

RETAIL

Neiman Marcus announces sustainability strategy

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Theia is a sustainable fashion brand with certifications from OEKO-TEX and the Global Recycle Standard. Image credit: Neiman Marcus

By LUXURY DAILY NEWS SERVICE

U.S. retailer Neiman Marcus has introduced the development of the company's first Environmental Social Governance (ESG) team, strategy and improvements.

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The new ESG team spearheading the company's approach to these issues consists of a vice president and two managers that report to the group's chief people and belonging officer Eric Severson, with quarterly oversight from Neiman Marcus Group's board of directors. The success of this department will be determined by a cross-functional governance model that helps them engage leaders and task forces across the company, ensuring that ESG is infused into all parts of the business.

"Environmental sustainability is top of mind for the fashion and retail industries," said Geoffroy van Raemdonck, chief executive officer of Neiman Marcus Group, in a statement. "As the preeminent luxury customer platform, it is our responsibility to take action and address sustainability issues for our associates, customers, investors, and the future of our great company."

Focus on sustainability

The group's first task is collaborating with independent, third-party consultants to conduct a materiality assessment that highlights the importance of various ESG issues to the business and key external stakeholders.



7 For All Mankind is a California-based sustainable menswear fashion brand. Image credit: Neiman Marcus

Neiman Marcus will use findings from this survey to identify key ESG priorities, set time-bound goals, invest in competitive opportunities and publish a comprehensive strategy later this year.

In January, in an effort to invest in supply chain efficiency, the group closed on two offers on its Longview and Las Colinas distribution facilities.

Additionally, customers can shop conscious brands and products on Neiman Marcus' Sustainable Style edit. In the next few months, Neiman Marcus and retailer Bergdorf Goodman will be developing revised edits that feature multiple categories within sustainable and ethical luxury fashion, provide clarity around those categories' definitions and rely heavily on independently recognized materials, processes and certifications.

In 2019, Neiman Marcus Group took a minority stake in secondhand luxury seller Fashionphile, betting on the projected growth in upscale resale ([see story](#)).

Since then, the partnership has seen five Fashionphile locations open in Neiman Marcus stores, collecting nearly \$16 million in resale merchandise for over 18,000 items.

As Neiman Marcus says it is committed to developing sustainable practices that allow the company to lead with love into the future.

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