

Fiber Council Annual Report | 2021

The Organic Trade Association (OTA)'s Fiber Council successfully works to strengthen and grow the organic fiber and textiles sector. Formed in 2015, the aim of the Council is to create a cohesive voice across fiber categories within the trade association, advance the promotion and protection of the organic brand, and grow the organic fiber sector overall.

The Fiber Council includes representatives from companies across the supply chain from farmers to manufacturers, certifiers, researchers, retailers, and more. Members also include representatives from the Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS) and Textile Exchange, two leading organizations focusing on organic textiles, allowing continuous interaction and dialogue between the organizations.

Highlights from 2021:

- Provided quarterly meetings that keep everyone connected about the activities of both OTA and Member colleagues as well as the latest regarding the Global Organic Textile Standard and Organic Textile Standard. These resulted in great discussions, sharing, and networking – at a social distance!
- Hosted an information-rich webinar in February during which The Organic Center presented the research into the environmental footprint of organic cotton that the Fiber Council members had funded and which was undertaken in collaboration with Iowa State University.
- Six members co-hosted a July 13 “Organic Textile Twitter Party” with Organic Voices, reaching thousands of consumers and influencers.
- Updated the “Organic Cotton Fact Sheet” ([Link](#)) with the latest production and market data.
- Collaborated with the Dietary Supplements Council on a one-pager on organic hemp production and published an Organic Hemp and Hemp Products one-pager with background on hemp.

Looking Ahead to 2022:

- Continued growth of the Council members – aiming to reach 50 members by EOY.
- Expanding opportunities for networking within the membership.
- Prioritizing education opportunities for members and within industry, including updates to fact sheets, exploring retailer education, and more.

COUNCIL MEMBERS



UNDER THE CANOPY



Michael Twer (Delilah Home) serves as Chair of the Fiber Council, with Elizabeth Tigan (Oregon Tilth) serving as Vice Chair, and George Mathew (Avocado Green Brands) as Secretary. The Council's work is supported by OTA's Vice President of Regulatory & Technical Affairs, Gwendolyn Wyard. If your organization is interested in joining the Council, please contact Gwendolyn (gwyard@ota.com).



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