



Footwear and apparel factory waste reduction



Waste reduction for apparel and footwear factories

Through on-site waste management capacity building, LRQA offers brands, suppliers and factories an effective solution for reducing waste as well as associated GHG emissions.

Waste is a key sustainability and business issue for apparel and footwear sector. These industries are resource-intensive, relying on large amounts of water, energy and raw materials. Textiles in landfill can release methane, a potent greenhouse gas, and dyes and chemicals can leach into soil and water. Waste also represents a loss of economic value. Materials that could be reused or recycled are instead discarded, representing a missed opportunity for additional revenue or cost savings.

As regulations and expectations around waste management increase, the importance of waste management for apparel and footwear companies will only increase.

For brands and buyers, waste is a key issue in supply chains. Driving improvements can be challenging, especially when supply chains are vast, remote and when leverage can be limited. For suppliers and factories, time, access to resources and knowhow can be a challenge.



Every 10'000 pairs of shoes produced creates **1 tonne of waste**



In 2022, footwear production resulted in **2.4 million tons of waste**

Our approach

LRQA is helping apparel and footwear companies dramatically improve waste management in supply chains through a specialised on-site capacity building program.

Our team, deploying custom tools and deep expertise, goes on site to measure baseline performance and engage with site management to establish sustainable systems for waste management.

Factory-level improvements range from simple behaviors like the better collection and recycling of small waste items, to the installation tech enhancements.

In partnership with the Footwear Distributors and Retailers of America (FDRA) and the Apparel Impact Institute (Aii), LRQA is already delivering measurable, enduring impact for many of the world's top brands and manufacturers.

Our results

In a batch of 34 factories in China, waste diversion rates were increased from an average of 69% to 100% in less than a year.



In a batch of 12 factories in Vietnam, waste recycling rates were increased from an average of 54% to 64% in less than a year.



For a group of 46 factories across China and Vietnam, 9,779 annual MTCO2 emissions were avoided through improved waste reuse and recycling.



76% of participating factories' Zero Waste management systems have been improved to A or B grade.



In one factory, our efforts saw waste management transformed from a business expense of RMB -44,000 into a positive income stream of RMB 13,000.



Why LRQA?

We bring to every project our deep expertise in supply chain due diligence regulations, international best practice, a thorough understanding of risk exposure and risk management, and insights into industry practices and investor expectations.

Aligned with evolving requirements

We update our methodology on a regular basis to ensure alignment with legislation and industry standards



Tested & refined

Our methodology has been applied with hundreds of companies across geographies and industries for years.



Based on end-to-end expertise

Our evaluation is based on decades of experience not only assessing current states, but also designing and implementing long-term programmes.



We speak your language

We provide pragmatic, sensible, and resource-effective solutions and recommendations that can be implemented and scaled.



We are efficient and action-oriented

We know what to look for, so it takes less time and effort for you and your teams to get the insight you need.



Get in touch

Visit www.lrqa.com for more information or email advisory@lrqa.com



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