

**Used textiles will continue to be collected separately**

## **GftZ welcomes the working draft for the new Law of Recyclables**

**Berlin – The working draft for the new Law of Recyclables published on 21 October 2015 guarantees high quality recycling in the future. The Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conversation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) stipulates in their legal regulation that clothing and shoes have to continue being collected separately from other recyclable materials through established, separate collecting systems, e.g. Depot container. This is a very important step in the right direction from the Future of Textiles Association’s (GftZ) perspective.**

The working draft of the Law of Recyclables states that within the framework of a uniform recyclable waste collection, light-weight packaging will be collected together with non-packaging of the same material. According to § 3 (9), textiles, including clothing and shoes, do not count as non-packaging of the same material and therefore are excluded from private disposal through the so called recycling bin. „We support this working draft“, says Nicole Kösegi, spokeswoman of GftZ. „Value-adding sorting necessarily requires separate collection of used textiles and other recyclable materials. Only then the highest possible share of collected used textiles can be reused or subjected to material recycling.“

### **The joint collection of used textiles and other recyclable material is a waste of resources**

In the past, model regions with an extended collection of recyclable waste have already been introduced and realised. In these projects used textiles were collected jointly with packaging waste and non-packaging of the same material in one container. GftZ deprecates this kind of mixed collection as an inappropriate system because it entails the risk of cross-contamination and pollution. Even if the used textiles are packed in bags, it can still lead to a significant reduction in quality of the used textiles and consequently to a reduction in proportion for reuse. These consequences are not in the interest of saving resources and the current waste hierarchy that clearly prioritises reuse over other recycling methods.

### **Press Release**

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About Gemeinschaft für textile Zukunft (GftZ – Future of Textiles Association)

A sustainable use of textiles and a high-quality collection, sorting and recycling of waste textiles are the goals pursued by the GftZ. The focus of the association is the development and establishment of guidelines for the sustainable use and high-quality recycling of waste textiles. Partners of the GftZ, which was founded in 2014 and has its headquarters in Berlin, are companies with daily business in collection, sorting, recycling and marketing of waste textiles. GftZ is open to start a dialogue with interested stakeholders covering all questions regarding the future of textiles.

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