



Looks like a nice win-win is coming together. Prudential intends to accumulate the 'ragged out' 100% poly all color from 3 local plants and our DC to be stored at the DC for weekly pickup by Ambercycle. - John Clark, CEO

ambercycle

the problem

73% of clothing is landfilled or incinerated at end-of-life

polyester makes up 51.5% of fibers used in apparel globally, so 'waste' clothing is mostly 'waste' polyester ⁰¹

01 source: textile exchange, (2019), preferred fiber & materials market report 2019

PRUDENTIAL PARTNERS WITH AMBERCYCLE TO RECYCLE UNIFORMS

To hear Shay Sethi tell it, his mission is to find ways to break down discarded textiles so that they can live again as new garments or flatwork items, thus fulfilling his vision of contributing to a circular economy. "Once they're purified," says Sethi, CEO of Ambercycle, a Los Angeles textile recycling business, "We are doing the work to figure out new homes for them, which is the focus of our R&D efforts right now."

While Sethi and his business partner Moby Ahmed may still think of their LA-based company as a startup, the reality is they've made significant progress in addressing a problem that's vexed commercial laundries since the industry's beginnings more than 150 years ago: What can we do with worn-out textiles besides throwing them out?

To that end, Sethi and Ahmed, founded Ambercycle five years ago. Currently, they occupy a 10,000-square-foot research and production facility with a dozen employees located three miles southeast of downtown. Funding has come from the National Science Foundation, the Department of Defense's Environmental Research Programs,, plus private investors, whom Sethi describes as patient yet excited at the prospects of scaling the business into a successful commercial enterprise. "We have a set of investors that understand the long term implications of this process" Sethi says. "There are a variety of financial investors." Having a base in the Golden State has helped Ambercycle in that the entrepreneurial culture is both robust and pro- "green." Many of his investors have built businesses from scratch: they don't expect overnight results. "I think the benefit of California is there's a lot of people and groups who've made their fortunes in other industries, software, life sciences, and then can look at, 'OK. Now I can turn my attention to climate change,' Sethi says. "It's very in vogue to do that kind of thing."

Sethi has reached out to the linen, uniform and facility services industry as well, seeking entrepreneurs like himself who share his passion for conservation. Once such partner is Prudential Overall Supply, an industrial/mixed operator based in nearby Irvine, CA. Prudential CEO John Clark currently is donating 500 lbs. (226 kg.) of ragged-out garments to Ambercycle for its research efforts. So far, the company has developed a viable system for recycling 100% polyester goods back into new polyester. Current efforts are focused on developing processes for breaking down poly/cotton blended goods and 100% cotton textiles. The company's two key goals are succeeding in business, while also benefitting the environment. "Our mission is to end waste," Shay says. "Although there are new materials coming into the textile manufacturing supply chains, closing the loop on outputs are what we are considering."

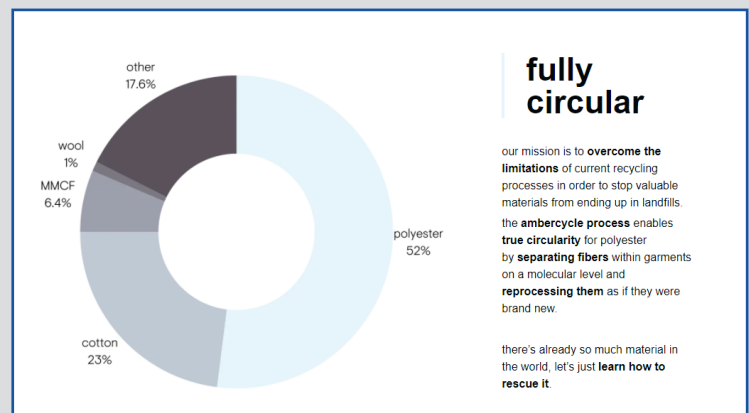
The idea for this business began when Sethi and Moby were

college roommates at the University of California at Davis, near Sacramento. Both men enjoyed seeing the woods and natural beauty of the area, and they wondered how they could help preserve it. With backgrounds in biochemistry and genetics, they hit on the idea of recycling textiles as a counter to the prevailing practices of a throw-away society. "We were looking at that as 'What are the best options for that material?'" he says. "That's how we started. We weren't really looking to start a business." Maybe not, but Clark sees great potential for the company and its vision of a circular economy for textiles. "I've very much enjoyed working with them as they tackle an enormous source of waste filling our landfills," he says. "Prudential gladly supports any organization committed to the Clean Green philosophy. As for the viability of the idea, without an engineering background I really don't know, but I believe this concept is already operational as more and more clothes are labeled 'post-consumer waste.' Should their model work, laundries in theory would be compensated for their scrap."

The idea behind Ambercycle is taking root with an expansion in the works include a commercial plant in the United States as well as new outlets in Southern California. While there are no guarantees, Clark sees great potential for textile recycling. "I hope they achieve the vision," he says. "If they do, it's a win-win."

Currently our following locations are contributing recyclable garments to Ambercycle:

- Riverside, California Industrial Plant
- Los Angeles, California Industrial Plant
- Irvine, California industrial Plant
- Distribution Center



More information can be found at Ambercycle.com