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AATCC NEWS



Association of Textile, Apparel & Materials Professionals



June 16, 2015



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Eco-Fashion...on the Move!

A concerted movement is underway worldwide to bring a sustainable environmental consciousness into the manufacturing and supply chain tracking of materials used in garment production, wear, and disposal. This is being driven by growing consumer awareness of and desire for clothing that is ethically-made and that has a minimal impact on the Earth's resources.

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AATCC Explores Wearable Electronics

Electronic textiles...wearable technology...wearables are becoming big business. But there are still lots of unknowns. AATCC is considering a research committee to develop standardized test methods for these products. There may also be an opportunity to participate in a Wearables Standards Workshop to initiate dialog among organizations. It would include those companies and associations involved in the electrical components as well as those more focused on the textile components, and everything in between. Please contact [Diana Wyman](#), AATCC Technical Director by July 7, 2015.



Antibacterial & Odor Control:
Marketing and Technology
Advancements Conference
 The conference will be held
 September 16-17 in RTP, NC
[More info...](#)



Textile Trivia

Test your wits against other AATCC members in our Textile Trivia game. Answer correctly by **June 30** to be entered for a drawing for an Amazon Gift Card.

[More info...](#)



C2C Merchandising
Competition Winners
Announced

Congrats to the AATCC 2015
C2C Merchandising
Competition winners!
More info...



UPCOMING EVENTS

[For complete list and updates, visit the AATCC Events page](#)

August 5-6, 2015

NC Aerospace Supplier and Advanced Manufacturing
(ASAM) Summit
Charlotte, NC
[more info..](#)

September 16-17, 2015

Antibacterial/Odor Conference
Research Triangle Park, NC
[more info..](#)

October 21-22, 2015

Color Management Workshop
AATCC Technical Center, Research Triangle Park, NC
Mark your Calendar!

December 9-10, 2015

Introduction to Textile Testing Workshop
AATCC Technical Center, Research Triangle Park, NC
Mark your Calendar!

**If you would like to register for an event please
contact our [Education Department](#).

Local Section Events

October 29, 2015

New England Fall Meeting
Plainville, MA
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Open Enrollment

Textile Fundamentals Web-Based Training
[more info...](#)

Online AATCC Test Method Training
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AATCC Recorded Webinars
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Getting White Right
[more info...](#)

Proficiency Testing Registration

July 3, 2015
Fiber ID and Analysis
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Eco-Fashion...on the Move!



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By J. Michael Quante, AATCC

A concerted movement is underway worldwide to bring a sustainable environmental consciousness into the manufacturing and supply chain tracking of materials used in garment production, wear, and disposal. This is being driven by growing consumer awareness of and desire for clothing that is ethically-made and that has a minimal impact on the Earth's resources. One major nexus of eco-fashion activity can be found in Raleigh, NC, USA, especially at the annual [Redress Eco-fashion & Textiles Conference \(REFTC\)](#) held May 29-30 2015 and presented by [Redress](#). Attendees came from as far away as New York City and Los Angeles, USA.



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The kickoff event was the Eco-Fashion show on May 29, promoted as "the premier eco-fashion showcase of the Southeast." REFTC sessions were held the following day.

The advent of new wearable technology and its potential impact on sustainability was the topic of lively discussion at REFTC's Integration of Fashion and Tech panel. Pioneering the application of nanotechnology in textiles focused on medical device monitoring is the [NSF ASSIST Center](#) at North Carolina State University.

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Tom Snyder, director, industry programs for ASSIST, spoke about the various ways being studied to include "hassle-free electronics" in wearable technology. One particularly active area of research is thermoelectric generation from heat and [electrical generation from body motion](#). "Using the human body as a power supply for wearable electronics can eliminate the need to make more lithium ion

batteries, which are burdening on the user to carry and recharge, and eventually end up in a landfill," says Snyder. Batteries are still too heavy and bulky; reduction in size and weight, and [improvements in technology and recyclability](#), are still needed. Research on conductive fibers and fiber treatments are also a priority.

Developments in wearable technology have recently become available to consumers—they are responding with rapidly growing demand for these products. Applications include health and exercise monitoring, power production, and sensors or [taggants](#) for validating products through supply chain transparency. The latter holds great promise in supporting textile industry sustainability efforts. Many in the audience expressed concern over privacy issues arising from wearable tech sharing personal data, although anonymous data aggregation may provide enough security.



Photo by Octave Blue (Robert King) of Oak City Hustle. Used with permission

Another REFTC panel discussed ways to bring public awareness to the role sustainability plays in textile purchases, use, and disposal. Education is needed to bring eco-fashion concepts and practices to life. [Stephanie Smith](#), co-owner of Zass Design jewelry, advocated making it visual: for example, by displaying a garment and telling the story of where it came from, how it was made, and where it may end up. Eric Henry of [TS Designs](#) emphasized the importance of knowing your audience. Relating textile sustainability to similar practices, such as food sourcing and consumption habits, is another point of entry into eco-fashion discussions. Community involvement in the supply chain or promoting local recycling/upcycling projects are great ways to bring the eco-fashion experience to others.



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Minimizing waste on the cutting floor is the goal of zero waste fashion design. [Timo Rissanen](#), assistant professor of design and sustainability at [Parsons, The New School for Design](#), explored the fascinating history and potential future of this alternative fashion approach. He creates his own patterns and actively explores ways to make new functional garments while efficiently using resources.

Other sessions at REFTC this year covered how to create and sell your own fashion line, transitioning from handcrafting to manufacturing, and lessons learned from a start-up fashion designer.

Redress is dedicated to connecting and championing "eco-conscious designers and companies through event planning and marketing. Redress empowers people with the knowledge to make eco-conscious apparel choices—from materials to upkeep." They envision "the USA once again a pioneer in manufacturing, innovation, and sustainability" in the textile industry.

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