

Case Study: Sustainable Apparel Coalition

Schneider Electric Helps to Transform Supply Chain Transparency within the Retail Industry

As consumers become more educated and concerned about the origins of the products they purchase, successful companies must become transparent in their operations or risk losing market share. The retail industry along with apparel and footwear manufacturers have faced tight scrutiny after tragedies such as the Bangladesh garment factory collapse in 2013 that resulted in the death of more than 1,000 workers. Transparency is now being demanded by consumers and the retail industry must comply or face an uncertain future.



“Finding the right software solution and sustainability partner were critical in our pursuit in taking the Higg Index to the next level. Schneider Electric displayed a firm understanding of our goals and mission for the Higg Index 2.0”

*-Jason Kibbey, Executive Director
Sustainable Apparel Coalition*

Situation

The Sustainable Apparel Coalition (SAC) represents more than one-third of the global market share of the apparel and footwear industry and is focused on building a common approach to the measuring and evaluating of social and environmental sustainability through its propriety self-assessment tool, the Higg Index. Since its inception, the Higg Index has consisted of spreadsheets and was rather cumbersome and difficult to compile and measure the inputted data. In order to ensure success of the tool and its mission, the SAC sought a partner that could transform the tool into a web-based, user friendly platform, thus encouraging greater adoption throughout the industry.

Leadership

Due to the success of our energy and sustainability technology solution, Resource Advisor, the SAC felt we were the best partner for this important, high-profile endeavor. Under extremely tight deadlines, our team of sustainability and technology professionals were able to translate the Higg Index's complex spreadsheets into an online solution that would encourage retailers, manufacturers, and suppliers to participate in the program.

Results

By meeting the development deadline, the SAC was able to unveil the new Higg Index 2.0 web tool to their global membership at a launch event held in Spain. The SAC and its members now have an easy to use, fully functional tool that allows them to track and measure metrics up and down the supply chain such as energy usage, greenhouse gas emissions, water consumption, chemicals policies, waste management and labor practices from factories around the world. With the web tool in place, the SAC and its membership now have the means necessary to respond to consumer demand for greater transparency which ideally, will lead to increased consumer confidence in the apparel and footwear industry.