

# Gore Fabrics' Goal and Roadmap for Eliminating PFCs of Environmental Concern

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

(full document: [www.gore-tex.com/pfcgoal](http://www.gore-tex.com/pfcgoal))

Gore Fabrics is committed to continuously reducing the environmental footprint of its products while maintaining the level of durability and performance that end-users need and rely upon in leisure or professional activities. Against this backdrop, Gore Fabrics has set the goal of eliminating PFCs of Environmental Concern from the life cycle of its consumer fabrics products – including raw material selection, product manufacturing and disposal.

## What are PFCs of Environmental Concern?

Following a series of in-depth technical discussions, Gore Fabrics and Greenpeace have agreed upon the properties that define PFCs of Environmental Concern as: highly fluorinated, small enough to be bioavailable, and persistent. These molecules have the potential to become widespread in water resources, and once released into the environment, they will persist for multiple generations.

*“This clear distinction will help overcome a long-standing ambiguity of how to differentiate materials that are safe and environmentally sound from those that raise concerns,”* said **Bernhard Kiehl, Gore Fabrics Sustainability Leader**. Based on broad scientific consensus and supported by Greenpeace, Gore’s membrane material PTFE, is not a PFC of Environmental Concern.



Bernhard Kiehl

## How is Gore Fabrics addressing PFCs of Environmental Concern?

Gore Fabrics will eliminate PFCs of Environmental Concern from the life cycle of its consumer fabrics products:

- **By the end of 2020, Gore Fabrics will eliminate PFCs of Environmental Concern from its consumer laminate shipments corresponding to approximately 85% of product units in the market. This includes jackets, shoes, gloves and accessories.**
- **Gore Fabrics will eliminate PFCs of Environmental Concern from the remainder of Gore’s consumer shipments (predominately specialized outdoor products and complex technologies) between 2021 and 2023.**

85%  
2020

100%  
2023

To meet these goals, Gore will work with its suppliers to develop new materials (fluorine or non-fluorine based) for water repellent coatings and membrane barriers.



Chiara Campione

*„Greenpeace welcomes this move as a real game changer in the outdoor industry,” said **Chiara Campione, Detox Outdoor Corporate Lead, Greenpeace Italy.** “Given Gore Fabrics’ influential role in the value chain, the innovation that Gore is driving will significantly broaden the range of materials free of hazardous PFCs, including those using PTFE membranes with less environmental burden.”*

## How will Gore Fabrics report progress against the goal?



Gore Fabrics will track progress made year-over-year against several milestones in its **Responsibility Update** and on the GORE-TEX® website. Today, Gore Fabrics employs a range of different techniques to screen chemicals and raw materials for hazardous chemicals, based on the bluesign® system, among others. In addition, Gore Fabrics will complement its current practices with a standardized approach for hazardous screening of the new DWR and membrane materials and will begin reporting via that standard method by the end of 2018.



This approach represents a commitment to transparency for consumers regarding the environmental benefits and burdens of Gore Fabrics products.