



SAVE OUR FUTURE

Beloved Earth Community of Riverside Church

In This Issue

A Better Way



Cheaper Does Not Equal Better

- Before purchasing, research appliances, technology or clothing and choose those which are durable.
- Before throwing out anything, see if it can be fixed or repurposed, or if the company offers life-time warranties and will replace or repair it. See **Brands with Lifetime Warranties** (<https://www.themanual.com/culture/brands-with-lifetime-warranties>).
- Consider collaborating/borrowing products that you only need once or twice; and joining buy/sell groups in your local area.
- Patronize local craftsmen and shops that do repairs.

Electrical Repair Services

We throw away too much stuff, without considering that some of these items can be repaired, or how this drains earth's limited amount of resources.

A store a short distance from Riverside on Broadway at 108th Street, **Crown Machine Services**, is a family-owned and operated business which has been repairing household items for over 50 years. They work on vacuum cleaners, sewing machines, TVs, DVD's and stereos, typewriters, computers, video cameras, lamps and more, as well as selling vacuum cleaners and sewing machines. They do excellent work, so when something breaks do not throw it away, see if Crown can fix it. Call 212 663 8968 to speak to the owner, Mark, or check the web at crownsalesandservice.com.

OUR THROW-AWAY CULTURE: FAST FASHION, BUILT-IN OBSOLESCENCE, AND CLIMATE CRISIS

Since mass production became the norm in the 1920s and 30s, planned obsolescence has been part of the order of business.

This endless cycle ensures that companies do not have to invest more funds into producing higher quality, more durable products, or take responsibility for their disposal after consumers throw them out; keeps industry production costs down and maximizes their profits; and hooks consumers into buying more and more.

This non-sustainable culture creates much of the 1700 pounds of waste—4.4-4.6 pounds of trash a day—generated per American each year.

Cheap "Fast Fashion:" Environmental and Social Effects

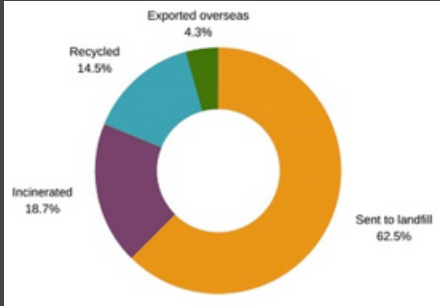
- Fast fashion” are “cheaply produced and priced garments that copy the latest catwalk styles and get pumped quickly through stores in order to maximize on current trends.”
- Fashion production comprises 10% of total global carbon emissions, as much as the EU and more than all international flights and maritime shipping combined.

cont'd p.2



Personal Action: How to Avoid "I Don't Need it, But I Want It..."

- Create a "well-being wardrobe," to favor human and environmental well-being over the ever-growing consumption of throwaway fast-fashion.
- Buy fewer new clothes. Buy secondhand clothes or use rental services.
- Join the slow fashion movement which focuses on the quality of garments over quantity and favors classic styles over fleeting trends.
- Repair and care for current clothes to extend their lifespan. Revive sewing, mending and other skills.



Americans create 16M tons of textile/used clothes waste/year. We export 700,000 tons overseas; recycle 2.3 M tons; incinerate 3M tons' and send 10M tons to landfills.

TAKE ACTION: LEGISLATIVE CHANGES FOR A BIG BOOST TO MOTHER EARTH

- Support UN efforts in the Alliance for Sustainable Fashion to address damage caused by fast fashion.
<https://unfashionalliance.org>.
- Find out about and contact New York State legislators to pass the Fashion Sustainability and Social Accountability Act. It would require fashion retail sellers and manufacturers to disclose environmental and social due diligence policies.
www.nytimes.com/2022/01/07/style/new-york-fashion-sustainability-act.html

Beloved Earth Community

We call Riversiders to protest the climate crisis and care for the Earth through educational programs, greening the church, changing our lifestyles, and courageous political actions.

For more information, or to join, contact Alan Bentz-Letts <alanbentzletts@gmail.com> Regina M. Tate <mariposa21355@yahoo.com>

Contributors to this issue: David King, Dana Minaya, and Frances Connell | Logo *(Geofix) © Jeremiah Drake



Cheap "Fast Fashion:" Environmental and Social Effects *(from p. 1)*

- It dries up water sources and pollutes rivers and streams. As the second largest industry consumer of water, the fashion industry requires about 700 gallons to produce one cotton shirt and 2,000 gallons to produce a pair of jeans. (Business Insider)
- Annually, 85% of all textiles go to dumps.
- Changing plastic fibers into textiles is energy intensive, requires large amounts of petroleum and releases volatile particulate matter and acids like hydrogen chloride. Cotton, a staple of these productions, is likewise environmentally unfriendly to manufacture, and its use of pesticides for growth creates health risks to farmers.
- Labor rights abuses of workers in the supply chain are rife with many garment manufacturing countries considered an "extreme risk" for modern slavery.

<https://theconversation.com/to-make-our-wardrobes-sustainable-we-must-cut-how-many-new-clothes-we-buy-by-75-179569>

A MEATLESS RECIPE: STUFFED SWEET POTATOES

<https://www.ncronline.org/news/earthbeat/eco-friendly-lent-recipe-crispy-chickpea-stuffed-sweet-potatoes>



Coming up...

- Next Beloved Earth Meeting, Saturday, June 4 at 3 – 5 p.m. via Zoom. To join contact Alan or Regina.
- To view this issue online, visit www.trcnyc.org/belovedearthnewsletter

or scan the QR code here >>>

