Sub-sector: Environmental

The environmental sub-sector is the least defined sub-sector and overlaps with many existing sectors, yet the growth rate forecasted for this sub-sector is highest of all. The environmental sub-sector provides protection for the environment and ecological homes. Overlaps include industrial textiles (filtration, media), geotextiles (erosion protection and sealing of toxic waste), and agricultural textiles (minimizing water loss from the land and reducing the need for use of herbicides by providing mulch to plants).

North Carolina Companies Competing in the Environmental Sub-sector

**PERFORMANCE TEXTILE SECTORS**

![Map of North Carolina with marked environmental companies](image)

Number of companies: 36
Number of counties: 12
Cluster configuration: Guilford, Mecklenburg, Wake
Sales $ (estimated): $346,993,650
Employees: 1293
Products (sample): Framework for recycling programs, Biological waste treatment, geotextiles, recycled synthetic fibers

The environmental sub-sector ranks ninth in terms of companies competing in North Carolina and tenth in terms of estimated sales dollars when compared to the North Carolina performance industry sub-sectors. Discrepancies in reporting statistics relevant to the environmental sub-sector include overlaps throughout the performance industry. As discussed in focus group conversations, essentially the environmental sub-sector is a component of all sub-sectors.

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