How does Raquel make a difference?

I work at a startup company that develops a sustainable fabric called Piñatex, made from pineapple leaves that would otherwise be burnt or left to rot.

What’s involved?

• Finding ways to lower the environmental impact of the manufacturing process
• Checking that suppliers are environmentally friendly
• Working across departments – no two days are the same

Skills

- Problem-solving
- Taking initiative
- Working in a team

Minimum qualifications

- Master’s degree in chemistry, material science or textile engineering, with the addition of a sustainability-related course

Salary range

- £25,000–£40,000 a year

Textile dyeing is the second-largest polluter of water globally, and it takes around 2,000 gallons of water to make a typical pair of jeans 1.

Piñatex is made using pigments instead of dyes. This uses less water, reducing the environmental impact. And by not burning the leaves, Piñatex is saving eight kilos of CO₂ per square metre 2.

DID YOU KNOW?

“I combine research and innovation to enhance the wellbeing of the earth.”

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A Future In Chemistry: rsc.li/future

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2 www.edursc.org/job-profiles/head-of-research-and-sustainability/4013826.article