feather/down

CONTAMINANTS NOT ACCEPTED

Film/foil, oils

Rules of Engagement

- Volume: Small business donations only, maximum poundage may apply
- Membership Required: \$150/year for businesses; \$100/year for nonprofits
- Drop-Off Hours: Wednesdays (10am – 4:30 pm), Saturdays (9am – 1pm)
- Require a certificate of recycling if your organization does not allow re-sale of donated products. Stipulate if un-recyclable materials should be donated or landfilled.

Southern Michigan, continued

Scrap Creative Reuse

CREATIVE REUSE CENTER

Art center that accepts textile and material donations for community classes and creative reuse education.

4567 Washtenaw Ave, Ann Arbor, MI 48108
scrapcreativereuse.org | (734) 800-4137

Criteria

BUNDLING REQUIREMENTS

Rolls and bolts, non-bundled

ACCEPTED FEEDSTOCK

Fabric only (no clothing or linens);
semi-finished goods considered
case-by-case

TRIMS AND HARDWARE

Must be removed

FABRICS NOT ACCEPTED

Feather/down

CONTAMINANTS NOT ACCEPTED

Small scraps, unclean product

Rules of Engagement

- Volume: Fabric accepted in any quantity, but call ahead for donations exceeding 10 rolls or bolts
- Zippers, buttons, thread are accepted if removed and separated from fabric
- Drop-Off: Call to schedule

Miller Waste Mills

MECHANICAL RECYCLER

Mechanically recycles textiles into reclaimed fibers for reuse in other markets.

600 West Swager Drive, Fremont, IN 46737
millerwastemills.com | (260) 495-0050

Criteria

BUNDLING REQUIREMENTS

Bales sorted by raw material type preferred,
non-bundled gaylords accepted on a case-by-
case basis

ACCEPTED FEEDSTOCK

Post-industrial or post-consumer polyester,
denim, cotton and cotton blends, synthetic and
synthetic blends, wool and wool blends, knits,
woven materials, and uniforms (depending on
content blend); Shoddy or shoddy pads; Sisal
products, and burlap

TRIMS AND HARDWARE

Accepted

FABRICS NOT ACCEPTED

Neoprene, vinyl, >6% elastane, rayon, leather,
feather/down

CONTAMINANTS NOT ACCEPTED

Unclean, wet, moldy, or mildewed product
(stains and rips are acceptable), rubber backing,
sequined materials

Rules of Engagement

- Volume: 40,000 lbs for most deliveries;
<40,000 lbs accepted for local pickup
or case-by-case, inquire directly as
feedstock criteria is subject to change
- Re-purchase of your shredded, reprocessed
fibers is available (tolling service)

Central Michigan

Michigan State University Surplus Store & Recycling Center / Spartan Upcycle

CREATIVE REUSE CENTER

Spartan Upcycle is a creative reuse center and part of the Michigan State University Surplus Store & Recycling Center. Spartan Upcycle hosts hands-on DIY arts & crafts events that encourage students to reimagine waste as a resource.

468 Green Way, East Lansing, MI 48824
msurecycling.com/spartan-upcycle/
recycle@msu.edu

Criteria

BUNDLING REQUIREMENTS

No requirements

ACCEPTED FEEDSTOCK

All

TRIMS AND HARDWARE

Accepted

FABRICS NOT ACCEPTED

n/a

CONTAMINANTS NOT ACCEPTED

Small scraps, unclean product

Rules of Engagement

- Volume: No requirements
- Currently not accepting large volumes of branded t-shirts or uniforms
- Textiles delivered to the MSU Surplus Store will be sorted and resold; textiles that cannot be resold must be delivered directly to Spartan Upcycle—email recycle@msu.edu to coordinate delivery

The Greater Laingsburg Community Recycling Center

COLLECTOR, SORTER, AND GRADER

Collects denim and diverts to downcyclers for shredding into shoddy material.

7500 Woodbury Rd, Laingsburg, MI 48848
recyclelaingsburg.wixsite.com/mysite
(517) 548-4439 | recyclelaingsburg@gmail.com

Criteria

BUNDLING REQUIREMENTS

No requirements

ACCEPTED FEEDSTOCK

Jeans only (any blend)

TRIMS AND HARDWARE

Accepted

FABRICS NOT ACCEPTED

Denim blends containing >6% elastane

CONTAMINANTS NOT ACCEPTED

Unclean product

Rules of Engagement

- Volume: No minimum, contact for maximums
- Drop-Off: Open 1st & 3rd Tuesdays, 4 – 6pm

Great Lakes Bay Region

Arts and Scraps

CREATIVE REUSE CENTER

Creative reuse center that reuses fabric in community education art program.

16135 Harper Ave, Detroit, MI 48224

artsandscraps.org

store@artsandscraps.org

Criteria

BUNDLING REQUIREMENTS

Rolls and bolts, non-bundled

ACCEPTED FEEDSTOCK

Fabric and linens (no clothing)

TRIMS AND HARDWARE

Must be removed

FABRICS NOT ACCEPTED

Fabrics treated with restricted substances

CONTAMINANTS NOT ACCEPTED

Small scraps; PFAS- or phthalate-treated fabric

Rules of Engagement

- Sort by fabric type, separated in boxes/bags
- Scraps must be larger than the size of a hand
- Zippers, buttons, thread are accepted if removed and separated from fabric

Pingree Detroit

UPCYCLER

Worker-owned designer and re-manufacturer that upcycles industrial waste into consumer footwear, bags, and more.

15707 Livernois Ave, Detroit, MI 48238

pingreedetroit.com | team@pingreedetroit.com

Criteria

BUNDLING REQUIREMENTS

Rolls and bolts, non-bundled

ACCEPTED FEEDSTOCK

Fabric (no finished goods), automotive post-industrial scrap, airbags, and seatbelts

TRIMS AND HARDWARE

Accepted

FABRICS NOT ACCEPTED

Fabrics other than leather and polyester webbing are evaluated case-by-case

CONTAMINANTS NOT ACCEPTED

Small scraps

Rules of Engagement

Contact directly to discuss specifications and partnership potential

Great Lakes Bay Region, continued

Nextiles

MECHANICAL RECYCLER

Reprocesses textile waste into shoddy for reuse in new products.

166 Victor St., Highland Park, MI, 48203
nextiles.org | (313) 731-2266
info@nextiles.org

Criteria

BUNDLING REQUIREMENTS

Any

ACCEPTED FEEDSTOCK

All, with a focus on pre-consumer textiles

TRIMS AND HARDWARE

Accepted

FABRICS NOT ACCEPTED

Materials with >6% spandex

CONTAMINANTS NOT ACCEPTED

Unclean product

Rules of Engagement

- Volume: Minimum 100 lbs
- Safety Data Sheet for sold fabric is preferred
- Selective intake process focused on quality, cleanliness of waste, and partnership potential
- Pickup and logistics services are available
- Provides custom service agreements and post-processing carbon avoidance report

West Michigan

Public Thread

UPCYCLER AND RE-MANUFACTURER

High-volume circular design remanufacturer that reuses textile materials to design custom products.

955 Godfrey Ave SW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503
publicthread.org | upcycle@publicthread.org

Criteria

BUNDLING REQUIREMENTS

Rolls and bolts, non-bundled

ACCEPTED FEEDSTOCK

All fabric, post-industrial scrap including signs, billboards, banners, sails, webbing, seatbelts, and straps; unsold merchandise (deadstock) and whole garments on a case-by-case basis

TRIMS AND HARDWARE

Accepted

FABRICS ACCEPTED

All fabric, including rigid/flexible vinyl, leather, filling, and 3D knit mesh; additional knits accepted case-by-case in 2026

CONTAMINANTS NOT ACCEPTED

Unclean or significantly aged deadstock material

Rules of Engagement

- Minimums may apply on a case-by-case basis
- Will not accept trash: re-usable textiles only
- Currently searching for consistent suppliers and/or partners to re-design at least 20% of provided textile waste into new products
- While not required, it is ideal to consult your marketing and design team to ensure efficient communication and design of new products, such as re-manufacturing upholstery scrap into customer-appreciation lanyards
- Contact directly to discuss specifications, including large-volume donations or partnership potential

Key Definitions

The following criteria describe each recycler's capabilities and requirements.

Category

Describes the method of recycling. The categories used in this guide are community upcycling and craft center; collector, sorter, grader; upcycler; downcycler; recycling broker.

Bundling Requirements

The method used to bundle the textiles for shipping, delivery, or drop-off. Examples include bales, bolts and rolls, non-bundled (loose yardage, clothing, or textile scrap), or no requirements.

Accepted Feedstock

The product or textile accepted for recycling. Examples include finished clothing, fabric only, non-wearable accessories, wearable accessories (i.e. hats, socks), non-wearable accessories (i.e. bags), towels and linens, damaged items, and post-industrial scrap.

Unaccepted Finished Goods

Any finished goods that cannot be accepted, such as swimsuits or soiled linens.

Trims and Hardware

Plastic and metal zippers, buttons, snaps, embellishments, sequins, and other design elements added to the base fabric.

Fabrics Not Accepted

Lists the fabrics not accepted by the recycler at the date of publishing. Common fabrics not accepted for recycling are neoprene, vinyl, and materials containing greater than 6% elastane.

Contaminants Not Accepted

Lists the contaminants that are not accepted by the recycler or, in the case of hang tags, must be removed prior to recycling. Examples include film/foil, oils, labels, plastic hardware, metal hardware, screenprinting, restricted substances (i.e. PFAS, phthalates), and unclean product.



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