



positive and negative environmental impacts associated with

olefin (polypropylene and polyethylene)

Polypropylene and polyethylene are synthetic fibres derived from petroleum or gas.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• melt-spun fibre - melt spinning is relatively cleaner than dry and wet spinning• lower-embodied energy compared to other synthetic fibres
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• non-renewable resource• no local sources available• long-line of processing• many carcinogenic chemicals such as lead based pigments are used• additives such as anti-oxidants (to resist discolouring and loss of mechanical properties), UV stabilisers and flame retardants (because PE and PP undergo combustion more readily than any other common synthetic fibre)• energy and water intensive• non-degradable• no recycling infrastructure