

Sustainability Analysis report

COMPANY	PRODUCT	PRODUCT TYPE
Natua Organic Branding Oy	Creator unisex t-shirt	textile

SUMMARY

T-shirt made from GOTS certified organic cotton, printed in Finland with water-based ink.



Competitive Sustainability Features

EXPLANATION



Certificates/labels

GOTS

Component:

cotton & final product

Sustainability dimensions:

climate change, biodiversity, environment, water, human rights, decent work

Lifecycle phase:

raw materials, production

GOTS defines the criteria for organic production, which takes into account not only environmental criteria, such as banning the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, efficient recycling of water, but also dimensions of social responsibility. GOTS requires employers in the entire production chain to comply with the criteria set by the International Labor Organization (ILO). Working hours and wages must be reasonable and working conditions safe. In addition, forced labor, child labor, discrimination and other inhumane treatment are prohibited.



Origin of energy used in production

Solar energy

Component:

garment

Sustainability dimensions:

climate change, environment

Lifecycle phase:

production

Some suppliers utilize solar energy in energy production.

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**Energy efficiency**

Component:
garment printing

Sustainability dimensions:
climate change,
environment

Lifecycle phase: production

Air heat pumps,
modern
equipment

The production facilities are heated with air heat pumps. Modern equipment ensures maximum energy efficiency. The production process is optimized in a way that enables efficient equipment use and avoids running equipment unnecessarily.

**Environment:**

Component:
garment printing

Sustainability dimensions:
environment, water

Lifecycle phase: production

Water-based ink

Garment printing is done with water-based ink.

**Environment:**

Component:
garment printing

Sustainability dimensions:
environment, water

Lifecycle phase: production

Chemical-free
pressure screen
washing

Automating pressure screen washing requires no use of chemicals and the resulting waste-water is also chemical-free.

**Animal welfare:**

Component:
garment

Sustainability dimensions:
biodiversity

Lifecycle phase: raw
materials, production

No
animal-derived
materials or
animal testing

The garments do not contain any animal fibers, nor are the ingredients or formulations tested on animals.

**Workers' wellbeing:**

Component:
cotton cultivation, spinning
& ginning, garments

Sustainability dimensions:
human rights, decent work

Lifecycle phase: raw
materials, production

Own audits &
GOTS

The company makes regular visits to cotton farms and production factories. They also have on-site employees to monitor compliance with their social responsibility standards. GOTS requires employers in the entire production chain to comply with the criteria set by the International Labor Organization (ILO). Working hours and wages must be reasonable, and working conditions safe. In addition, forced labor, child labor, discrimination, and other inhumane treatment are prohibited.

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Basic Level of Sustainability

EXPLANATION



Energy-efficiency:

EMS, EGBs, modern equipment

Most suppliers have energy management systems (EMSs) in place to track energy consumption per unit. Exhaust Gas Boilers (EGBs) are also in use to recover some natural gas losses in a linked boiler system. Suppliers also upgrade to modern, more energy-efficient equipment.

Component:
garment

Sustainability dimensions:
climate change,
environment

Lifecycle phase: production



Water use optimization:

Closed water cycle

Some suppliers use a closed water cycle in production, therefore no wastewater is generated. No data is available on how much of the whole production utilizes closed water cycles.

Component:
garment

Sustainability dimensions:
water

Lifecycle phase: production



Water treatment:

Effluent Treatment Plants

The company's factories have Biological Effluent Treatment Plants that treat the water used in the manufacturing process. In some factories, the treated wastewater is utilized in e.g. car washing, and gardening.

Component:
garment

Sustainability dimensions:
water, environment

Lifecycle phase: production



Waste and surplus management:

Collecting and utilizing offcuts

Waste fabric is collected to create recycled yarn for the company's accessory range.

Component:
garment

Sustainability dimensions:
circular economy

Lifecycle phase: production



Environmental management:

ISO14001

ISO 14001 sets out the criteria for an environmental management system and can be certified. It maps out a framework that a company or organization can follow to set up an effective environmental management system. Some suppliers utilize this standard, some are in the implementation process.

Component:
garment

Sustainability dimensions:
environment, climate change

Lifecycle phase: production

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Environmental management:

Component:
garment

Sustainability dimensions:
environment, climate change

Lifecycle phase: production

Sustainability team

A four-person sustainability team is in charge of the company's sustainability strategy and short-term actions.



Waste and surplus management:

Component:
garment printing

Sustainability dimensions:
environment, water, circular economy

Lifecycle phase: production

Optimized ink use & recycling

The precise amount of printing ink is prepared for each job. All excess ink is collected and recycled.



Certificates/labels:

Component:
fabric dye

Sustainability dimensions:
environment, water

Lifecycle phase: production

GOTS, Standard 100 by Oeko-tex

Chemical formulators are required to implement product stewardship practices and undergo an on-site audit for environmental management systems, as well as occupational health and safety. Standard 100 by Oeko-tex is used for the assessment of harmful substances in fabrics and confirms that the garments are processed without chemical substances that are harmful to human health and the environment. The standard also prohibits certain potentially harmful substances even where these are not yet legally banned, and it confirms that the products comply with the EU REACH regulation.



Workers' wellbeing:

Component:
garment

Sustainability dimensions:
human rights, decent work

Lifecycle phase: raw materials, production

Fair Wear Foundation

Members of the Fair Wear Foundation (FWF) are committed to ensuring that employees in clothing production have safe working conditions, decent working hours and wages, employment contracts, etc. The use of child labour is forbidden in production.



Workers' wellbeing:

Component:
garment printing

Sustainability dimensions:
human rights, decent work

Lifecycle phase: production

Printing country Finland

In Finland, labor rights are respected and workers' well-being generally ensured.

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Potential improvements

EXPLANATION



Recycling rate of the material: 0%

Component:
raw materials

Sustainability dimensions:
circular economy

Lifecycle phase: raw materials

The items contain no recycled materials. The use of recycled materials keeps the resources tied to them in circulation and accelerates the transition towards circular economy.



Origin of energy used in production: Natural gas

Component:
garment

Sustainability dimensions:
climate change,
environment

Lifecycle phase: production

The energy used in production is derived from natural gas. Natural gas is a fossil fuel. Energy produced with fossil fuels is one of the biggest factors influencing global warming.



Origin of energy used: Nuclear power 46,9%, fossil fuels & peat 40,1%, renewable energy 13%

Component:
garment printing

Sustainability dimensions:
climate change,
environment

Lifecycle phase: production

Due to financial reasons, the company needed to switch from a renewable energy-based electricity contract to a standard one. A switch back to renewable energy-based electricity will be made once it's possible. Energy produced with fossil fuels is one of the biggest factors influencing global warming. Renewable energy sources are a less emission-intensive alternative to fossil energy sources. Utilizing additional renewable energy, such as wind or solar energy, is the most sustainable choice. Additional renewable energy is a form of energy that can be added and its usage accelerates the transition to fossil free energy production.



Sustainability issues and risks

EXPLANATION

No significant sustainability issues detected from the material available.

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Missing data, critical

EXPLANATION



Origin of energy used in warehousing:

No information available

No information available on the origin of energy used in warehousing.

Component:

raw materials, garment, final product

Sustainability dimensions:

climate change, environment

Lifecycle phase: production



Energy efficiency in warehousing:

No information available

No information available on energy efficiency measures used in warehousing.

Component:

raw materials, garment, final product

Sustainability dimensions:

climate change, environment

Lifecycle phase: production



Missing data, non critical

EXPLANATION



Logistics, transport fuel

No information available

There is no information available on the fuel used in logistics during different stages of production. Logistics are still very dependent on fossil fuels and cause about 7% of the world's carbon dioxide emissions. Logistics are estimated to grow almost fourfold by 2050, so the transition to low-carbon modes of transport is critical in terms of carbon dioxide emissions.

Component:

raw materials, garment, final product

Sustainability dimensions:

climate change

Lifecycle phase: logistics



Logistics optimization

No information available

There is no information available on how logistics are optimized. Logistics can be optimized in several ways, which can significantly reduce carbon dioxide emissions. Such means include vehicle maintenance, driver training, loading, route selection and scheduling. Optimizing logistics can also improve business profitability.

Component:

raw materials, garment, final product

Sustainability dimensions:

climate change

Lifecycle phase: logistics

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Other product features

EXPLANATION



Material:

Cotton

The items are made of cotton. Cotton cultivation is very water-intensive. Cotton cultivation brings monoculture, which leads to biodiversity loss. In addition, child and forced labor is often used in the cotton production chain. However, it should be noted that replacing virgin cotton fiber is currently difficult, so its use is justified in certain situations. In these cases, however, the use of GOTS and Fair Trade certified cotton is recommended.



Origin Country of Material, cotton:

India

The organic cotton originates from India.



Country of Manufacture, cotton ginning:

India

Cotton ginning is done in India.



Country of Manufacture, cotton spinning:

Bangladesh

The cotton is spun into yarn in Bangladesh.



Country of Manufacture, garments:

Bangladesh

The cotton is made into fabric, dyed, sewn and finished in Bangladesh.



Country of Manufacture, garment printing:

Finland

The garments are printed in Finland.



Transportation mode, garments:

Sea freight or road transport

Materials and finished garments are shipped via sea freight and using road transport.



Transportation mode, printed garments:

Road transport

Items are sent to customers using road transport.



Certificates/labels, garments:

Standard 100 by Oeko-tex

Standard 100 by Oeko-tex is used for the assessment of harmful substances in fabrics and confirms that the garments are processed without chemical substances that are harmful to human health and the environment. The standard also prohibits certain potentially harmful substances even where these are not yet legally banned, and it confirms that the products comply with the EU REACH regulation.

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