



College Graduates Likely to Trash More Than 2 Billion Plastic Bottles Over the Next Decade

Textile Company Aims to Decrease Number by Bringing Recycling Story to Life

Greensboro, N.C. – May 3, 2016 – Over the next 10 years, college graduates from the class of 2016 are estimated to use more than 3 billion plastic bottles, and with the U.S. recycling rate at only 31 percent, more than 2 billion of those plastic bottles will likely end up in landfills where they may never biodegrade. That’s why a textile manufacturer, [Unifi, Inc.](#) (NYSE:UFI), is educating college students, along with the general public, about the importance of recycling and buying products that are made with recycled materials. The Company transforms recycled plastic bottles into fiber called [REPREVE®](#), and works with Oak Hall Cap & Gown to turn it into fabric for graduation gowns worn by more than 400,000 graduates in schools across the country. Among those using REPREVE-based gowns are Brown University, Michigan State, University of Alabama and University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, as well as more than 1,250 other schools.

“Graduation is a unifying moment in time and a perfect opportunity to reach millennials, who can be a powerful voice for change in our society,” said Jay Hertwig, vice president of global branding for Unifi, Inc. “There remains shockingly low participation in recycling programs, and we believe this is largely because people don’t understand that high-quality products can be made from recycled plastic bottles.”

To increase understanding of what happens to plastic bottles, and to empower individuals to choose the recycling bin instead of the trash can, Unifi has taken to the road with a recycling education tour. The national #TurnItGreen mobile tour makes stops at universities, retail locations, major entertainment and sporting events, and elementary schools across the United States. REPREVE features familiar brands – such as Polartec, Volcom and Ford – to showcase the array of high-quality REPREVE-based products that can be transformed from plastic bottles when consumers recycle. For example, it takes 27 recycled plastic bottles to produce an Oak Hall graduation gown, five to create a pair of Volcom Mod-Tech boardshorts, and eight for a pair of Haggar dress pants, saving billions of bottles because these products are made with REPREVE.

“The #TurnItGreen tour brings to life the idea that recycling truly makes a difference for the environment, and we want to help college graduates understand how such a simple action can make such a significant impact,” added Hertwig. “The well-known brands we work with realize that they, too, can make a difference by using recycled materials like REPREVE in their products. Our work with Oak Hall gives us the opportunity to engage with college students who are about to go out into the world and continue their education beyond the classroom, and we’re thrilled to be a part of that education transformation.”

REPREVE is used in a variety of auto, outdoor, home and apparel products by some of the world’s favorite brands, including Levi’s, The North Face, Haggar, Yukon Outfitters and Pottery Barn. Since the introduction of REPREVE, Unifi has recycled and transformed more than 4 billion plastic bottles into fiber for REPREVE-based products. To learn more about REPREVE and the impact the brand is making, visit www.REPREVE.com, or search for REPREVE on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).

About REPREVE:

REPREVE® is Unifi, Inc.'s (NYSE: UFI) flagship brand of recycled fibers, made from recycled materials, including plastic bottles. REPVE can be found in products ranging from apparel and hosiery to automotive and industrial applications, and is used by some of the world's leading brands, including Patagonia, Haggar, Quiksilver and Ford. REPVE's #TurnItGreen initiative is designed to encourage recycling and raise awareness among consumers that recycled bottles can be turned into cool products they use every day. For more information about REPVE, visit www.REPREVE.com; like us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

REPREVE and #TurnItGreen are trademarks of Unifi, Inc.

About Unifi:

Unifi, Inc. is a multi-national manufacturing company that produces and sells textured and other processed yarns designed to meet customer specifications, and premier value-added ("PVA") yarns with enhanced performance characteristics. Unifi maintains one of the textile industry's most comprehensive polyester and nylon product offerings. Unifi enhances demand for its products, and helps others in creating a more effective textile industry supply chain, through the development and introduction of branded yarns that provide unique performance, comfort and aesthetic advantages. In addition to its flagship REPVE® products – a family of eco-friendly yarns made from recycled materials – key Unifi brands include: SORBTEK®, REFLEX®, AIO® – all-in-one performance yarns, SATURA®, AUGUSTA®, A.M.Y.®, MYNX® UV and MICROVISTA®. Unifi's yarns are readily found in the products of major brands in the apparel, hosiery, automotive, home furnishings, industrial and other end-use markets. For more information about Unifi, visit www.unifi.com; to learn more about REPVE®, visit www.REPREVE.com.

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