



EMILCOTONI GREEN CHOICE

VOLUME 5

**CARBON
FOOTPRINT**

Emilcotoni

Carbon Footprint



Up to us

When ancient Greeks used to talk about beauty, they meant a concept that was not only about appearance. *Kalos kai agathos*, they used to say: what is beautiful has also to be good. Form and substance are linked together so strongly that they form an unbreakable communion. There are still people who have not forgotten this lesson.

Thirty years ago our story began. At Emilcotoni we have always aimed to achieve a 360-degree excellence, which means that we are not concerned only about the qualitative side of our cotton but also the ethical one, as taught by ancient Greeks: we are 100% responsible for every choice we make.

As natural consequence of our long-term ethical need, over the years we have acquired many certifications that show concretely our commitment to constantly and accurately control the whole chain: from cotton cultivation to final product selling.

But there is something more: in 2016 at Emilcotoni we published a code of ethics where we put on paper all the values we believe in. These are the principles we want our company and all the people who work with us to respect.

It is hard work. Tough calls and sacrifices are our daily bread, but, with our eyes on the future, we keep going along the only path we know as true and fair. Aiming at a cotton product that could be qualitatively and ethically good.





It is time to change

It was 1992 when the first international summit for the environment was summoned. It is now known as the “Earth Summit”, and, because of its massive attendance, it had an unprecedented media impact. However, there was still a lack, from within the general public, of a radical and widespread awareness concerning the issue.

Nowadays matters are rapidly and inexorably changing. The growing platform given to global warming on even traditional media has sparked a more lively curiosity around the issue and the growing of a new awareness in people in all over the world.

After all, the changes which we are currently witnessing in our environment are such that no one can argue with them. A recent news release by AdnKronos shows that, from 2000 to today, we have had eleven of the twelve hottest years ever recorded: 2019 in the lead, closely followed by 2014, 2015 and 2018.

A video released by NASA in 2019 is just as worrying. In this video, the silent progress of global warming is represented visually by big patches of yellow, orange and red. The trend is very clear: from the early Nineties the coloured areas have gradually increased, to the point of covering almost the entirety of the globe.



Becoming change activists

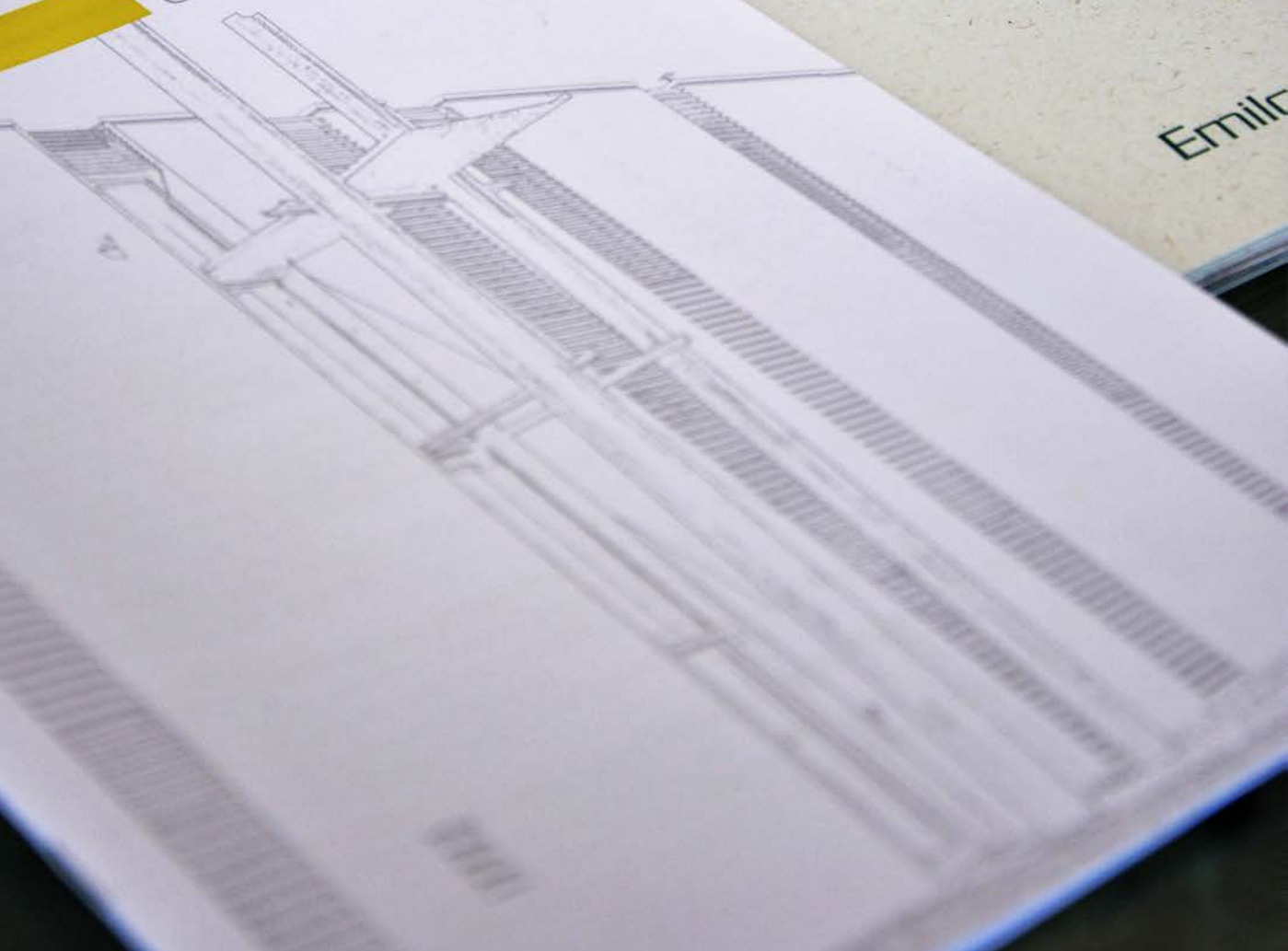
The concept is fairly recent, however it seems to be already yielding great success. It is the idea that the general public can effect positive change in regards to issues such as global warming by applying pressure to the business world.

Let us make a concrete example. When a client needs to buy a sweater, they can choose a product which gives them a greater amount of guarantees about how it affects the environment. Even something as small as a sweater has an impact, and it is possible to strive to make it as low as we can. If just the one client decides to opt for the lower-impact sweater rather than a more traditionally-made one, his decision will have limited consequences, but if, on the contrary, the majority of customers decided to prefer the environment-friendly option, the whole fashion world would have to adapt itself to this new method.

It is an important and rather comforting lesson: we are used to thinking about the consumer as a passive subject, an empty vessel of sorts in which goods and services are amassed through a process completely lacking in awareness. It is by tackling this harmful lack of awareness and by remedying it, that the customer changes roles and goes from being passive to being the one to steer the global economy towards a new path; a path made of shared and respected values.

A company has only two options: to ignore all of this and carry on as it has always done (which is, in fact, a non-choice) or to acknowledge the preference of its customers and try to provide valid answers.

Emilcotoni
code of **ethics**



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VOLUME I
BCI
Better Cotton Initiative

STANDARD 100
BY GRSI-ITP

THE
BY GRSI-ITP



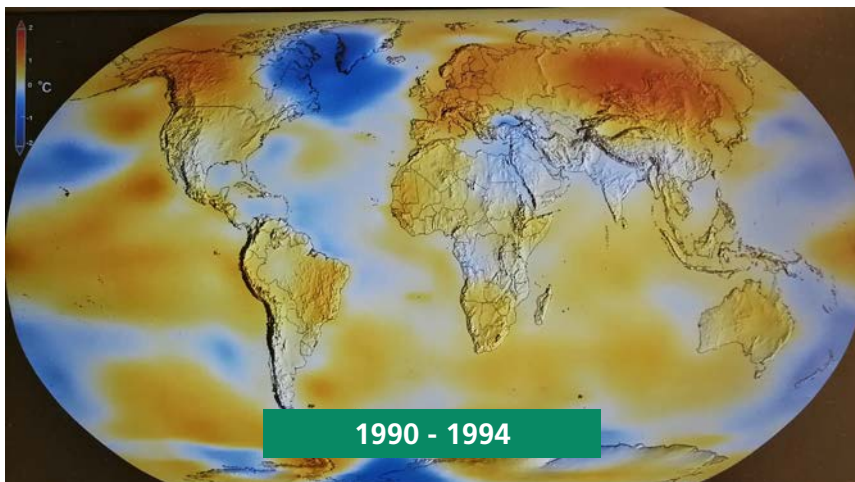
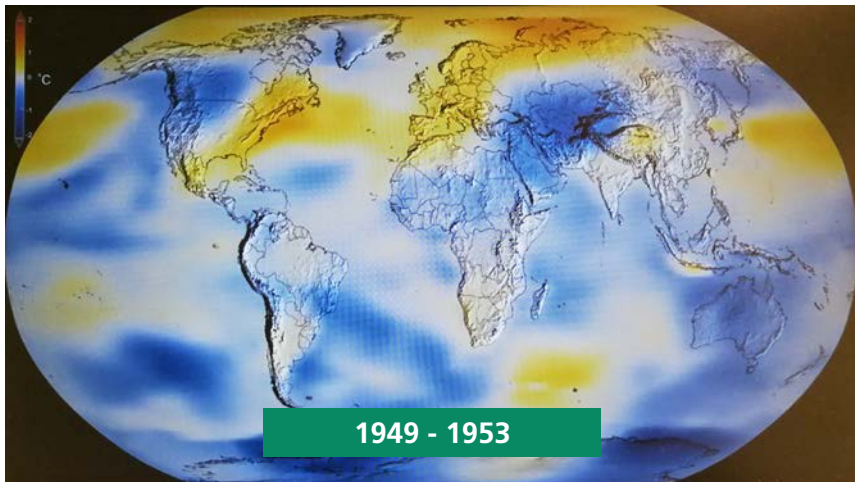
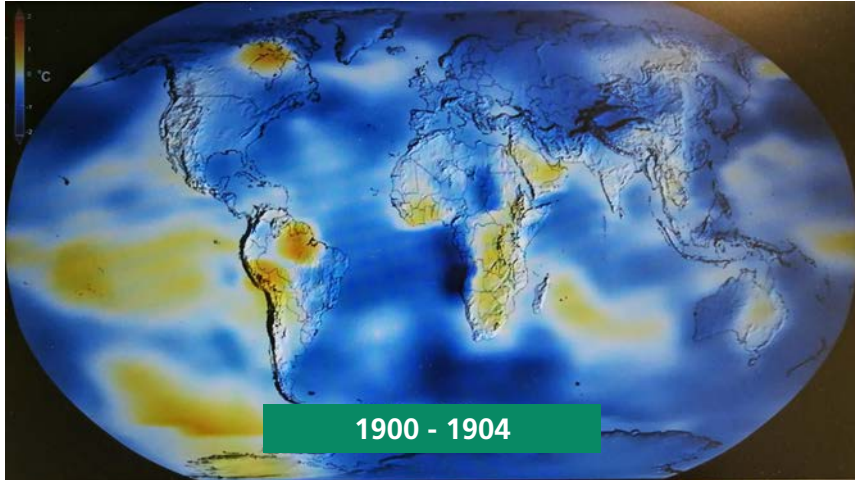
Sustainability and reliability since 1980

Emilcotoni belongs to this second category of companies. It has been a natural and fairly obvious choice, completely in line with an already established agenda, which has led us to achieve many important results.

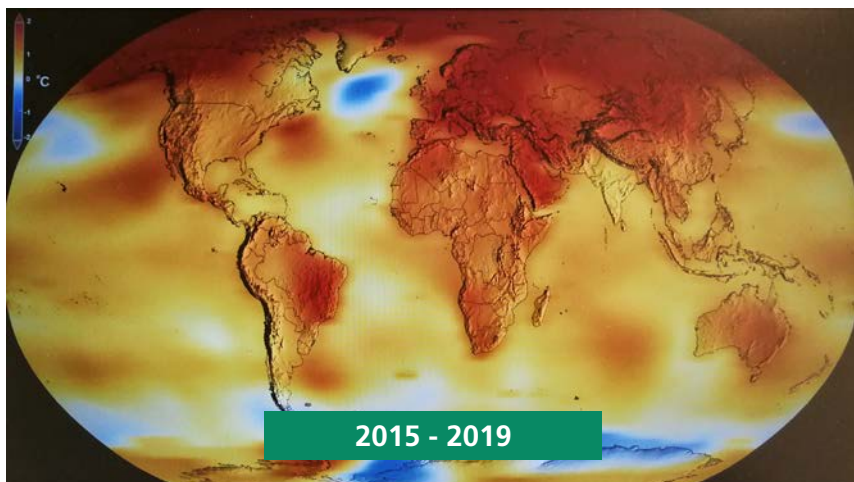
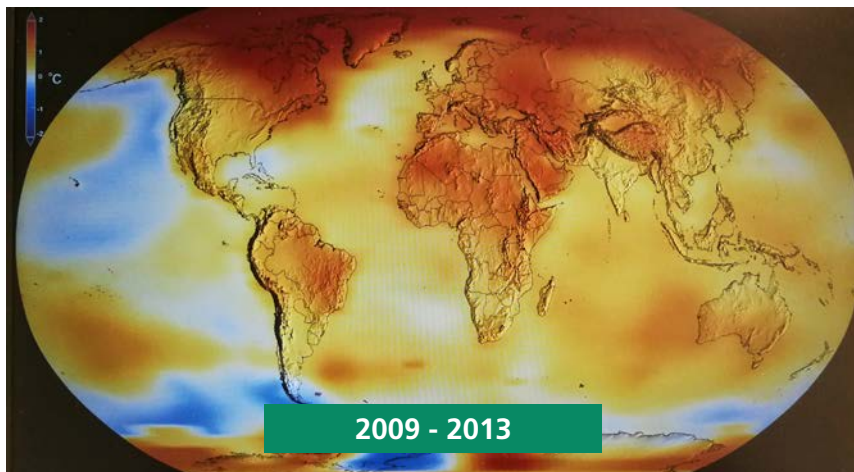
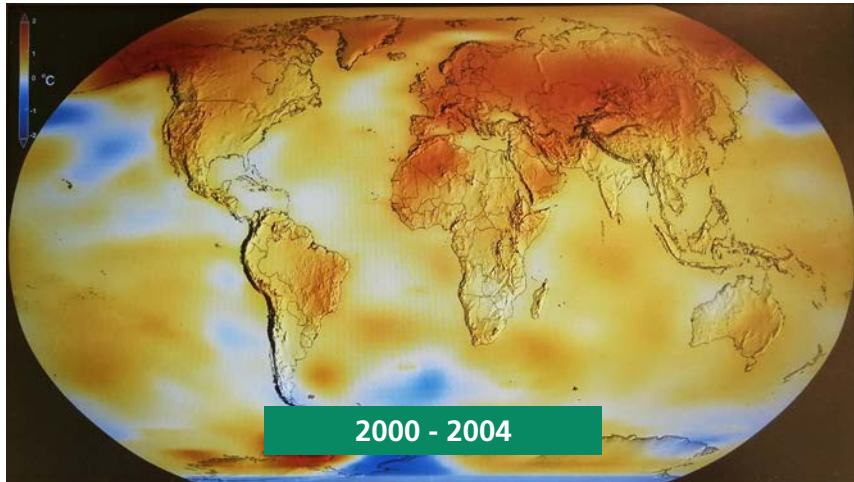
The foundation of this is a sound and fundamental moral commitment, which our company has been upholding and will continue to honour through its daily actions. In 2016 we drafted our Code of Ethics, specifying the values in which we believe in and to which we consider ourselves bound. At the same time, we actively ask anyone who works with us to share these values and to act on them.

But there is so much more. We have also been pushed in this direction by a strong desire to assert our credibility towards our customers and collaborators. This credibility goes hand in hand with being reliable, which is one of the best qualities a company can pride itself on. To this end, we have strived to earn a great number of certificates which are internationally highly regarded within the textile industry. In so doing, we are now able to present our values and intent not in vague and abstract terms, but as precisely and concretely as our certificates allow us to.

Therefore, the growing awareness concerning environmental sustainability from within the general public has not found us unprepared. We have been faced by a very specific question, but we had already been working on the answer for a long time prior. STeP, Standard 100, BCI, GOTS, GRS, and now Carbon Footprint: it is on this last item of the list that we are focusing our attention so that our answer can be as complete and accurate as possible.



Global Warming Timeline



Source: climate.nasa.gov



What is the Carbon Footprint?

We are very happy to announce that Emilcotoni is the first company in the field of yarn production to have taken the necessary steps to assess its own impact in terms of greenhouse gas emissions, both in regards to the company as a whole and to each single product. This is the heart of the Carbon Footprint; but let us explain it in more detail.

The Carbon Footprint is an environmental indicator which is used to quantify the impact humankind has on the global environment. This measurement quantifies the impact of the so called greenhouse gases produced by a person, an organization, an event or a product (both goods or services).

The gases which have been identified as harmful to the environment are the ones listed in the Kyoto Protocol of 1997: carbon dioxide, methane and others, maybe less well-known, such as nitrous oxide, the hydrofluorocarbons, the perfluorocarbons and sulphur hexafluoride. We have called each one of them by its name, even though they might not necessarily mean much to anyone who is not interested in chemistry, to emphasize the fact that carbon dioxide is not the only gas responsible for the greenhouse effect. Each and every one of these contributes to it, in varying degrees depending on their global warming potential.

The unit of measurement that has been adopted for the Carbon Footprint is the CO₂ equivalent. This means that we can evaluate the impact of each of these gases by comparing it to the greenhouse emissions produced by carbon dioxide, which is considered a 1. For example, to clarify: methane has a global warming potential which is 25 times the one carbon dioxide has, therefore one tonne of methane is quantified as 25 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent.



Parametres for evaluation

The same is true for the Carbon Footprint certificate as it is for all the other ones that Emilcotoni is progressively acquiring. It is not feasible that each individual company should use its own particular method to certify that its products are organic or have a low environmental impact. It would be impossible to compare and contrast the data, which would, as a consequence, lose much of its value. It is therefore extremely important that there should be an international standard shared by all to which any organization or company wanting to certify their commitment in a certain field can look to.

As far as Carbon Footprint is concerned, the two regulations currently in use are very recent, further proving how new all of this is. They are the ISO 14067 and the ISO 14064, both approved in 2018. The first one sets the standard for the products, whilst the second one is for companies and organizations.

Both are based on the Life Cycle Assessment or LCA, which set itself the goal of analyzing the environmental impact of a product, a process or an activity for the entirety of its life or duration. This analysis changes according to its object, but it normally includes the following steps: the extraction and supplying of raw materials, production, packaging, transportation from the production site to the selling avenue, its use, and, finally, the disposal of the product and its packaging. This kind of approach is known as “from cradle to grave”; or, in a more correct circular-economy mentality, “from cradle to cradle”.



The goal: decarbonization

Every LCA study has four major steps. The first phase is the defining of the end goals and the field of action: this means that the limits of the system in which it will operate have to be clearly laid out and that the measuring unit which will be used to calculate impact has to be defined beforehand (in the case of a study that aims to calculate the Carbon Footprint of a product, the measuring unit will be, as seen above, carbon dioxide equivalent).

The second step is normally classified as an inventory of sorts: it registers the amount of greenhouse emissions created by each stage of a product's life. Once this is done, we move on to the third phase: the evaluation of impact, during which we analyze and organize data into different impact categories. The final and most crucial step is the interpretation of the results.

It is worth spending a little more time on this final phase. The results of a Carbon Footprint analysis are important not just in their own right, but because they carry an added value which will be visible especially in the long-run. In other words, knowing the Carbon Footprint of one's company and products makes sense when this is just the first step on the path of a quick and effective decarbonization.

This is the true value of a Carbon Footprint analysis. It is not just about getting a certificate to show off when needed, only to never look at it again the rest of the time. If a company decides to start this process of analyzing the emissions of greenhouse gases of an organization, a process or a product, it is a sign that it is willing to place itself on a path of ongoing improvement.



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060C

080C

Emilcotoni's commitment

The Carbon Footprint analysis Emilcotoni has undertaken is twofold. On one hand, we are proceeding with evaluating the company through the aforementioned ISO 14064 regulation; on the other, we have decided to put our Piuma Organic through the ISO 14067 process. This way we will be able to provide precise data both on our company as a whole and the single products we manufacture. Piuma Organic is only the first of many other products we will examine in the light of Carbon Footprint.

This way, we will be able to have a more extensive and complete overview of our company's environmental impact and to use this to shape the future steps we will take in the field of sustainability. By knowing about our strengths and our weaknesses, we will be able to create a focused plan in order to enhance the first and remedy the last, so as to reach, in a reasonable number of years, level zero of emissions.

We are not pretending to be perfect, we know that we still have a long way to go. However, this is a first step, and we are committed as a company to taking many more, always well-thought-out and feasible, in order to be able to reach that goal that, though certainly far away, does not seem unattainable.

In this brochure we have already mentioned how, when faced with an ever-growing awareness in the general public about environmental issues, a company has two options: deciding not to choose or choosing to commit to offering a valid answer. Carbon Footprint is our answer.

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