Environmental and social criteria in supplier evaluation – Lessons from the fashion and apparel industry

The objective of this original research study reported in the peer-reviewed Journal of Cleaner Production, was to examine how companies apply environmental and social criteria in supplier evaluation. Interviews with purchasers from the fashion and apparel industry show that no child labour, working hours, no forced labour, no discrimination, employment compensation, freedom of association, and health and safety practices are commonly used as social criteria, whereas end-of-pipe control (wastewater treatment systems) and environmentally friendly materials are used as environmental criteria. New criteria, for example housing conditions and home worker conditions, were identified as not having been suggested in the literature on supplier evaluation.

The whole article by Winter and Lasch in Journal of Cleaner Production, December 2016.

Circular Economy

In this seven-minute video, Janez Potocnik of the UNEP International Resource Panel, France, discusses the circular economy as it relates to policy worldwide. “Prices do not reflect the right costs on the market today,” Potocnik says. “In essence, we are dealing with a lot of market failures – which we have to address.”

He provides brief overviews of why collaboration will be needed to drive effective policy and why lock-ins related to past investments (such as in infrastructure) must be addressed to allow big changes to happen. This video was produced as part of a series on the circular economy by the World Economic Forum and hosted on SustainableBrands, which also featured:

• cradle-to-cradle thought leader William McDonough;
• Ellen MacArthur, the Founder of the circular economy-focused Ellen MacArthur Foundation;
• Patrick Wiedemann, the CEO of Reverse Logistics Group;
• Frans van Houten, the President and CEO of Royal Philips; and
• Arthur Huang, the Founder of MiniWiz, a closed-loop material innovation company.

Amazon Dash: does the world really need more little pieces of plastic?

Has technology gone awry with the advent of wi-fi reordering gizmos? The scoop in The Guardian on Sept 2, 2016.