

A woman with dark hair pulled back, wearing a light-colored jacket with a white geometric pattern, stands in a lush green forest. She is looking slightly to the right of the camera. The background is filled with out-of-focus trees and foliage.

Amble

SUSTAINABILITY
REPORT
2021-2022

Introduction

Welcome to Amble's third Sustainability Report. We think it's incredibly important to be transparent about our evolving sustainability goals.

Continual progress is so important, especially as we grow as a business because our impact is (slowly) becoming larger and we've got (slightly) more resources to accomplish more as a business.

This report is also super important to educate our community about what we've been doing well, what remains a future goal for us, and to show that businesses of all shapes and sizes have the ability to reduce their impact and that progress is not reserved for larger businesses of a certain size.

We hope that it motivates our community to think more about the impact of their clothing, to think about who made their clothes, using what materials, and what type of businesses they're choosing to support.

We also want to encourage everyone to demand more; if you're thinking of purchasing something but can't find any information about the company's sustainability efforts, email and ask to show that it's a priority, because it makes a difference and it really does matter what businesses you support.

Highlights

- 210,667 bottles recycled
- Traced our full supply chain
- Carbon footprint calculations
- 12,080 trees planted

This report covers from July 2021 to December 2022, but in the future will cover 12 month periods. We've changed reporting from financial years to calendar years, given that most of society follows calendar years rather than financial years, and Winter is our busiest time of year so we're typically over capacity, with no time to calculate our impact.

Thanks so much for reading this, and if you have any thoughts or ideas I'd love to chat.

Rhianna (Amble founder)



Materials

The vast majority of environmental impact from clothing comes up at material stage (with Patagonia calculating that 86% of their emissions come from here), which is why it's so important to prioritise more sustainable fibres rather than virgin or conventional synthetic fabrics, that are derived from oil.

From day one we've been committed to using sustainable materials, using only recycled and organic fibres to create our collections. Our primary fabric is a recycled polyester, made from recycled PET bottles, with over 30 bottles recycled into every jacket we make. In the past 18 months we've recycled 210,667 bottles into our fabrics, far surpassing our goal of 100,000 and bringing our total number of bottles recycled up to 384,202.

We were also able to achieve our goal of creating and using recycled labels, which we previously hadn't been able to due to our small quantities. This means our care labels and brand labels (the ones on your back of neck) were able to be made from recycled fibres. The only trim we use now that isn't recycled is our zips, as we're unable to source recycled zip teeth and tape, but will implement this when it becomes available.

Another goal from our previous Sustainability Report was to introduce a repairs program, which is something that we haven't been able to implement yet.

We've found the right repair partner and established a relationship with them who are located not too far from our office in Melbourne, but we typically have a very low percentage of faulty garments, or ones that need repairing.

We've discovered the way we currently construct our garments makes some repairs quite difficult, so will look in the future at changing some of our patternmaking in order to make repairs easier. We've looked into the cost of repairs which has ultimately proved non viable at the moment. From a financial perspective, it is often the same price to complete a minor repair on the garment (as we are outsourcing this) as it is to make the entire garment and fabric from scratch.

As such, whenever there are faulty garments we are currently collecting them with the plan to donate them to a business working with disadvantaged young people who are introducing them to outdoor recreation and need gear donated. This is something that we'll be looking at in future years to change our pattern making and understanding how to make repairs financially viable.

We'll never send our faulty garments to landfill; ideally we'll find a repair solution, if not donate them to a business in need, with the last option of recycling the garment with our textile recycling partner.

Carbon Offsetting

One of our largest goals in our last Sustainability Report was to begin to measure our impact in creating our collections.

We're so happy to say that not only have we mapped out our entire supply chain, not just to include our fabric mills and garment manufacturers, but also to include all the way back to the raw fibre, and then custom calculate the footprint of each and every product, which is then offset.

The carbon footprint of our Elements Jacket is 12.15kg, and our Refuge Jacket's footprint is 13.88kg.

We've completed the first steps of calculating and offsetting this, and then in the future will investigate to see how we can reduce this footprint further per product, by finding even lower impact fabrics and ways to improve our products.

Since we launched our rebrand from Team Timbuktu to Amble in June 2022, we've offset a total of 19,503kg of carbon.

To put that into perspective, it's equivalent to 78,011km of driving a car, or growing 46,106 avocados or charging 3,724,759 smartphones.

Our offsetting has been done in partnership with Greenstory, and it's been split amongst three projects that are in line with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

We've offset 13,652kg of carbon via renewable energy for a wind farm, 3,901kg has been offset via reforestation focusing on forest protection, and 1,950kg of carbon has been offset via a solar cooker project helping local communities.



People

A huge success in our last 18 months has been completing a full map of our suppliers, which we needed in order to complete our carbon footprint calculations for our products.

Whilst we've always worked directly with our garment manufacturers, and some fabric mills, we now have transparency over all stages in our supply chain, including our raw materials/fibres, and the many finishing, printing and other steps involved along the way of creating our products.

This process turned out to be a lot more thorough than we originally planned, which is a huge win.

Since rebranding from Team Timbuktu to Amble, we've implemented our Code of Conduct which has been signed by all our tier 1 suppliers. This is based on the ILO Four Fundamental Freedoms principles and industry standards in order to ensure safe and fair workplaces. Our next step is to better understand a living wage across everywhere we manufacture, and how to do so most accurately.



Packaging

We've previously sent all of our orders in compostable mailing bags, but we were looking to add another option to our packaging options as not everyone has access to composting at home which is why we introduced our recycled cardboard boxes.

We currently send out the majority of our orders in these boxes, and then only very small items, or large orders in our compostable bags, but we're currently looking a new option, one that's more slimline to fit better in your recycling bins, plus are a thinner cardboard to reduce our impact in both creating the boxes and in shipping them.

Our thank you cards are also made from recycled card, and our shipping labels are compostable. We've also added a water activated recyclable tape to our range and started using compostable packing tape in our warehouse.

Whilst we have very few single use plastic bags, we occasionally do get them to protect some of our stock during freight, plus from customer returns, and from samples, which we were recycling via RedCycle. However unfortunately this program was stopped in November 2022 which has resulted in us currently being unable to recycle the small amount of soft plastics we do receive at our office.

Giving Back

We believe good business is the only kind of business worth running. Whilst we are a for profit business, and don't have donations as a core part of our business, we believe in doing the right thing. In this past 18 months we've donated \$26,550 in kind (of product) and a small amount of cash to a few organisations including the ASRC for refugees arriving in Australia, to Thread Together during their campaign for flood victims in QLD/NSW, and also to a few grassroots university organisations in order to help with their fundraising for various causes.

We've continued planting trees in partnership with Eden Reforestation Projects (which is above and beyond our carbon offsetting). We'd committed to planting one tree for every order, and in the past 18 months planted 12,080 trees, which created over 120 paid work days for communities which we couldn't be more proud of, bringing our total number of trees planted up to 15,231 trees planted.

Freight

We previously calculated our percentage of product sent via Sea freight vs Air freight, based on the number of units of product we created, rather than the weight of the product, in order to keep it simple. However we imagined this would create a lot of inaccuracies, as we were counting bike shorts that weigh on average 170g as the same impact as a jacket that weighs 510g, which is nearly 3x as much.

We still measure based on average product weight, rather calculating it based on every single product (as different sizes of products will weigh different amounts based on different amounts of fabric used).

As a small business it's not viable to do the calculations to measure every size multiplied by quantities ordered, but as we've been increasing our sizing range our most popular size has gotten larger, which is why we're changing our 'average' weight to one size up to accommodate this to better reflect the weight of the product we actually send.

In our last Sustainability Report we were aiming to reduce our air freight to 25%, we actually sent 22.6% by Air freight and 77.4% by Sea freight, which was a huge improvement on previous years.

Interestingly, if we were to report on this based on our old way of number of units it would mean 22.8% was sent via Air freight and 77.2% was sent via Sea freight, meaning our first way of analysis wasn't too off at all.

We'd love to keep reducing this, however it's difficult to further reduce air freight due to changing freight schedules, and the ongoing impacts and disruptions to supply chains and international freight forwarders from Covid19, but it is a goal of ours to continually reduce our use and reliance on air freight to ship our bulk production to our warehouse.

Our eventual goal is to send 10% via Air freight and 90% via Sea freight, and whilst it might take us multiple years to get there it's really important due to the significantly lower footprint that sea freight has on the environment compared to air freight.



Recycling

Circularity is the end goal, however it's a long and complicated path to get there. To start with, we've begun with our recycled fibres, and have introduced fabric recycling for our products at their end of life (beyond repair).

Since our last report, we've started recycling fabric with Melbourne based textile recycling company Upparel, and whilst we've only sent 9kg of textiles from unwearable samples and faulties that we'd been stockpiling.

We're super excited to have this partnership and will be working to ensure our community knows about this more in the coming year.

We'll be looking at introducing a take back program for when your old Amble clothes have been worn out past repair so we can send them to Upparel for recycling, to avoid textiles and resources from going to landfill.



Future Goals

We think it's so important to commit to continual improvement within sustainability, which is why we always have new goals, helping us to reduce our impact as a business, and show whilst it can be complicated, it's so important and every little bit makes a huge difference. For our next 12 months we have five main sustainability goals:

1. One tree planted per order

Changing our tree planting strategy from one tree planted per online order, to one tree planted for every product sold. This will increase our impact as it will now also include wholesale orders, and enable us to plant more trees

2. Take back recycling program

Implement a take back program for recycling old garments, encouraging our community to recycle and making it easy for them to ensure textiles aren't going to landfill

3. BCorp assessment

Changing our tree planting strategy from one tree planted per online order, to one tree planted for every product sold. This will increase our impact as it will now also include wholesale orders, and enable us to plant more trees

4. Living wage

Understanding a living wage throughout our supply chain. Now that we've mapped our supply chain out to all four tiers we're able to examine it a little more closely. All of our suppliers pay their workers minimum wage or above, but we'd like to understand what is a living wage in each of the regions we manufacture

5. Get more women outdoors

And lastly (but not least), we'd like to spend more time on our mission of getting women outdoors. We think there's no greater way to become an advocate for the environment and sustainability than spending time outdoors, and realising what beautiful places we have access to, and how important it is to take care of them

Thank You

We'd love to say thank you to you, our community for continuing to support Amble as none of this would be possible without your support.

A special thanks to all of our partners and to Charlotte, Courtney, Hayli, Mae Gene and Gina for all of your hard work. We can't wait to see what we're able to achieve in the next 12 months!

