



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Functional Fabric Fair Summer 2026 Returns to New York City with Full Day 0 Sustainability Workshop and Expert Talks Programming

Day 0 Sustainability Workshop and Expert Talks Bring Actionable Education to the East Coast's Premier Performance Apparel Textile Event

NORWALK, CT (June 4, 2026) – The Summer 2026 edition of Functional Fabric Fair powered by PERFORMANCE DAYS® returns to the Javits Center in New York City. The event opens with the Day 0 Sustainability Workshop on Tuesday, July 7, followed by two full days of exhibit hall sourcing and Expert Talks educational programming on July 8 and 9— bringing together material decision-makers from around the globe focused on performance, sustainability, and innovation for the Summer 2027/2028 seasons.

Strategically positioned on the East Coast, the Summer edition serves the full spectrum of brands, designers, product developers, sourcing agents, and students working across athletic and outdoor apparel, as well as the growing world of functional fashion including swim, lingerie, activewear, and performance-driven lifestyle design.

"Functional Fabric Fair Summer 2026 is built around the idea that great sourcing starts with great knowledge. From the Day 0 Sustainability Workshop to our Expert Talks and the exhibit hall floor, attendees leave with real tools, real connections, and a clearer picture of what's next in performance textiles," said Steve McCullough, Event Vice President.

Day 0 Sustainability Workshop

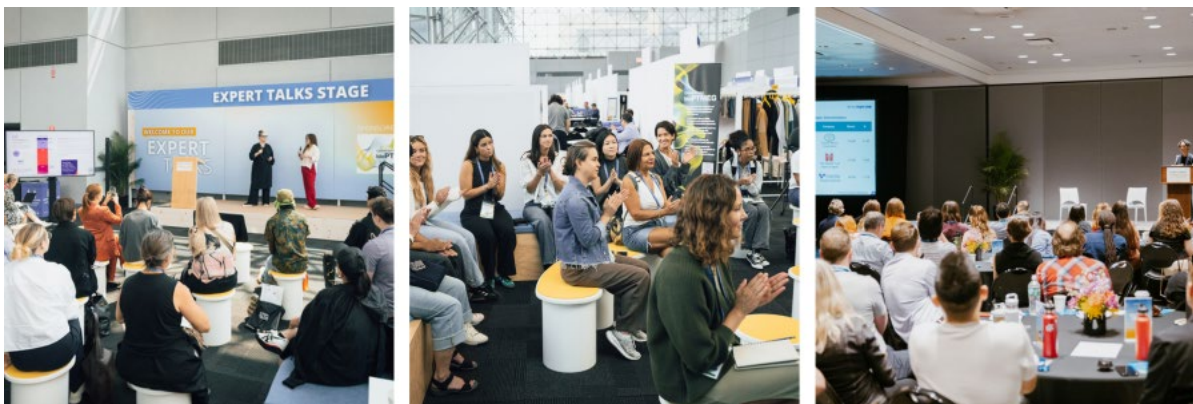
The full-day Day 0 Sustainability Workshop, *sponsored by Hyosung TNC.*, returns on July 7, curated and facilitated by Todd Copeland of Copeland Consultancy LLC, Eric Brody of Soft Advantage, and Kevin Myette of bluesign technologies. Developed in response to attendee feedback, the program features pragmatic approaches to foundational sustainability topics, the latest field developments and regulatory updates, real-world case studies, and interactive roundtable discussions designed to support informed decision-making across the supply chain.

[View schedule.](#)

Session topics include:

- Opportunities and Realities of Artificial Intelligence
- Linking Sustainability and Financial Outcomes
- Incorporating Sustainability Data into Material Sourcing Decisions
- Microplastics/Microfibers Shedding and Mitigation Strategies
- Holistic View of Human Rights, Health and Safety in Materials Manufacturing
- Brand Collaboration for Scaling Innovation
- Changes to Sustainability Certifications and Marketing Claims
- Investing in Supply Chain Decarbonization
- What Textile Recycling Tells Us About Designing for Circularity

The Day 0 Sustainability Workshop requires separate paid registration. Seating is limited. Learn more [here](#).



Expert Talks

The Expert Talks program, *sponsored by CovationBio Xatryx®*, spans two full days on the Expert Talks Stage, covering material innovation, sustainability science, regulatory compliance, trend forecasting, and market strategy. Stewart Sheppard of S2 Consulting emcees both days. Sessions are open to all attendees. [View schedule](#).

Wednesday, July 8

- **Forum Insights SS28** — Trend curator Alexa Dehmel breaks down signals from 2,000+ materials, revealing the quiet shifts set to reshape product strategy for Spring/Summer 2028
- **Performance Colors SS28** — Color forecaster Nora Kühner presents her seasonal direction under the theme "BREAK UP," exploring the emotional tensions and color narratives defining the season
- **Innovation Doesn't Scale. Production Does.** — Algaeing CEO Renana Krebs offers a practical framework for evaluating production readiness, drawing on 22+ years taking bio-based innovations from lab to commercial scale
- **Financing Supplier Decarbonization** — A look at the Future Supplier Initiative, a financial structuring model giving suppliers access to capital for facility retrofits and Scope 3 emissions reductions
- **What Sustainable Actually Means** — Brand and science perspectives collide as Burt's Bees Baby and Hohenstein Labs examine how sustainability is defined, measured, and defended in practice
- **Cellulosic Fibers and the Future of Wellness** — Eastman's Joy Gruver explores how cellulosic fibers address growing consumer demand for comfort, skin-friendliness, and lower-impact materials across athleisure and lifestyle apparel
- **Women in Power Panel** — Hosted by LifeLabs, this panel examines how female leaders and consumers are driving more relevant and effective performance textile innovation
- **Bio-Spandex with Xatryx®** — Covation Biomaterials presents the next chapter of its second-generation, non-food feedstock bio-spandex platform and its drop-in performance potential

Thursday, July 9

- **Digital Product Passports** — Hohenstein and Norton Rose Fulbright break down what DPPs require technically and legally, and what brands and suppliers need to do now ahead of EU's 2027 textile mandates
- **Shifting Gears** — Nora Kühner's second session calls for a strategic reset in sports apparel, challenging the industry to rethink product development and reconnect with the end consumer

- **Surviving the War on Retail** — Former AAFA Chairman Rick Helfenbein maps out how companies can find opportunity and maintain stability in today's volatile tariff and sourcing environment
- **Bluesign Session** — Director of Business Development Alex Helander discusses bluesign's standards and role in responsible material sourcing
- **Innovation to Adoption: Hyosung BIO Elastane** — A brand collaboration case study featuring Hyosung TNC and Faherty, tracing the commercial launch of a lower-impact elastane platform from development to market
- **Strategic Compliance Framework** — A five-step framework for navigating tightening US and EU regulations, covering safety standards, labeling, restricted substances, and upcoming circularity requirements
- **Intangible Luxury** — NellyRodi's Jacqueline Rumohr maps the new territories of luxury — experiential, service-driven, and emotionally resonant — with disruptive scenarios through 2035

Exhibit Hall and Features

The Summer 2026 exhibit hall will feature [140+ sustainable-certified suppliers](#) from around the world presenting functional fabrics, finishes, trims, accessories, and material innovations. Curated discovery areas include the Trend Forum and Future Fabrics Expo Innovation Hub, along with live demonstrations, happy hours, and social gatherings designed to support meaningful industry connection.

Summer 2026 also turns the spotlight on the Textile-to-Textile Recycling Focus Topic, highlighting collectors and sorters — the often-overlooked gatekeepers who determine whether used materials become new fibers or end up as waste. The Focus Topic examines the technologies, systems, and cross-sector collaboration needed to make circular textile streams a scalable reality.

Registration

Functional Fabric Fair is a trade-only event and is free to verified designers, product developers, purchasing agents, material managers, and students in the outdoor, performance, and lifestyle apparel sectors. The Day 0 Sustainability Workshop requires separate registration and seating is limited.

[<< Register for Media Here >>](#)

[<< Register to Attend Here >>](#)

Discounted hotel rates are available. For full show information, registration links, and updates visit <https://www.functionalfabricfair.com/new-york/en-us.html>

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Functional Fabric Fair Images can be found [here](#).

About Functional Fabric Fair powered by PERFORMANCE DAYS®

Functional Fabric Fair powered by PERFORMANCE DAYS® is a trade-exclusive event and platform showcasing the latest trends in textile development for the apparel industry. In addition to a curated marketplace dedicated to the

responsible sourcing of high-performance functional fabrics and accessories, Functional Fabric Fair provides expert-led education, supplier recommendations, and a university program that exposes students to textile and apparel developers. FunctionalFabricFair.com

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