# SWEDISH STOCKINGS SUSTAINABILITY REPORT YEAR 2023

# LETTER FROM THE CEO

Swedish Stockings was the first company to produce tights from recycled material. But our mission is also that a wear and tear product should last longer and be produced with the least possible impact on our planet.

Our commitment to sustainable development is a driving force behind our efforts and our reason for being. We strive to create new products and processes that reduce our environmental footprint and support the transition to a more sustainable fashion industry. We remain dedicated to delivering innovative solutions and innovation continues to be the driving force behind where we position ourselves as a brand.

Longevity is an essential building block when working towards shifting the idea of tights being a wear-and-tear item, to a garment that you can wear time and time again.

During 2023 we joined forces with Sheertex, the Canadian pioneering brand that makes pantyhose from a material ten times stronger than steel. The result - the world's first Rip Resist Tights produced from recycled materials, combining their ultra-strong polymers with our sustainability approach. This cooperation truly turns competition into collaboration

Sustainable change in the industry requires transformation at scale. We believe we can leverage our knowledge and expertise to make it easier for more companies to produce tights in a more responsible way. We want to partner up with changemaking brands who not only want to provide their customers with a better-quality product, but who want to deliver on their sustainability commitments in a real and tangible way. Better for the customer and better for the planet.

Our quest for full product transparency began in 2023, aiming to offer customers and partners complete visibility into our products. Our new sustainability platform BCome has given us a better understanding of the impact our production has on our planet.

To protect our planet, it is clear that businesses must play an active role in support of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. We're committed to reporting on the progress and throughout 2023, we actively worked with our code of conduct, adding it with additional requirements to better align with the values, principles and expectations that we have on our suppliers

Additionally, sharing our results and aspirations is an important part of our commitment, and we are grateful for the many people who have inspired our work and pushed us too continually do more.

Linn, Founder and CEO of Swedish Stockings

# INTRODUCTION

### RECAP OF THE YEAR

We started off 2023 where 2022 ended, with a range of new partnerships, this year with a deepened focus on innovation and traceability. We have celebrated our 10 year anniversary with a pop up store at Swedish department store NK, and by getting a couple of recognitions: the prestigious award Guldknappen by Swedish fashion magazine Damernas Värld as this year's accessory brand, as well as Årets Innovator (Innovator of the Year) at the Women in Business Gala in Stockholm.

After spending the past 10 years of producing tights in the most environmentally friendly and socially responsible way, we have partnered up with BCome. BCome is a sustainability platform that educates consumers on the environmental impact of their choices through advanced methodologies that track supply chains and emissions. We can be more transparent than ever when it comes to our products and their impact on the planet – during 2023 we have data on a majority of our products to tier 3. We want to give our customers the information they need to make an informed decision when making purchases, as well as helping us make progress on our sustainability goals.

We are always on the search for new and innovative materials and solutions, pushing the hosiery industry forward. To kick start the year of 2023 we launched a set of new innovations. Tights made from end-of-life tyres, Amni Soul Eco® – the world's first biodegradable polyamide, and ECONLY® 100% regenerated yarn that is made from salvaged fishnets lost at sea.

But it doesn't end there. Rooted in our belief that partnership is the new leadership we launched the first ever impossibly strong Rip Resistant tights made from recycled materials together with Canadian tights brand Sheertex. Combining their pioneering Sheertex Technology® with our knowledge and high standard in working with recycled materials, we created an innovation that is a testament to the power of collaboration with the aim of changing this industry.

Last but not least, we celebrated 10 years as the world's first sustainable hosiery brand with the news that we're starting a production company. It's been in the works during 2023 and through this new venture we'll produce even more sustainable tights and socks for other companies. More on this in next years sustainability edit.

# WHO WE ARE

### **OUR STORY**

Each year, 8 billion pairs of tights are produced, worn once and then discarded. This makes hosiery women's biggest wear-and-tear clothing item.

We believe that the highest form of sustainability is longevity. Swedish Stocking's mission has since the beginning been to drive and implement change in the entire fashion industry by showing others that you can produce sustainably, without sacrificing great quality and design. Our tights are produced from recycled materials and natural fibres from chosen suppliers in Italy. This ensures an unrivaled level in both quality and expertise.

We constantly strive to find new and innovative materials and sustainable production methods. Currently, our collection consists of more than 80% recycled materials. And aside from the materials used, our factories in Italy only use responsible production processes and renewable resources. Through our recycling program we collect old, discarded tights and turn them into designer tables. The life span of the tables then adds a considerable number of years to the total life cycle of the hosiery.

#### **OUR MISSION AND VISION**

### **OUR MISSION**

Drive and implement sustainable change in the fashion industry.

# **OUR VISION**

To be the most sustainable hosiery brand in the world.

These are big undertakings. It will only be possible through constantly striving to be at the forefront, finding new and innovative ways to lead the way forward and acting like a role model on all levels.

It is about adopting sustainable behaviour and changing old, comfortable ways. It is about challenging the norm, never settling for second best. By providing transparency throughout the production chain all the way to the end consumer, sharing information and expertise, we can create engagement and make decisions which respect the planet, people and our future.

## **OUR GOALS**

#### **Carbon impact**

At Swedish Stockings, reducing our carbon footprint is a top priority. Throughout 2023, we have dedicated ourselves to gaining a deeper understanding of our emissions through our sustainable platform, BCome.

We have begun measuring a portion of our collection, with the aim of achieving full visability for our customers by 2025.

#### **Traceability**

In 2023, our basic styles achieved full traceability. Looking ahead, we are dedicated to extending this commitment by ensuring traceability for all our styles.

#### **Recycling Club**

Our ambition is to simplify the recycling process, making it easier and more accessible to recycle old tights with us.

#### Energy usage

We are constantly striving to be more efficient in our transportation methods in order to reduce our CO2-emissions. By carefully choosing our transportation partners, it enables us to keep lowering our impact.

- We will continue to produce in Europe to decrease the total distance our goods are travelling.
- We will ship in the most environmentally friendly way through a third party that only uses trucks with green energy fuels and have a sustainable supply chain.

#### **Diversity**

Working with diversity is ongoing work for us which we have increased during 2023 and will increase further during 2024.

#### Longevity

Our ambition is to improve the amount of wear you get out of a pair of Swedish Stockings tights, together with our main supplier we developed Malva, the world's first ladder resistant tights made from recycled polyamide.

#### **Educate**

We actively continue to learn through innovations and new knowledge. We will continue to spread our awareness and educate ourselves and our surroundings through our social platforms.

# OUR FOCUS

# OUR FOCUS

#### Social responsibility

Our policies and guidelines outlining our social sustainability requirements and expectations to our suppliers.

These policies outline the standard we expect our suppliers to uphold, ensuring workers in our supply chain are treated fairly and with respect.

#### Sustainable Material

We carefully select all of our raw materials after how they are processed and manufactured. We use certified materials or responsibly sourced materials, both regarding textiles and packaging.

#### Longevity

We constantly strive to find innovative ways on our quest to be the most sustainable hosiery brand in the world. All with the same objective – less impact on our planet.

Our ambition is to improve the amount of wears you get out of a pair of Swedish Stockings tights.

#### Responsible Production

Our factories shall use energy from renewable sources, such as wind or solar.

Our dyeing facilities shall use equipment resulting in a 20% less energy consumption as well as reusing 50% of the water, whilst the remaining 50% is purified.

#### Traceability

Making a product's full journey visible and at the same time giving ourselves a better understanding of the impact our production has on the planet both environmental and social.

# SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY & HUMAN RIGHTS

## THE VALUE OF PEOPLE

As a brand that aims to be as sustainable as possible, we often find ourselves talking about products and the planet. But it's people that make it all happen, from the factory worker to conscious consumers who purchase them.

During 2023 we have been implementing new policies and guidelines outlining our social sustainability requirements and expectations to our suppliers.

#### This includes:

- Code of conduct 2023
- Mutual business agreement
- Supplier requirements policy
- Certification policy

These policies outline the standard we expect our suppliers to uphold, ensuring workers in our supply chain are treated fairly and with respect. The policies have been developed in 2022 and have been implemented in 2023.

In 2023, we implemented a requirement for all our suppliers to undergo SMETA audits. These audits aim to safeguard workers from unsafe conditions, overwork, discrimination, low pay, and forced labor.

We partner with suppliers in Italy and by working collaboratively with them, as well as local experts, we have been able to build valuable partnerships and to drive processes to ensure fair working conditions and the wellbeing of the workers in the supply chain.

### CODE OF CONDUCT

Swedish Stocking's Code of Conduct sets minimum requirements for our suppliers, subcontractors and companies that we work with, in order to create a successful and responsible working relationship. We visit them in person to assess their practices in comparison to our standards, and conduct audits every year to ensure that our requirements are followed.

#### Working conditions

All companies working with Swedish Stockings must guarantee good working conditions and good working environment in the manufacturing process. In accordance with international principles, the people who produce our products must have acceptable working conditions. Where there is a discrepancy between national and international provisions, the supplier shall comply with the most stringent standard.

#### Freedom of expression

Employees must always have the right to express opinions and thoughts about their workplace and full freedom of expression. The right of employees to join, form or not to join trade union organizations without being subject to threats or harassment must be respected (ILO Convention 87 and 98). In countries where freedom of association is regulated by law, alternative forms of worker representation must be prevented (ILO Convention 135).

#### Child labour

Swedish Stockings does not accept child labour. Children must be protected against financial exploitation and against hard work. No worker may be under 15 years of age. Work must not affect statutory schooling and must not be harmful to the child's health, safety or mental development.

#### Corruption

All form of bribery and corruption are prohibited and must be counteracted (UN Convention against Corruption). The supplier must have a policy and procedures in place for gifts and benefits. All applicable legislation regarding bribery and corruption should be established and implemented at all levels of the business and must be must be accompanied by proactive efforts to combat corruption

#### **Discrimination**

All forms of discrimination or harassment based on gender, ethnicity, skin, colour, faith, age, disability, sexual preference, pregnancy, nationality, political wievs, union membership, social background or other factors that may give rise to discrimination must be prevented. All workers must be treated with respect and dignity (ILO Convention 100 and 111).

#### Wages and other payments

Employee's wages must at minimum, correspond to the factory minimum level. Wages, including overtime payments, must be paid on time as agreed and at last least once a month. Overtime payments must be in accordance with national legislation or collective agreements. Where payment for overtime work is not specified in legalisation or collective agreements over time must, as a minimum, be in line with industry practice. Pay slip containing full payment information must be issued at the end of each pay period. This information must include the number of days work, gross pay or piece pay (IOL Conventions 26 and 131)

#### Health and safety

The employees must be offered a safe, healthy and hygienic work environment. Preventive measures that minimize injuries and health risks must be taken. Employees must be protected against conditions that may pose a danger to the employee's physical and / or mental health. Employees must have access to the appropriate protective equipment, first aid equipment and basic fire fighting equipment must be avilable, emergency exits must be clearly marked and not blocked at any time. An evacuation plan must be comunicated and visible to all employees. The supplier should actively work to ensure the longterm safety, good health and wellbeing of all employees.

#### Working hours and overtime

Weekly working hours may not exceed the statutory limits, including overtime. Employees must not be forced to work overtime on a regular basis and must be entitled to at least one day leave in each seven-day period (ILO convention 1) Overtime work should always be voluntary and not demanded on a regular basis. Overtime must as a minimum be compensated at the legal premium rate, and suppliers are encouraged to compensate overtime at a higher rate than the regular hourly rate. An effort should be made ensure that employee workload is evenly and fairly distributed in the short and long term.

#### Positive work environment

Employees, in discriminatly, shall be treated with equality, dignity and respect. Sanctions, fines, other penelties or disciplinary measure may only be taken in line with current national and international standards and with internationally recognized human rights.

#### Forced labour

All forms of forced labour are prohibited.
(ILO Convention 29 and 105).
This meansthat employees must be free to terminate their employment with reasonable notice, in accordance with national legislation or agreements. The employer may not restrict the employee's right to leave the workplace after completing their work shift. Efforts should be made to ensure that contract staff and seasonal employees do not fall victim to human trafficking. No workers should need to pay intermediaries to get employment.

#### Animal fibres and ethics

Supplier must respect animal welfare and work progressivley towards adopting healthy and human practices towards animal based on best available technology and standards. Suppliers must ensure the material sourced to the manufacturs does not come from countries or regions where animal welfare is not respected or where activity result in deforestation It's the supplier's responsibility to adopt mechanisms to ensure and prove the above guidelines are followed.

#### Recycled and natural fibres

We work to ensure the materials we use are as sustainable as possible, meaning the way they are extracted or produced is done in such a way that minimizes the use of resources and does not harm the environment.

- Fibres should be grown and produced in a responsible and ethical way, where people working with them are not exposed to dangerous chemicals.
- Genetically modified agents should not be used in the fields where the fibres grow.

#### Chemicals

Swedish Stockings suppliers shall conduct all operations full compliance with all applicable laws and regulations regarding chemical disposal, including maintaining valid permits. Business partners manufacturing any product for Swedish Stockings shall meet all contractually agreed applicable requirements specified in Swedish Stockings restricted substance list and follow European Chemical legislation REACH. Storage, handling, use and disposal of all chemicals used must comply with Saftey Data Sheet (SDS) of each chemical product.

#### Transparency

Swedish Stockings and our suppliers are responsible to ensure social and evironmental responsibility and the integrity of our product content claims throughout the supply chain. Swedish stockings believes transparancy and tracebility is a crucial step to transform the industry and work towards this goal. Therefore, Swedish Stockings requires suppliers to map and continuously track and monitor all locations on all levels in the supplier chain.

# MATERIALS

#### **MATERIALS**

We strive for a production that impacts our environment as little as possible. We carefully select all of our raw materials by how they are processed and manufactured into finished products.

We use certified materials or responsibly sourced materials, both regarding textiles and packaging. The materials that we use are essential when creating sustainable products. We are constantly looking for ways to extend the life cycle of our tights by using new materials and ways to produce them, elevating fit and function.

Since natural materials share similarities with recycled materials in terms of establishing a sustainable outcome, we have added more natural materials to our assortment. This will further extend the products longevity and keep us at the forefront of sustainability in the hosiery industry.

Looking to the future we are exploring using Swedish wool in our natural material assortment and exploring circularity concep ts through our Recycling Club.

# RECYCLED MATERIALS

Pre-consumer waste

Pre-consumer waste is a material that was discarded before it was ready for consumer use. More specifically, the waste of choice is a reintroduction of manufacturing scrap back into the manufacturing process. The majority of our products are made from this type of recycled material.

Post-consumer waste

Post-consumer waste is simply material that has been used in a formerly finished product that has served its intended use. For instance, it can be discarded fishing nets collected at sea.

#### Q-nova

Q-NOVA® yarn is a regenerated nylon 6.6 (polyamide) yarn made from otherwise unusable nylon scraps. The yarn is created utilising a mechanical regeneration process instead of a chemical one, therefore not detracting from the sustainability of the yarn.

Q-NOVA<sup>®</sup> is manufactured in Italy, in a facility with very high environmental and ethical standards. Different technologies, materials and techniques are employed to keep the environmental impact of production as minimal as possible, and transparency as high as possible.

Q-NOVA® reduces CO2 emissions by 80% and cuts down water usage by 90% as compared to virgin polyamide yarn.











#### Nilit ecocare

We use NILIT ECOCARE® yarn in the majority of our products. The yarn is made from recycled nylon 6.6 (polyamide) chips that retain the same properties that virgin yarn has, thus it is of high quality.

The yarn is derived from pre-consumer waste. It is manufactured in Israel, in a factory with strong environmental commitments such as operating as a zero-waste facility, employing state of the art equipment in order to save energy and water, and investing energy into other productions and supplier sites.

Nilit Ecocare<sup>®</sup> reduces CO2 emissions by 55% and cuts down water usage by 80,5% as compared to virgin polyamide yarn.













#### Econyl

ECONYL® 100% regenerated yarn is a nylon 6 (polyamide) yarn that is produced from post and pre-consumer waste. The post-consumer waste comes from carpet fluff or abandoned fishing nets.

Nets are gathered and found through special projects and fishing communities from around the world. The yarn's raw material is manufactured in Slovenia, where 100% of the electricity used at the factory comes from renewable sources. It is estimated that for every 10,000 tons of ECONYL® raw material, 70,000 barrels of crude oil are saved and 65,100 tonnes of CO2 emissions are avoided.















#### Wool

We use mulesing free merino wool from South Africa in our tights. All our wool is certified with a responsible wool standard. Merino wool provides long, fine and soft fibres. Wool is not only a nice material to wear but it's also a material with many good characteristics. It is naturally antibacterial and dirt repellent, it also has great breathing capabilities and keeps you warm.

Based on environmental aspects, wool is a very good fibre to use because it is a durable material and lasts for many years. Wool does not need to be washed to the extent of other fibres, it is often enough to air out woolen products to get them fresh. Another good aspect of wool is that it is biodegradable and recyclable.



#### Organic cotton

Guarantees that the cotton is grown without chemical substances and is not genetically modified. It is grown with respect to the soil and people working with it.

Our cotton is OCS or GOTS certified. This means that the natural fibre materials have been produced in accordance with organic farming standards recognized by GOTS or OCS, and processed according to GOTS or OCS.

We use organic cotton in our products as we believe it is important to take responsibility for the environment and health of the farmers producing cotton. No pesticides or fertilizers are used on the soil, so the fields will not become depleted which ensures arable land.





#### Recycled cotton

We use recycled cotton in our tights as the cultivation of cotton consumes a lot of natural resources and arable land. The population on earth is increasing, and we need more land to grow crops and cereals to feed the growing number of people.

Many of these crops thrive on the same land areas as cotton. In conventional cotton cultivation, pesticides are used that penetrate the soil and deplete it and render it unusable.

By recycling and reusing the cotton fibre, you save on these natural resources and the energy that would be required to produce new cotton fibres.



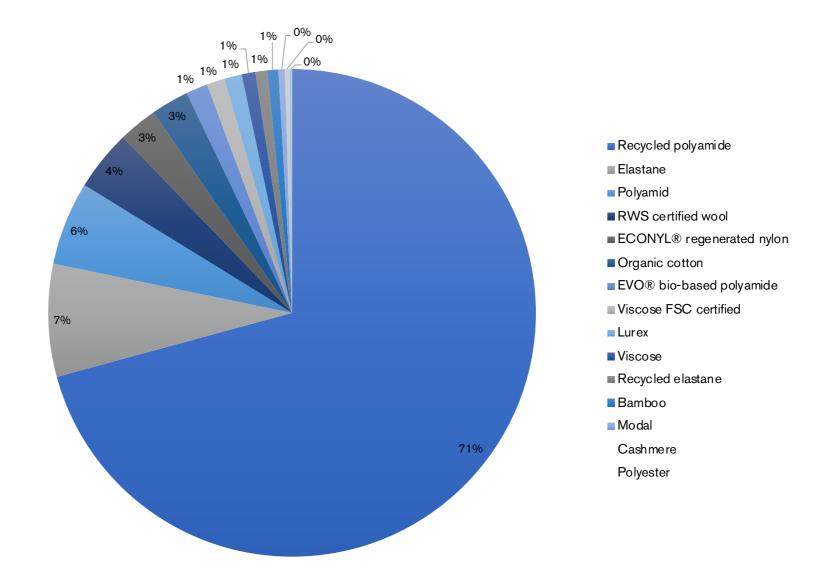
#### **MATERIALS**

#### Material usage across Swedish Stockings products.

By using mostly recycled and bio based fibers we can reduce the industy's reliance on virgin resource and minimize its overall ecological impact.

This approach not only reduce the carbon emissions but also promotes a more sustainable fashion industry, we can significantly reduce its environmental impact, conserve resources and promote a more sustainable and resposible production.

Innovation involves working all the way to the source of the material, including creating tights with longevity in mind and emphasizing durable materials. Our commitment lies in incorporating more recycled and bio based materials across our product range.

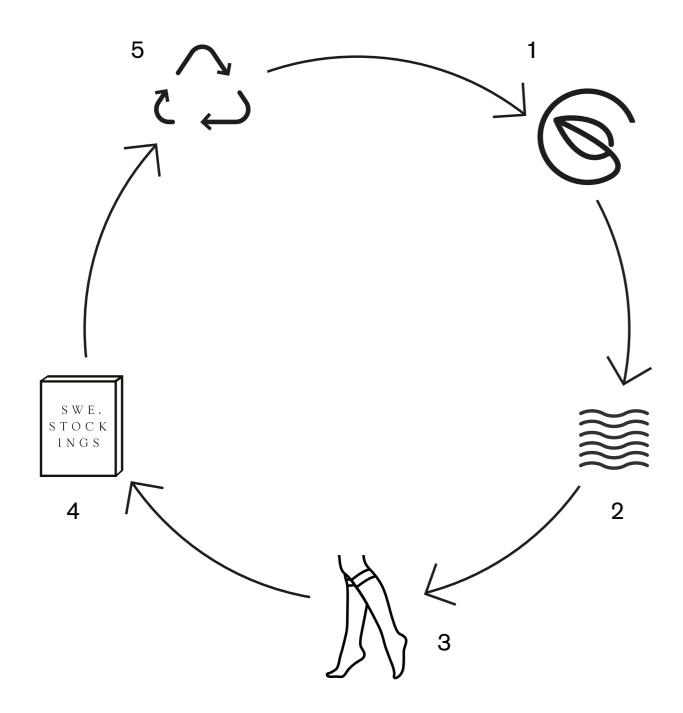


# LONGEVITY

Swedish Stockings designs and produces tights to last longer. Longevity is an essential building block when working towards shifting the idea of tights being a wear-and-tear item, to a garment that you can wear time and time again. A pair of tights are normally worn a handful of times and then discarded, adding to the other 8 billion tights already thrown at landfill each year.

According to a study by Mistra Future Fashion we can eliminate almost 50% of a garment's impact during its lifecycle by just doubling the number of uses. Therefore, our ambition is to increase the number of wears you get out of a pair of Swedish Stockings tights. Functional improvements such as extended toe reinforcements, soles on sheer tights and material technology are just a few of the upgrades we are constantly testing and improving to achieve more durable products.

# THE LIFECYCLE



1

We produce from sustainable materials and natural fibers.

2

Responsible production process using renewable resources.

3

We only use high quality materials, ensuring high quality products.

4

Using FSC-certified cardboard, our packaging is as small as possible and sustainable.

5

Through our Recycling Program, we make furniture from your old discarded tights.

# OUR RECYCLING CLUB

To help clean up the hosiery industry and provide a better alternative to discarding of modern pantyhose, we started Swedish Stockings Recycling Club in 2016. With the ambition to divert nylon tights from ending up at landfill, anyone can send us their worn, torn or used tights and we will grind them down and add them as filler material together with recycled fibreglass.

In the beginning, we collected and ground down old tights to be used as filler material in industrial fibreglass tanks. These tanks are used in the commercial industry to separate grease from water, such as at gas stations, at restaurants etc. They are extremely hard wearing, lasting decades, and now contain your old pantyhose in them. However, we always felt that we wanted to give back to our customers for sending used tights to us. In 2020 we were proud to finally launch an innovations project based on our recycling club, the tights to tables collection. The tanks produced from your old hosiery and recycled fibreglass are used in a furniture collection designed by Gustaf Westman.

We estimate that we have recycled several thousands of tights since the launch of our recycling program in 2016.

#### Core collection

We constantly work to oversee that the upcoming collections add to the existing ones and are transcending trends to assure a timeless assortment in line with our brand values.

We continue to keep a greater focus on our core collection and have held the number of skus at the same level. It is important to not overproduce, and we do our best to only produce what we will sell at full price.

#### Advisory board

We started our advisory board in 2021 to help us understand our customers' needs and desires, in order to develop better products.

Up until today, in total 624 amazing people have helped us determine what's important when it comes to product functionality, quality and loyalty and what they rate the highest when buying new tights or socks.

#### Use of our products

The emissions from the use of our hosiery in recycled polyamide primarily arise from the cleaning process.

When washing synthetic garments, tiny plastic fibers are released into the environment. We recommend to use a washing bag that protect the hosiery and reduces shedding while filtering out and collecting fibers that do break, preventing them from entering nature.

# PRODUCTION

#### **PRODUCTION**

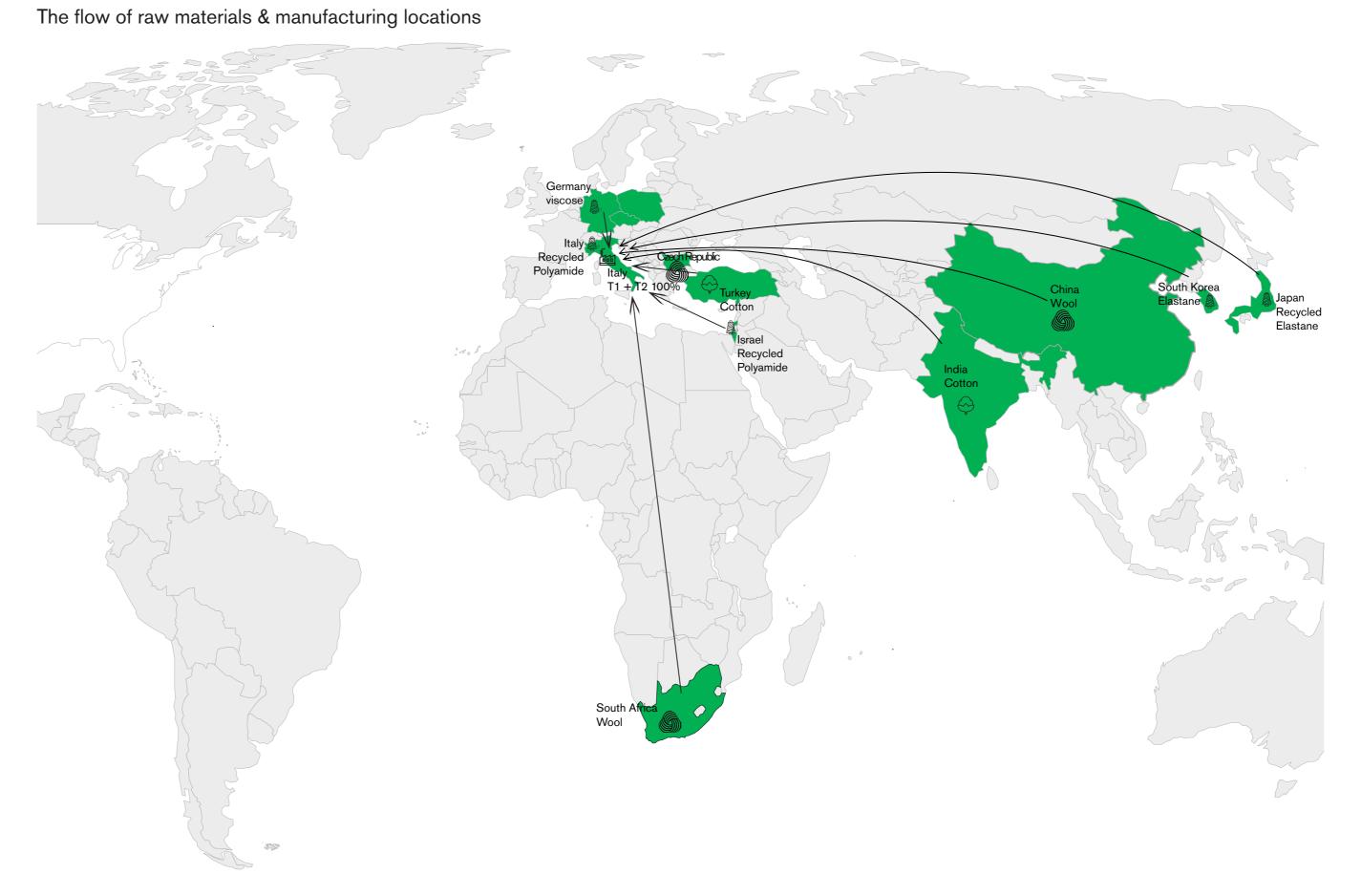
The production supply chain is divided into four different tiers. The different tiers are according to industry standards and they facilitate the mapping and reporting of our impact.

Producing a garment is complex, the label "made in" stands for the country where the main part of the article is manufactured, the label does not take into account all sub-suppliers such as where the material is manufactured or where the raw material comes from.

By measuring the impact associated with our direct operations and supply chain, we can identify and prioritise key actions to reduce our overall impact and track our sustainability progress. This includes greenhouse gas emissions, water use, water and air pollution, waste, land required for raw material production, and of course the manufacturing of the products, through to product usage end of life.

4	$\Leftrightarrow$	Raw Material Extraction	Extraction from raw material
3		Raw Material Processing	Processing of raw materials into yarn
2		Material Production	Production and finising of materials
1		Finished Production Assembly	Manufacturing of final product

### PRODUCTION



#### PRODUCTION PROCESS

# PRODUCTION PROCESS

The production process of our hosiery contains several steps to transform raw materials to a finalized product. In some cases, all steps are performed in-house, but sometimes the products have to be sent between different factories. Let us explain what the process looks like.

1

Our production facility orders the raw material needed from a certified yarn producer. There could be several different materials in one style or we use ready-mixed yarns. 2

The production facility or a subcontractor knits the material into a full product.

3

The production facility sends the products to a dyeing facility or uses one in-house.

4

When the products are dyed, the dyeing facility sends the products to the pack facility.

5

When the products are packed, the packing facility sends the products back to the production facility.

6

The main production facility distributes the packed products to our warehouse in Sweden.

7

The products arrive at our warehouse in Köping, Sweden.

#### PRODUCTION PROCESS

#### Knitting

Our products are knitted in Italy, not only because the Italians have been producing high quality hosiery for a long time, but also because the factories we work with have extremely high ethical, social and environmental standards.

The majority of our products are 3D knitted, a technique where the hosiery is knitted with three elastane threads instead of one, making the tights more durable and gives more elasticity and softness to the product.











#### Dyeing

In the knitting stage, the yarn is considered "raw" as the dyeing process only occurs after the hosiery has been knitted. The dyeing facilities are located next to our knitting facilities and the dyes used are vegan and OEKO-TEX certified.

By using state of the art equipment, the dyeing facility is able to consume 20% less energy than a conventional process. The equipment runs on a combination of natural gas and solar energy.

The facility is also able to re-use 50% of the water in the dyeing process, and the remaining 50% is purified through an ozone disinfection and micro bacteria process, in a specifically designed pool system.

### OUR PRODUCTION PARTNERS

Swedish Stockings wants to make sure all customers and business partners know that our products are manufactured ethically and respectfully where responsibility has been taken to preserve the earth's resources.

Our main suppliers only use energy from renewable resources, such as wind or solar. Most of them have their own solar panels, and produce between 35-80% of their own energy. The remaining energy is derived from a certified and renewable third party.

Our dyeing facilities use equipment resulting in a 20% less energy consumption as well as re-using 50% of the water, whilst the remaining 50% is purified in a specifically designed pool system, leaving it fit to use again after one week.

Swedish Stockings suppliers must provide certificates to verify that materials and production meet the standards required by Swedish Stockings. Our website displays certifications for materials used in our basic styles, moving forward, we are comitted to expanding this practice to include certfications for all our styles.

Apart from this, the factories pay close attention to avoid overproduction, any leftover yarns are used to produce samples. They collaborate with specialised companies to ensure that all paper and plastic is purposely recycled.











#### Energy

Our suppliers and the companies we work with are moving towards using only renewable energy in order to reduce depletion of the earth's resources and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to the atmosphere which contribute to climate change. Furthermore, they employ energy efficient strategies wherever possible and are avoiding unnecessary energy usage, to conserve energy.

We want our suppliers and business partners to:

- -Use renewable electricity in their factories or at least have an actionable plan to implement renewable energy in their factories.
- -Employ any energy efficiency measures (i.e. LED light bulbs,daylighting, etc).
- -Minimize their energy consumption wherever possible.

#### Waste

Our suppliers and companies we work with take responsibility for any waste that is created and that this should be disposed of in a way that does not harm the environment and should never be released to the environment causing pollution.

- Prevention is encouraged as the first step in reducing waste
- Re-use is encouraged as the second step in reducing waste
- Recycling is encouraged as the third step in reducing waste
- Disposal is only done when prevention, re-use, and recycling are not possible. All facilities must have a safe and functional waste management plan in place.
- Offices and staff food waste should also be taken care of responsibly and landfill / incineration should be seen as a last resort before pollution.

#### Water

Water is one of the earth's most precious resources. We need to ensure our partners are working in a way that is conserving and protecting our oceans to avoid water stress to communities or water pollution that harms life. We encourage all our partners to:

- Have a plan to minimize their water consumption
- Reuse the water to any or all possible extents

# TRACEABILITY

### FULL TRACEABILITY

Our quest for full product transparency began in 2023, aiming to offer customers and partners complete visibility into our products. However, this work has proven to be more time-consuming than anticipated. As a result, we have decided to extend our timeline, now targeting full traceability for all styles by 2025.

Our new sustainability platform BCome has helped us track and evalute our product's journey through our supply chain. Using the system during 2023 has given us a better understanding of the impact our production has on our planet. We have been able to track for instance CO2 emissions and water usage, and define and determine every step in the value chain from raw material to point of sales.

Having a comprehensive global perspective on our supply chain has been instrumental. It has provided us with understanding of our operations across the globe and has allowed us to identify key areas where we can focus our efforts. We remain dedicated to promoting circularity and full transparency in our practices by using this system to measure, report and minimise our impact.

The traceability through the platform gives us the opportunity to show our customers how we measure the environmental, social and circular impact of a product or material throughout its life cycle.

#### **TRACEABILITY**

#### We measure our foot print

Behind every product is a whole world of development and processes, social, economic and ethical implications. We measure our foot print through benchmarking of environmental impact with industry standard and make it visible on our website.

These measurements are conducted specifically on our basic assortment. We measure our footprint using four different measurement methods.

#### Water scarcity

Refers to the situation where the available water resources within a region or area are insufficent to meet the demands of its population and ecosystems.

#### Abiotic depletion

Refers to the reduction or exhaustion of non-living (abiotic) resources, such as minerals and fossil fuels, due to human activities.

#### Global warming:

Refers to the long-term increase in Earth's average surface temperature, primarily due to human activities that release greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.

#### Eutrophication

:ls a process whereby water bodies, such as lakes, rivers, and coastal areas, become excessively enriched with nutrients, particularly nitrogen and phosphorus. These nutrients typically originate from sources like agricultural runo, sewage disharge, and fertilizer use.

We've conducted an assessment of the environmental impact allocation throughout our supply chain for our basic articles.

This evaluation was based on the sale of 66 351 pieces in 2023

#### TOTAL WATER SCARCITY

Impact 50 708,30 m3 water eq Benchmark 51% savings

#### TOTAL ABIOTIC DEPLETION OVERVIEW

Impact 839 488,93MJ Benchmark 40% savings

#### TOTAL GLOBAL WARMING OVERVIEW

Impact 78 906,24kg CO2 eq Benchmark 39% savings

#### TOTAL EUTROPHICATION OVERVIEW

Impact 55 366,78g phosphates eq Benchmark 60% savings

# OUR SUPPLIERS

# **OUR SUPPLIERS**

The people and factories we work with are carefully selected by Swedish Stockings. We work directly with suppliers or through our hand selected, locally based partners to monitor the practices of each supplier on a regular basis and ensure that they follow our code of conduct and supplier requirements. We aim to maintain open and collaborative relationships with all of our suppliers.

The basis of our code of conduct are:

- Swedish and EU legislation
- UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- UN International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
- UN Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- Article 32 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
- International Labour Organisation's (ILO's) eight fundamental conventions
- UN Convention against Corruption
- EU's REACH regulations (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and restriction of Chemicals)
- World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)
- Industry practice

We recognize that there is serious human risk the further you look into the supply chain. For example, the global cotton supply chain can present risk of forced labour in farms and spinning mills, depending on location. All partners to Swedish Stockings are expected to operate in compliance with our Code of Conduct. This means that suppliers must ensure that our Code of Conduct also is respected and fulfilled by subcontractors involved in the production processes carried out.

#### **OUR SUPPLIERS**

Swedish Stockings are proud to say that we have fair and reliable long term business relationships based on mutual trust. Our suppliers and other business partners play a crucial role in realising our goals and aspirations, and we expect them to live up to the same social and environmental standards as we adhere to.

Our suppliers in Italy are involved with multiple social initiatives that range from aiding those with handicaps, distributing food to the poor to helping those with addictions and rehabilitation.









# INNOVATIONS BY SWEDISH STOCKINGS

## INNOVATIONS BY SWEDISH STOCKINGS

Innovations by Swedish Stockings is a promise to ourselves, the industry and our customers that we will continue to push the boundaries of innovation in the hosiery industry no matter what, either through products or concepts.

To be classed as an Innovations by Swedish Stockings, the product need to be unique to us – for example a new type of product, or the use of a new or improved material which has a positive impact on the product itself and the industry as a whole. It needs to fit within our vision of being the most sustainable hosiery brand worldwide.

We innovate within the areas of production, product development, materials, dyeing techniques and longevity.

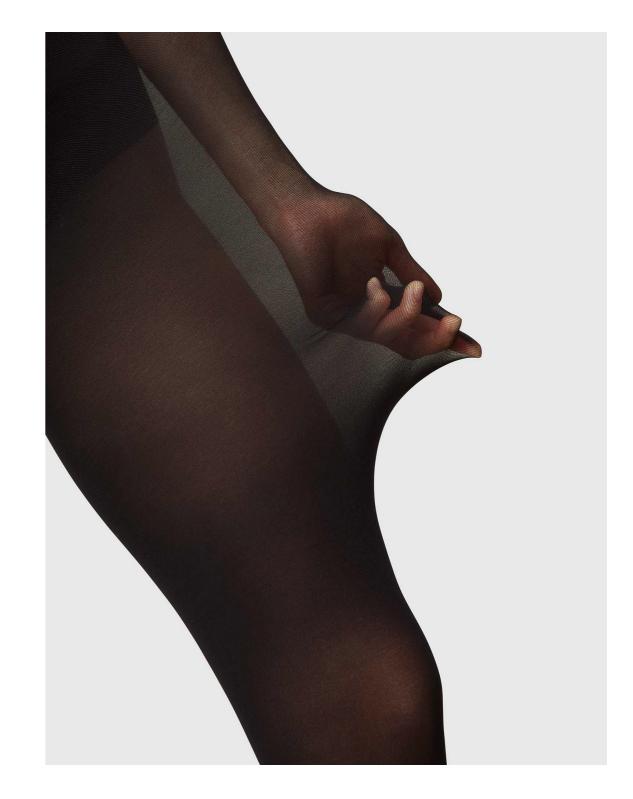
#### Lois Rip Resistant Tights

Our vision has from the very beginning been to produce hosiery that lasts longer. As a great leap towards this goal, we have joined forces with Sheertex, the Canadian pioneering brand that makes traditional pantyhose from a material ten times stronger than steel.

For the first time, the impossibly strong Rip Resistant Tights, made with Sheertex ultra-strong knit, are now produced with recycled materials according to our standards. Lois Rip Resisten Tights last an estimated ten times longer than traditional tights.

"We believe that the highest level of sustainability is longevity. This truly is the start of something long lasting – The world's first Rip Resistant Tights produced from recycled materials."

- Linn Frisinger, Founder and CEO of Swedish Stockings



#### Malva ladder resistant tights

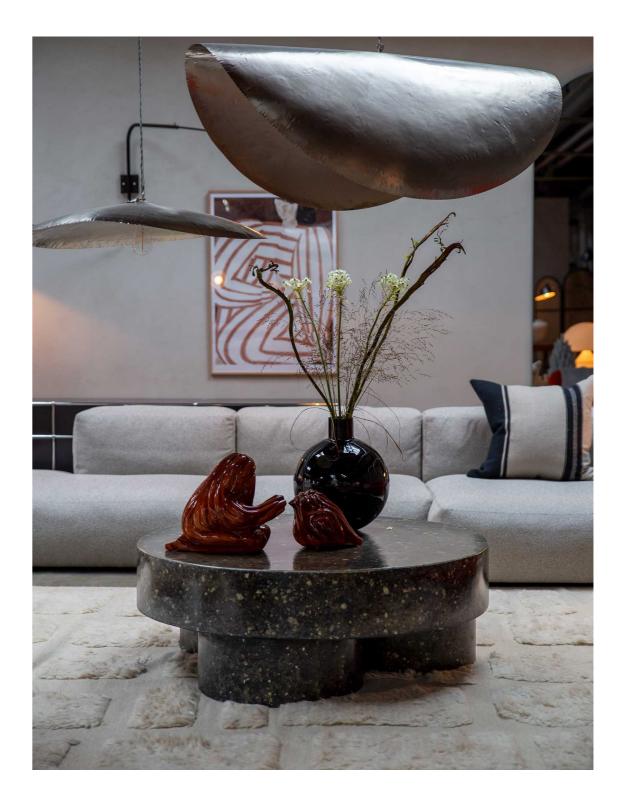
Our ambition is to improve the amount of wears you get out of a pair of Swedish Stockings tights, and together with our main supplier we developed Malva, the world's first ladder resistant tights made from recycled polyamide in combination with LYCRA® FUSION™ technology, which stops holes and snags from turning into runs. This makes them one of our most strong and durable styles even though they are only 20 denier, completely in line with our overall focus on longevity.



#### From tights to tables

In 2020 we launched our collaboration with furniture designer Gustaf Westman. We managed to give a second life to your old tights by using our own production facilities – mixing recycled tights with recycled fibreglass and turning discarded pantyhose into modern tables.

Each table (depending on their size) contains between 80 and 350 pairs of tights that have been diverted from land-fills through our recycling program. They are all unique and can be used both indoors and outdoors.



#### Cecilia, blooming marvellous

Early 2021, our 4th innovation was launched. Premium tights made from the Ricinus Communis, or the Castor bean plant. A 100% biological yarn that does not require large amounts of water and does not take land away from food production. It ensures an ultra-lightweight product which has built in odour control, dries rapidly and keeps your legs at a consistent temperature due to its insulating properties.

The new, innovative material stays true to our mission of disrupting and changing the industry, taking into consideration the whole life cycle of a product.

