

# the secret double life of donated textiles

NEARLY **100%** OF DONATED TEXTILES ARE RECYCLED! They are separated into three grades:

**45%**  
USABLE CLOTHING



**20%**  
FIBER CONVERSION GRADE



**30%**  
WIPING CLOTH GRADE



Recycled fiber products **SAVE MONEY** and **RESOURCES** by using existing materials.



Recycled cloth rags use **LESS WATER, LESS ENERGY** and create a **LOWER CARBON FOOTPRINT** than all other alternatives.

## CLOSING THE LOOP



The second hand clothing market provides **AFFORDABLE CLOTHING** to those in need and **ENCOURAGES GLOBAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP.**

### SECOND LIFE ...



stained t-shirt → wiping cloth



lone sock → pillow stuffing



old denim → household insulation



teddy bear



→ car seat stuffing



torn bath towel →



wiping cloth



SECONDARY MATERIALS<sup>®</sup>  
AND RECYCLED TEXTILES

The Association of Wiping Materials, Used Clothing and Fiber Industries



# why **recycle** textiles?

CLOTHING AND TEXTILE RECYCLING HAS MAJOR IMPACT ON REDUCING GREENHOUSE GASSES



**2 million tons**  
of textiles are recycled  
each year in the U.S.

That is equivalent to removing  
**1 MILLION CARS**  
from America's highways



## HOW DOES THIS COMPARE TO OTHER RECYCLABLES?



**GO  
FIGURE**

### **DONATE, RECYCLE, DON'T THROW AWAY!**

According to the EPA, textile recycling has a major impact on reducing greenhouse gasses. **And yet ... clothing is not typically considered a recyclable.** While 2 million tons are recycled each year, there is a long, long way to go!

# donate **recycle** don't throw away



The average U.S. citizen throws away **70 lbs.** of clothing each year

**70**

**95%** of textiles **WORN OR TORN** can be recycled

**85%**

[70 lbs. per person] goes to our landfills

yet only **15%** gets donated or recycled

That amount is equal to **21 BILLION LBS.** or 260,000 truckloads



SMART members recycle **3.8 BILLION LBS.** of textiles each year



**\$100** MILLION

Amount of funding generated for charities from second-hand clothing sales