

# 'Greta Thunberg urges attention to climate impact on fashion industry'

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Clothing in general has complex supply chains that makes it difficult to account for all of the emissions that come from producing a pair of trousers or a new t-shirt. Then there is how the clothing is transported and disposed of when the consumer no longer wants it anymore. However, according to the United Nations it's the second biggest polluter behind the oil industry. So, the impact the fashion industry has on the environment is unquestionable if we look up to some figures: it produces up to 10% of global carbon emissions and accounts for 20% of global wastewater. What is more, most of greenhouse gases, air pollution and waste are produced by fast fashion.

Greta's done an interview with famous fashion magazine Vogue and called out the fashion industry and fast fashion for its impact on climate change, saying brands should take more responsibility. In the interview, she said she last bought a new item of clothing three years ago and it was second-hand. "I just borrow things from people I know," she said. You may guess how a t-shirt could be that dangerous to the environment? Here's the answer: About 70 million barrels of oil a year are used to make polyester fibres. A polyester shirt has double the carbon footprint compared to one made from cotton. Polyester takes hundreds of years to decompose.

In response to this, fashion brands have started to take action to reduce their environmental impact. But campaigners like Greta say many of these brands are not making a big enough impact to deal with the problem. But as consumers the changes we all make in our behaviour not only add up, but can drive change in the industry, too.

Sources: BBC News BBC Newsround

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## True or False

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|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>01</b> | United Nation states that Fashion industry is the most polluting         | <b>04</b> | Polyester takes a short period of time to decompose                                          |
| <b>02</b> | Greta thinks brand should take more responsibility                       | <b>05</b> | Fashion brands don't agree with the idea of taking action to reduce the environmental impact |
| <b>03</b> | About 70 million barrels of oil a year are used to make a pair of jeans. | <b>06</b> | As consumers we can drive change to industry                                                 |
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