

BEYOND CIRCULAR FASHION – WHY WE NEED TO END OVERPRODUCTION

THE SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF THE TRANSITION TO CIRCULAR TEXTILE INDUSTRY



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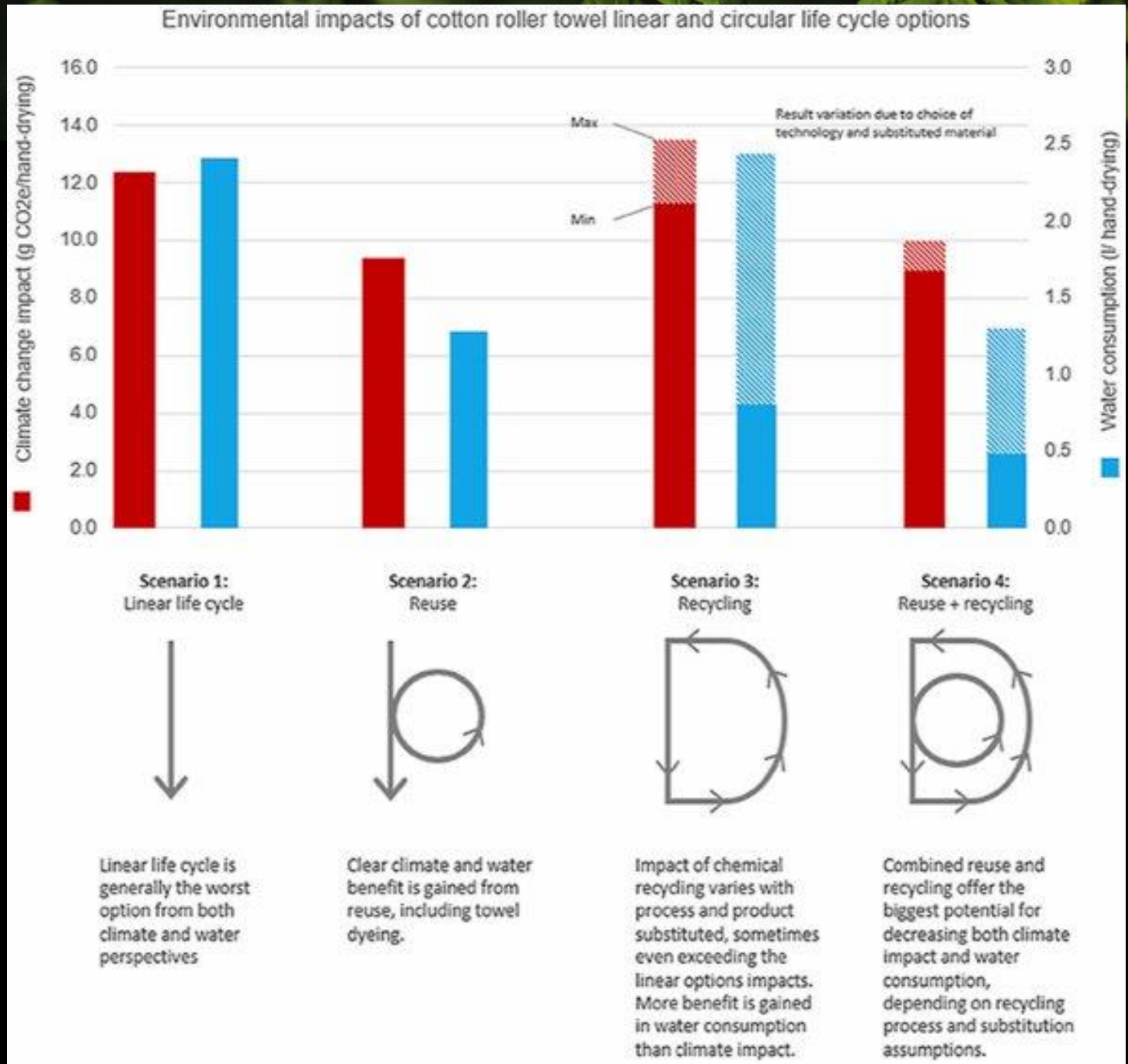
FINIX project

Finland

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF CIRCULAR SOLUTIONS



- Reuse and prolonging lifetime of clothing often the best from a climate impact perspective, followed by recycling
- Climate benefits of recycling vary according to e.g.
 - Substituted fiber
 - Recycling method
 - Electricity mix
- Impacts on biodiversity, water etc.
- The impact of sharing models unclear
- Benefit of reuse depends on substitution rate



» Source
 Mölsä et al.
 2022



SOCIAL IMPACTS OF CIRCULAR PROCESSES

- » Novel circular processes can create novel social impacts, uphold old ones or, at best, heal old injustices in global supply chains
- » Geographical shifts in production and decreased consumption can affect livelihood opportunities
- » Farmers, factory workers – most often those without agency and without opportunities that are most vulnerable
- » Novel forms of worker exploitation in collection and sorting of recyclables - e.g. migrants on collection centres in Europe
- » Chemical exposure
- » Root causes of current social sustainability challenges not necessarily addressed via circularity
 - » Power imbalances in global supply chains
 - » Ill-functioning institutions especially in developing countries



JUST TRANSITION

- To promote justness and environmental sustainability, CE transitions need to be planned and implemented in a way that makes possible to avoid social and environmental rebound effects
- Novel processes must be designed with specifically taking into account questions of social justness and inclusion and empowerment of marginalized groups
- Unless root causes and ill-functioning institutions are addressed, negative social impacts likely to occur or continue



SOURCES

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