

## Improved Waste Management and Resource Efficiencies

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Fast Retailing strives to minimize its environmental impact by reducing resource use, and by reusing and recycling waste generated by our own business activities and across the supply chain.

### Policies for Improving Waste Management and Resource Efficiencies

Waste is a valuable resource that can be reused when managed properly. Our goal is to reduce the amount of waste generated from our business activities, including the disposal of products that our customers no longer need. We promote reuse and appropriate management of waste in other ways, engaging proactively in resource recycling. In order to achieve a circular economy and maximize resource efficiency, we also work towards reducing resource usage and promote reuse and recycling. The most important way to improve the efficient use of resources is to make sure that our customers use the apparel they purchase from us for as long as possible. We are committed to using resources efficiently by providing our customers with high-quality long-lasting apparel.

### Targets

Fast Retailing is advancing its LifeWear concept-the ultimate in everyday clothing-in conjunction with the objective of our Ariake Project to make and sell only apparel that customers truly want. We emphasize care for the environment in all processes when creating LifeWear, from manufacturing to transport and sales, sharply reducing waste to establish a production process with minimal environmental impact. Further, Fast Retailing will develop new reuse and recycling services and technologies to ensure LifeWear gets fuller, more-sustainable use from customers, extending both the life and utility of LifeWear post purchase.

#### ■ Pursuing a business model to eliminate waste

Fast Retailing strives to create simple clothing that is high in quality and functionality, and that customers can and will want to use for a long time.

We analyze customer opinions and reflect that feedback in product development. We are also steadily increasing the accuracy of our estimated production quantities and optimizing our logistics. We believe these efforts will lead to selling only the best possible products to customers at the best timing, helping us to eliminating waste in the production and selling stages of our business.

The clothes we create are based on the ongoing needs of our customers, and we are committed to not destroying or discarding unsold inventory. Accordingly, we take measures such as clearing stock through markdowns or carrying products over to the next season.

Our efforts don't stop at the time of sale. We also collect, reuse and recycle products used by our customers. In addition, we are advancing new ways to use materials with greater efficiency, incorporating recycled materials into product planning and in our sourcing of raw materials.

#### ■ Creating LifeWear

##### □ Product planning

UNIQLO pursues timeless design and durability in LifeWear apparel. We plan, produce, and sell these products with the goal of having our customers wear them over a long period of time. In this way, UNIQLO helps uses resources more efficiently.

##### □ Materials procurement and manufacturing

Fast Retailing is advancing ways to use materials with greater efficiency. We are incorporating recycled materials

in our product planning process and in our sourcing of raw materials. We aim to increase the proportion of recycled materials to approximately 50% by fiscal 2030. We also research new technologies to control the amount of waste generated in production processes and to reuse textile waste.

#### ▣ **Stores, Offices, Logistics and E-Commerce**

##### **Realizing "Zero Waste"**

We strive to realize zero operational waste from our facilities to landfills or incineration without energy recovery in earlier stages by reducing, replacing, reusing, and recycling materials\* used in the process of delivering clothes to our customers.

\* Product packaging, cardboard during shipping, plastic bags, hangers etc.

##### **Reducing the use of single-use plastic**

In July 2019, Fast Retailing adopted a group policy to eliminate the use of unnecessary plastic throughout its supply chain and, where plastic is necessary, switch to eco-friendly substitutes. Fast Retailing aims to minimize its environmental impact by reducing quantities of materials used in shopping bags and product packaging, or by switching to eco-friendly substitute materials. By the end of 2020 we reached our target, set in 2019, to use 85% less plastic annually for shopping bags and product packaging. This amounts to 7,800 tons less customer-facing single-use plastic in our stores.

##### **Reducing paper usage**

We have established our Fast Retailing Group Policy on Responsible Paper Procurement to reduce the amount of paper used in shopping bags, product packaging, promotional materials, and office supplies. We also promote the use of paper produced from more sustainable raw materials, from the perspective of sustainable use of forest-derived materials and preserve biodiversity.

#### **Related Links**

[PDF](#) [Fast Retailing Group Policy on Responsible Paper Procurement](#)

#### ■ **Continuously utilizing LifeWear**

At Fast Retailing, we believe we have an important responsibility not only to produce and sell clothes that our customers can wear for a long time, but also to maximize the value of those clothes after customers have finished wearing them. We encourage customers to bring our products they no longer need to our instore recycling boxes. We can then put this clothing to good use, in a variety of different ways. This includes providing essential clothing to refugees, internally displaced persons and others in need of clothing. We are developing means to make good use of collected clothing unsuitable for such donations, ensuring materials are processed appropriately or converted into resources such as high-energy alternative fuels.

#### **Initiatives on Creating LifeWear**

##### ■ **Materials procurement and manufacturing**

Fast Retailing is advancing ways to use materials with greater efficiency. We are doing this by incorporating recycled materials in the product planning process and in our sourcing of raw materials. We aim to increase proportion of recycled materials to approximately 50% by fiscal 2030.

In the 2022 products plan, the proportion of recycled materials and materials with low greenhouse gas emissions has risen to 5%; indicating steady progress towards reaching this target. The proportion of polyester derived from recycled sources out of all polyester used has risen to approximately 16%. From the Fall/Winter 2022 season, the fabric of UNIQLO Furry Fleece Zip Jackets is now made from 100% recycled polyester, mainly from collected PET bottles. Also, we sell waist bags using 30% recycled nylon. The company is expanding its introduction of materials that place a lower burden on the environment, starting with synthetic fibers such as rayon and nylon.

#### **Related Links**

▶ [Recycled Polyester Fibers](#)

#### ■ **Stores, Offices, Logistics and E-Commerce**

▣ **Realizing "Zero Waste"**

We set a goal for 100% recycling of discarded corrugated cardboard used by our independent roadside UNIQLO stores in Japan. Working with outside recycling companies, we achieved 100% recycling in fiscal 2017. When UNIQLO stores in Japan are closed or renovated, we reuse some of the store fixtures and equipment in new stores. We are expanding this approach to UNIQLO stores in China and South Korea. From 2021, to recycle packaging materials and waste from product transport, we launched proof-of-concept areas for recyclables separation, collection, and processing in some UNIQLO and GU stores. Further, from 2022, we began consolidating packaging materials used in product transport into a single material to simplify recycling. A great deal of cardboard boxes and other waste is generated in the process of delivering materials and products. We are engaged in a variety of initiatives to reduce the amount of waste material generated by logistics. For example, our UNIQLO and GU warehouses in Japan are reusing boxes used in the initial shipment, or have switched to collapsible boxes, greatly reducing the number of new boxes purchased.

#### **Reducing the usage of single-use plastic**

In September 2019, Fast Retailing began switching from plastic shopping bags to paper bags made of recycled paper etc., and completed the changeover in 2020.

Aiming to reduce shopping bags to promote resource efficiency, regardless of material type, UNIQLO and other Fast Retailing brands now sell original reusable bags. To encourage the use of reusable bags, all UNIQLO and GU stores in Japan began charging for single-use shopping bags from September 1, 2020. UNIQLO and GU stores across North America, Europe and Asia began charging for shopping bags in September 2019. Fast Retailing is working to eliminate plastic packaging and is switching to alternatives such as recycled paper. The use of plastic packaging was eliminated for UNIQLO room shoes from the 2019 Fall/Winter season, and paper header-type and other alternative packaging is now used for some products.

#### **Reducing paper usage**

We have established our Fast Retailing Group Policy on Responsible Paper Procurement to prevent excessive use and reduce the amount of paper used in shopping bags, product packaging, promotional materials, and office supplies. From May 2022, UNIQLO started to change paper invoices to app displays, abolishing paper invoices included in e-commerce delivery boxes. Meanwhile, GU has worked to reduce printed materials at stores. We are also actively promoting paperless operations in our offices.

### **Initiatives on Continuously Utilizing LifeWear**

#### **Reusing clothes (clothing donations)**

We collect clothing no longer needed by our customers, providing those items to refugees, internally displaced persons and others in need of clothing. With an aim to provide clothing support donations to reach 10 million pieces per year by fiscal 2025, we donated approximately 4.31 million items in FY2022. That brings the total number of donations since our Reuse and Recycle clothing program began to roughly 50.50 million items (September 2006 to end August 2022).

#### **Related link**

- ▶ [Reuse and Recycle Activities](#)
- ▶ [Contributing Society through Clothing](#)
- 📄 [UNIQLO reuse and recycle program "RE.UNIQLO"](#)

#### **Recycling clothes**

We have started recycling the secondhand clothing we have collected into fresh materials for new clothes that we can then offer back to our customers. Our RE.UNIQLO program includes clothing-to-clothing recycling activities. One of those closed loop activities involves extracting the down feathers from the secondhand clothing donations, and cleaning and revitalizing them to create a new raw material for use in new down jackets. We have also implemented clothing-to-clothing recycling activities of polyester materials through GU. GU separately collects products that contain polyester and sends these to be recycled into materials for new clothes. Any clothing deemed unwearable is put through shredding machines to remove any remaining metals. The material is then mixed with paper and plastic waste, compressed, and transformed into high-energy alternative fuel that can be used in place of fossil fuels such as coal in special boilers at major paper mills. We are also pursuing new clothing-to-clothing initiatives that seek to recycle collected garments into

fresh raw materials for making new clothes.



High-energy alternative fuel made from reclaimed clothing

#### Related Links

► [Reuse and Recycle Activities](#)

📄 [UNIQLO reuse and recycle program "RE.UNIQLO"](#)

📄 [GU recycling activities \(Japanese only\)](#)

#### ■ Repair and upcycling

In August 2021, UNIQLO and Berliner Stadtmission, a Berlin-based non-profit organization, created the Second Life Studio at the UNIQLO flagship store on Tauentzienstrasse in Berlin. Through the project, customers can bring their second-hand clothes to the store, where a team of designers and tailors help transform these into something with new value, like a patchwork denim bag or an embroidered t-shirt. In case an item has only minor faults, customers can also choose to simply repair their items. For example, by fixing a hole in jeans through the technique of Sashiko-stitching, or by simply re-attaching a button to a shirt. Through this process, the customer leaves with a fresh or unique upcycled item. Moreover, in January 2022, UNIQLO started repair service at the UNIQLO flagship store in Soho, New York, in the United States, and in March 2022, at the UNIQLO 51@AMK store in Singapore. These stores provide services such as shirt button replacement, seam repair, hole repair, zipper replacement and others. In April 2022, the UNIQLO Regent Street store in London, UK, launched the repair studio where similar repair service and essential accessories will also be available for customers to try to repeat these techniques at home, including Shozaburo scissors and Misuya Bari needles from Kyoto and Sashiko threads. Additionally, we began a trial of the service at the UNIQLO Setagaya Chitosedai store in Japan in October 2022. UNIQLO aims to expand the service going forward, both in Japan and overseas.

#### Waste

#### ■ Fast Retailing

Units: tons

Item	Type of Waste		2019 (September 2018 to August 2019)	2020 (September 2019 to August 2020)	2021 (September 2020 to August 2021)	2022 (September 2021 to August 2022)
Stores	Combustibles	Waste (Some stores, actual value)	2,463	2,745	2,744	2,190
		Recycling rate (%)	-	-	-	-
		Waste (All stores, estimated)	5,738	7,258	6,815	5,991
	Waste Plastics	Waste (Some stores, actual value)	3,580	2,947	3,018	2,662
		Recycling rate (%)*	17	15	10	8.6
		Waste (All stores, estimated)	5,930	8,008	7,127	8,469
	Waste Cardboard Boxes	Waste (Some stores, actual value)	11,721	11,208	11,253	10,206
		Recycling rate (%)	100	100	100	100
		Waste (All stores, estimated)	25,833	29,080	26,481	25,819
	Total Waste (All stores, estimated)			37,501	44,346	40,423
Head Office			185	138	115	133
Scope of Data Collection			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Head Offices: Yamaguchi Head Office, Roppongi Headquarters and Ariake Headquarters</li> <li>• Stores: UNIQLO and GU stores in Japan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Head Offices: Yamaguchi Head Office, Roppongi Headquarters and Ariake Headquarters</li> <li>• Stores: UNIQLO and GU stores in Japan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Head Offices: Yamaguchi Head Office, Roppongi Headquarters and Ariake Headquarters</li> <li>• Stores: UNIQLO and GU stores in Japan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Head Offices: Yamaguchi Head Office, Roppongi Headquarters and Ariake Headquarters</li> <li>• Stores: UNIQLO and GU stores in Japan</li> </ul>

\* Percentage of the plastics waste sold as valuables.

## ■ Supply Chain

Items	Units	Category	2020 (January to December 2020)	2021 (January to December 2021)
Waste from Garment Factories	tons	Total	76,353	115,253
		Textile Waste Only	50,816	62,958
Waste from Fabric Mills	tons	Total	-	86,341
		Textile Waste Only	-	9,594
Scope			Garment factories: UNIQLO and GU	Garment factories: UNIQLO and GU Fabric mills: UNIQLO

\*The figures include estimation data.

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