

Responsible Leather Round Table

Anne Gillespie • ResponsibleLeather@textileexchange.org



Summary of the Round Table

The RLRT summit meeting was held virtually on December 15, 2020. We received over 220 registrations and were pleased to see 114 attendees from 27 countries at the event. The agenda of the Round Table included industry updates, overview of the work of the Round Table throughout the current year and updates of the RLRT initiatives such as Leather Impact Accelerator (LIA) and Impact Incentives, introduction of the new Textile Exchange Climate+ Strategy, and brainstorming about shaping new RLRT strategies and methodologies in order to lead the leather industry to work collaboratively towards carbon reduction.

Deborah Taylor, Managing Director of the Sustainable Leather Foundation and Co-Chair of the LIA Leather Production committee presented an overview of Covid-19 impacts on the leather industry globally and summarized prominent developments, news, and industry reports from Europe and United States at the end of this year.



Chairs of the LIA committees Anna Heaton, Nicole Lambert, Stefanie Pokorski conveyed key updates to the Leather Impact Accelerator after the second round of the public consultation. The LIA team invited the attendees to review the LIA IWG charter and consider signing it in order to be able to [vote on the final drafts of the core LIA documents](#). The voting was open on the day of the summit and will continue until December 22.

Director of Impact Acceleration, Anne Gillespie, reminded about the successful launch of the Impact Incentives initiative and explained the role of Impact Incentives in accelerating changes globally through a focus on multiple commodities on deforestation, collaborative programs for training farmers, and animal welfare in high-risk areas.

The COO of Textile Exchange Claire Bergkamp introduced an inspiring goal of reducing carbon by 45% by 2030 in the raw fiber and material production of the textile industry globally. Along the presentation, graphs and tables were presented to show why we need this goal today and what challenges we might face on our pathways going forward. One of them is to shift the objectives of all Textile Exchange round tables, including the RLRT. The new RLRT Terms of Reference were announced at the summit. The full text is available at our website <https://responsibleleather.org/about/>

Josefina Eisele, Director for Latin America at the GRBS and Chair of the DCF committee with LIA, shed light on the goals of the Global Roundtable for Sustainable Beef and drew connection points where beef and leather industry have potential for delivering impact on climate action.

In the context of the key themes presented, the summit participants engaged in collaborative brainstorming on how to move forward the Climate+ goal. Anne Gillespie prompted the attendees to share their insights on what RLRT goals we need to set, what measurement methodologies we need to select, and how to implement new strategies. Through the virtual polling, all ideas and suggestion were collected in a report and are available in the RLRT Hub Library.

We would like to thank our attendees and presenters for joining the RLRT summit and for contributing their time, efforts, and expertise towards shaping the future of the Round Table and its potential for guiding the leather industry to make its contribution towards reducing GHG emissions (CO2 equivalents) 45% by 2030 in the pre-spinning phase of textile fiber and materials production.