

RESPONSIBLE LEATHER ROUND TABLE

TERMS OF REFERENCE

(December 15, 2020)

About the Responsible Leather Round Table

Responsible Leather Round Table Background Information

The Responsible Leather Round Table evolved from Textile Exchange's vision for a global textile industry that protects and restores the environment, reduces the climate impact of our industry and enhances lives. Textile Exchange inspires and equips people to accelerate sustainable practices and reduce climate impact in the textile value chain. We focus on minimizing the harmful impacts of the global textile industry and maximizing its positive effects.

Responsible Leather Round Table Summary

The Responsible Leather Round Table is a platform that brings together stakeholders from all parts of the leather industry and related industries to accelerate the adoption of practices that will lead to measurable reduced GHGs from tier 4 (particularly those that improve biodiversity, water and soil health) and advance animal welfare and fair treatment of workers.

The Responsible Leather Round Table holds virtual meetings periodically and hosts the Round Table Summit alongside Textile Exchange's Annual Sustainability Conference.

Vision and Methods

Vision

The vision of the RLRT is a carbon neutral leather industry that improves biodiversity, water and soil health while respecting the rights of people and animals.

Purpose

The purpose of the Responsible Leather Round Table is to support Textile Exchange's sustainability vision with a focus on the leather industry.

- To promote among our stakeholders understanding and appropriation of the Textile Exchange Climate+ strategy as a direction for the industry in the next decade
- To fulfil the shift from discussions to actions and deliver measurable results annually

Objectives

The objectives of our work are:

- Set meaningful goals that contribute to the overall industry carbon reduction by 45% by 2030, and address biodiversity, soil health, water and the rights of people and animals.
- Determine how progress towards these goals will be measured and tracked

- Identify and prioritize actions each year of the next decade
- Mobilize the RLRT stakeholders and others to take actions to meet these goals
- To establish partnerships with major players in the industry for collective efforts towards the goals

Scope

The Responsible Leather Round Table addresses the full beef/leather supply chain, with an emphasis on the impacts at the farm level. The final scope has yet to be determined: we will need to decide if we address the impacts of enteric emissions, and the embedded energy of feed.

The work of the Responsible Leather Round Table will include:

- Education and information sharing
- Inspiration
- Identification of common industry terms, measurement systems, and goals
- Action to drive the industry players to meet the goals

How We Add Value

The Responsible Leather Round Table adds value to the international leather textile industry by bringing together diverse stakeholders to develop a shared understanding of the issues, create alignment on goals and actions, gain commitment from key industry players, measure progress and mobilize action.

Responsible Leather Round Table Structure

Convener	Textile Exchange
Eligibility	Participation in the Responsible Leather Round Table is voluntary
Composition, Representation	Representatives from Textile Exchange and the global leather industry: farms, leather processors, brands and retailers, NGOs, industry organizations and other industry professionals.
Member Requests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular attendance and contribution to meetings • Non-disclosure and confidentiality of shared information within the group • Willingness to engage in collaboration and collective action to meet the goals
Responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organization: The Responsible Leather Round Table Chair Person and Textile Exchange team members will coordinate to facilitate the meetings and tasks within its resource capability. • Determination: The Responsible Leather Round Table will identify opportunities for the global leather industry to improve sustainability in their sector of the textile industry. • Action: The Responsible Leather Round Table is committed to the addressing and increasing positive impacts in the global leather industry.
Meeting Frequency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Periodical virtual meetings and annual in-person meetings. • Educational and inspirational webinars will also be scheduled.