

Fast Fashion Environmental Impacts

The term fast fashion refers to producers providing clothing cheaply and quickly to consumers through shorter fashion cycles. Recently, the global demand for new clothing has accelerated. An astounding \$400 billion worth of clothing is discarded prematurely each year globally as new clothing production has doubled during the last 15 years.

It requires 2,700 liters of water to make one cotton shirt. This is enough drinking water to sustain one person for two and a half years. Also, another interesting fact is that the production of one pair of jeans creates as much greenhouse gas as driving a car 80 miles.

Buy quality, not quantity. If we don't care about the environmental and social effects of fast fashion, who will?

Another way to help the environment is to donate clothes that you no longer need. The Los Angeles County Public Works began an employee clothing donation program on Monday, March 2, 2020. Due to COVID-19 social distancing mandates, Public Works and their non-profit partner have suspended this program temporarily. When this program resumes, Public Works hopes that this program will serve as a model to other County departments and agencies to maximize the reuse of natural resources including those used to make clothing.

For more information about Public Works' clothing donation program, contact us at CDRP@pw.lacounty.gov.