

Two is better than one – Lenzing and Södra together face the challenge of recycling of textiles.

Helena Claesson, Senior Project Manager, Södra Innovation

Christian Weilach, R&D Senior Expert, Lenzing AG

The textile industry is facing a huge challenge – to close the loop and become circular. Therefore, have two champions joined forces and come together to meet this challenge and recycling textiles. Södra, a forest company owned by 53 000 forest owners based in the southern part of Sweden and Lenzing, a global textile fibre producer, both with strong sustainable profiles that want to do even better.

At the 1st International Conference on Cellulose Fibres in Cologne two years ago both companies participated by themselves, both showing huge progress in textile recycling, today we are here together to show the latest news regarding chemical textile recycling.

Södra working with post-consumer textiles, cotton and polycotton with no colours and Lenzing working with pre-consumer waste, cotton, but coloured textiles. By sharing knowledge, we can progress much faster compared to working alone. We have a common goal that by 2025 we shall have a 25 000 ton/year capacity to recycle textiles and a OnceMore® dissolving pulp with 50% recycled content and a 50% recycled content in TENCEL™ x REFIBRA™ textile fibre.

We believe in the waste hierarchy, you shall first reuse, repair as much as possible. Only then chemical recycling as we do is offers a solution for high quality textile to textile recycling on material level.