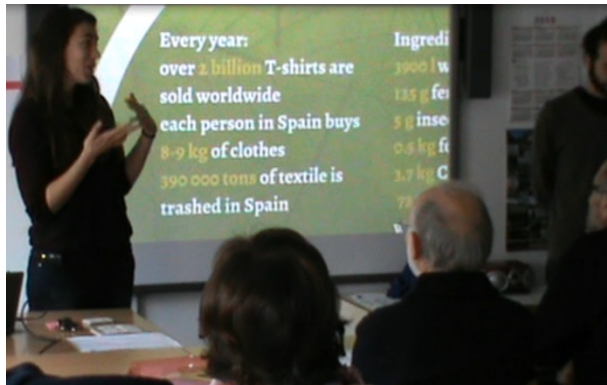


Environmental and social impact of textiles

Today we face many challenges, like the environmental and social cost of producing textiles. According to Amigos da Terra Ourense-Friends of the Earth, the obsolescence of textiles poses the problem of two collections being presented each year, with the psychological pressure on consumers, who want



to be in fashion, and an impact on resources. They give us the example of T-shirts, with over 2 billion sold every year worldwide, each person in Spain buying 8-9 Kg of clothes per year and 390,000 tons of textiles being trashed in Spain alone.

As for the environmental impact, they explain that in order to produce one cotton T-shirt we need 3,900 litres of water, which means about 26 bathtubs. Additionally, 125 grammes of fertilizers are needed, along with chemicals like insecticides, or those used in dyeing.

BREAKDOWN OF COSTS OF A T-SHIRT



The social impact is also high because, of the total price a customer pays for a piece of clothing, very little goes to the person who actually sewed it.

The fact that some factories are in Asian countries, where labour laws are very lax, is also a risk of child

labour or difficult working conditions in some cases. There is a social challenge, as in many other sectors.



What can we do?

Fortunately, by recycling one ton of textile, we save 7 tons of CO₂.

They also suggest repairing and with their project <https://alargascencia.org/es>, they intend to extend the lives of our possessions. They recommend shops where we can rent, exchange, repair or adapt anything we need, before buying a new one without thinking of these possibilities.

.....
Quiz question:

How much water do you think is needed to produce one T-shirt?

- a. 2 bathtubs
- b. 26 bathtubs**
- c. 14 bathtubs