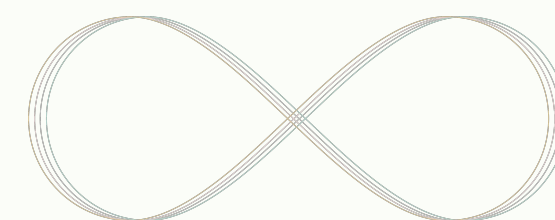# INFINITY
PRODUCT GUIDE

YOOX
NET-A-PORTER
GROUP

Introduction

At YOOX NET-A-PORTER, we are working to become a more sustainable and circular business, connecting people with the joy of luxury and fashion that lasts a lifetime and beyond as part of Infinity, our sustainability strategy to 2030. Infinity outlines 12 commitments across four different focus areas, as we learn how to transition to a Circular Business, drive a Circular Culture, and become Planet Positive and People Positive. One of our key 'Circular Business' commitments is to 'Design for Circular' - to progress sustainability and circularity through collaboration with brand partners and our private label collections.

The Infinity Product Guide is a tool that we have developed for our buying and private label teams to help them embed sustainability and circularity in their thinking and their work, alongside other resources and processes already in place. The guide outlines a set of principles to consider when making design or buying decisions. We have been developing these principles through our sustainability practices and initiatives over the last ten years and we believe that by putting them at the heart of our business we can offer better products. create new experiences and encourage more conscious behaviours.

We have created this guide for our own teams, but we are making it publicly available so that others can use it, test it, and feedback on it, with the aim of increasing the availability and desirability of luxury fashion that is more sustainable and circular. We see this as an important step in our journey, and we will review and update this guide as we gain knowledge by continuing to put the principles into practice and as innovation and industry action evolves. We are committed to sharing our learnings and challenges as we work towards our Design for Circular goal.
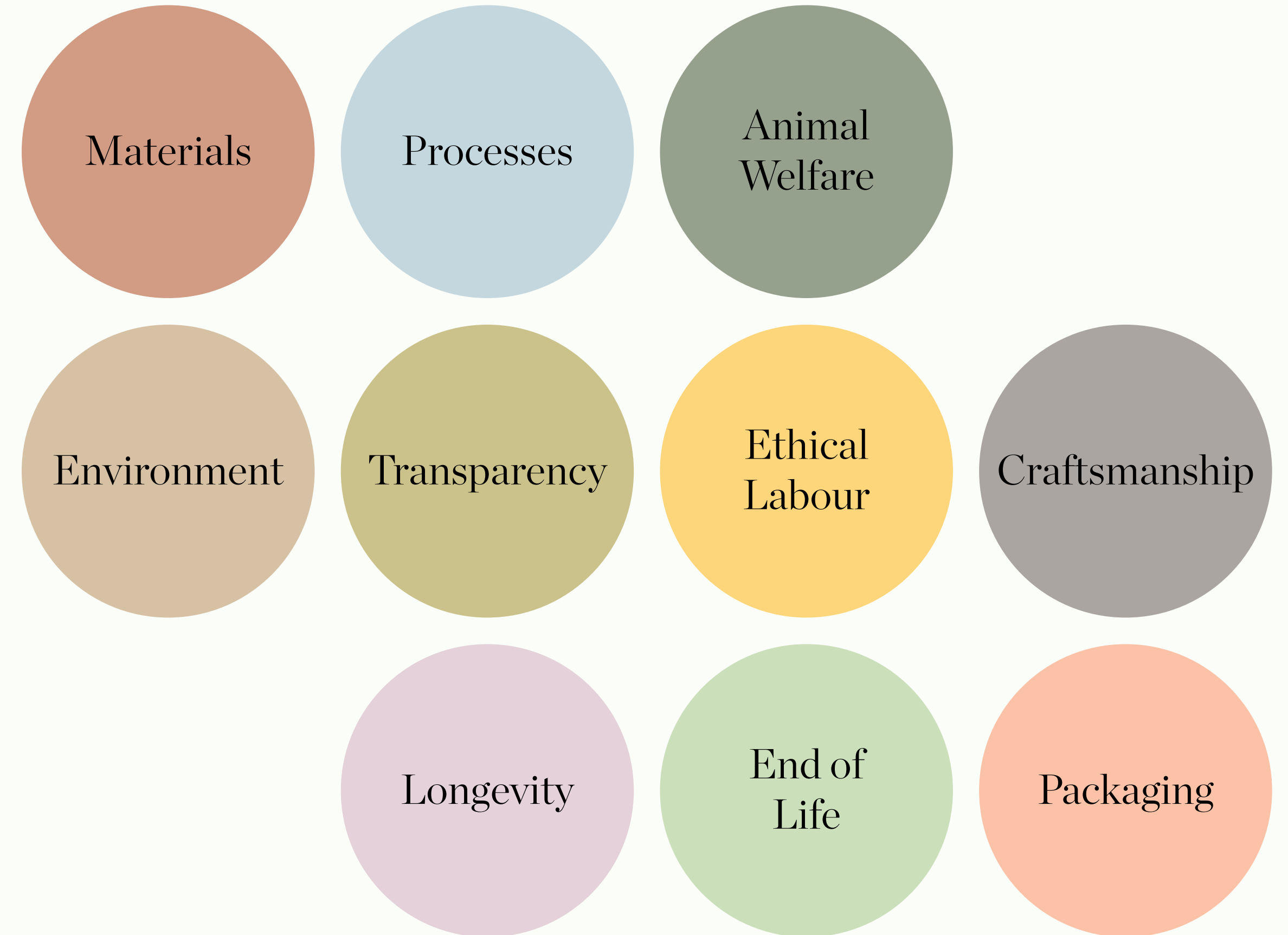
Sustainable and Circular Design

What do we mean by sustainable and circular design? Simply put, sustainable design is taking environmental and social responsibility for the products we make. Circular design is a specific philosophy which requires a product to be designed as part of a biological or technical cycle, where all of its materials and components can be either returned harmlessly to the earth or recycled in a continual loop. This means designing out any substances of concern that could potentially disrupt either cycle, making effective use of resources, increasing product longevity and ultimately eliminating waste altogether.

We understand that everything we make has an impact. This guide does not offer a recipe for the perfect product but instead provides a framework for defining an applicable set of sustainability and circularity criteria. It presents 10 key principles to consider – principles which influence the entire product lifecycle from how raw materials are harvested to what happens when a product is no longer in use. We believe each principle plays an important part in taking responsibility for the products we offer and we've examined industry best practices and internationally recognised environmental and social standards to help us develop a series of prompts for embedding the 10 principles into the design or buying process.

The Principles

Materials

Processes

Animal Welfare

Environment

Transparency

Ethical Labour

Craftsmanship

Longevity

End of Life

Packaging

Materials

Create products using Regenerative, Low Impact Renewable, or Recycled materials

Materials are often the starting point for design, they influence the look, feel and functionality of a finished product but they also represent the most significant part of its environmental footprint. On average raw material production is estimated to account for 38% of the overall carbon emissions[1]: it is often land intensive, requires large amounts of water and energy and leads to pollution and eutrophication. Using more responsible materials can reduce environmental and social risks across the supply chain and unlock opportunities for circularity. With agricultural development and growing innovation, there is capacity to move beyond reducing a product's impact towards material systems which can make a positive contribution to both people and planet.

Regenerative materials are natural, renewable materials produced through farming or ranching that works in harmony with nature to cultivate healthy soil that absorbs and holds carbon, enhances the water cycle, and promotes biodiversity.

Low impact renewable materials meet industry best practice standards and are composed of biomass from a living source that can be naturally replenished at a rate equal to or greater than the rate of depletion.

Recycled materials are reprocessed materials that would otherwise be disposed of as waste or energy recovery.

Forest-friendly materials are made using wood or cellulose sourced from responsibly managed and certified forests and manufactured with a closed-loop system which captures and reuses chemicals instead of releasing them into the environment.

For the full list of materials included in each category see the Infinity Preferred Materials List.

What to consider

Wherever possible create products using 100% Regenerative, Low Impact Renewable and/or Recycled materials. Where it is not yet possible, work to a minimum of at least 50% so that it constitutes a significant or majority part of the product. *(For more information on the approach YOOX NET-A-PORTER GROUP private labels are taking see the Infinity Materials Criteria in the Appendix.)*

Prohibit any use Polyvinyl chloride (PVC) and where possible avoid the use of virgin oil-based synthetic materials (such as polyester or nylon).

When using recycled materials, prioritise the use of post-consumer recycled sources, and when using recycled synthetic materials, efforts should be made to bring awareness about microfibre pollution.

In the case of new innovative materials where no industry standard exists, ask the supplier for data which can demonstrate how the material provides a lower impact than a conventional alternative.

Preferred Materials List

Regenerative

Vegetable Fibres

~ Regenerative Organic Cotton

The following certifications are accepted:
· Regenerative Organic Certification

Examples of initiatives accepted:
~ Good Earth Cotton®
~ Regenagri®

Animal Fibres

~ Regenerative Wool
~ Regenerative Leather

The following certifications are accepted:
· Regenerative Organic Certification
· Audobon Society Conservation Ranching Certification

Examples of Trademarks accepted:
~ NATIVA™

* Given that the current availability of regenerative certified materials is small, if you are able to establish relationships with farmers that do not have yet the certification, explore potential soil health practices they are adopting to reverse soil organic matter and carbon losses.

Low Impact Renewable

Vegetable Fibres

~ Organic Cotton
~ Organic Linen
~ Organic Hemp
~ Organic Jute

The following certifications are accepted:
· Global Organic Textile Standard
· Organic Content Standard

~ Fairtrade Certified Cotton
~ BMP Certified Cotton
~ Cotton Made in Africa Certified Cotton
~ Conventional Hemp
~ Linen certified by EU Flax

~ Compostable bio-plastic (such as corn starch, sugarcane, wheat, algae or other plant-based material).

The following certifications are accepted:
· TUV Austria Seedling (EN 13432)
· OK Compost Home (AS 5810, NF T 51800, EN 17427)
· OK Compost Industrial
· Home Compostable AS 5810

Cellulosic Fibres

~ Forest-friendly Viscose
~ Forest-friendly Modal
~ Forest-friendly Acetate

The following verifications are accepted:
· Forest Stewardship Council certification Produced by cellulosic fibres suppliers which have a minimum score of 25 according to Canopy Hot Button

~ Forest friendly paper/card certified by the Forest Stewardship Council

~ Forest-friendly Natural Rubber

The following certifications are accepted:
  Forest Stewardship Council
· Produced by one of the members of the GPSNR (Global Platform for Sustainable Natural Rubber)
· Sourced with the support of the Rainforest Alliance

~ Cork

Examples of Trademarks Accepted:
~ TENCEL™
~ LENZING™ Modal
~ LENZING™ Lyocell
~ LENZING™ REFIBRA™
~ LENZING™ ECOVERO™
~ Eastman NAIA™
~ Enka®
~ Seacell™
~ Bemberg™
~ Liva Reviva

Animal Fibres

~ Organic Silk
~ Organic Wool
~ Organic Alpaca

The following certifications are accepted:
· Global Organic Textile Standard
· Organic Content Standard

~ Leather sourced from tanneries that are Leather Working Group (LWG) gold or silver medalled
~ SustainaWool™ certified Wool
~ ZQ certified Merino Wool
~ Responsible Wool Standard Wool
~ Responsible Mohair Standard Mohair
~ Conventional Alpaca (that can be traced to the farm level)
~ Alpaca certified by the Responsible Alpaca Standard
~ Conventional Yak (that can be traced to the farm level)

~ Certified Cashmere

The following certifications are accepted:
· Sustainable Fibre Alliance
· Responsible Cashmere Standard
· The Good cashmere standard

~ Certified Down

The following certifications are accepted:
· Responsible Down Standard
· Traceable Down Standard

Examples of Trademarks for Alternative Fibres Accepted:
~ Piñatex® (trademarked material made from pineapple leaf fibre)
~ Barktex® (trademarked material made from bark)
~ Bananatex® (trademarked material made from banana plants)
~ Vegea (biobased material made from wine industry biomass)
~ Mirum® (biobased material made from agricultural waste)
~ Desserto® (trademarked made from cactus plants)
~ Microsilk™ (trademarked lab-grown silk by Bolt Threads)

Recycled

Vegetable Fibres

~ Recycled Cotton
~ Recycled Hemp
~ Recycled Linen

The following certifications are accepted:
· Global Recycled Standard
· Recycled Claim Standard
· Recycled Content Certification

Cellulosic Fibres

~ Cupro

The following certifications are accepted:
· Global Recycled Standard
· Recycled Claim Standard
· Recycled Content Certification

Examples of Trademarks accepted:
~ Nucycl®
~ Circulose®

~ Recycled Paper or Card

The following certifications are accepted:
· Forest Stewardship Council
· Global Recycled Standard
· Recycled Content Certification

Animal Fibres

~ Recycled Wool
~ Recycled Cashmere
~ Recycled Down & Feathers
~ Recycled Silk
~ Recycled Leather

The following certifications are accepted:
· Global Recycled Standard
· Recycled Claim Standard
· Recycled Content Certification

Synthetic Fibres

~ Recycled Polyester
~ Recycled Polyamide
~ Recycled Nylon

The following certifications are accepted:
· Global Recycled Standard
· Recycled Claim Standard
· Recycled Content Certification

Examples of Trademarks accepted:
~ Econyl®
~ Roica™
~ Q-Nova®
~ Repreve®
~ Newlife™

~ Recycled Plastic

The following certifications are accepted:
· Global Recycled Standard
· Recycled Claim Standard
· Recycled Content Certification

Precious Metals

~ Recycled gold
~ Recycled silver
~ Recycled bronze

The following certifications are accepted:
· Recycled Claim Standard
· Recycled Content Certification

Reclaimed materials

~ From a verifiable used or obsolete source
~ Reclaimed materials are those materials that would have otherwise been disposed of as waste or used for energy recovery but have instead reclaimed as a material input, in lieu of a new material

Processes

Create products using processes that avoid hazardous chemicals and make effective use of resources

There are many processes involved in the manufacturing of finished textiles and products - washing, scouring, bleaching, mercerising, dyeing and printing are just a few of these and each process has an impact, often requiring large amounts of chemicals and water. Textile production contributes approximately one fifth of all industrial water pollution[2] and dyeing alone consumes 5 trillion litres of water each year[3]. Although consistent global chemical regulation is an ongoing challenge, innovation in textile treatments has seen the development of closed loop and waterless dyeing, pigments made from bacteria and nanobubble washing. Using mindful manufacturing processes and alternative technologies can reduce the use of harmful chemicals, water, energy as well as minimise pollutants and waste.
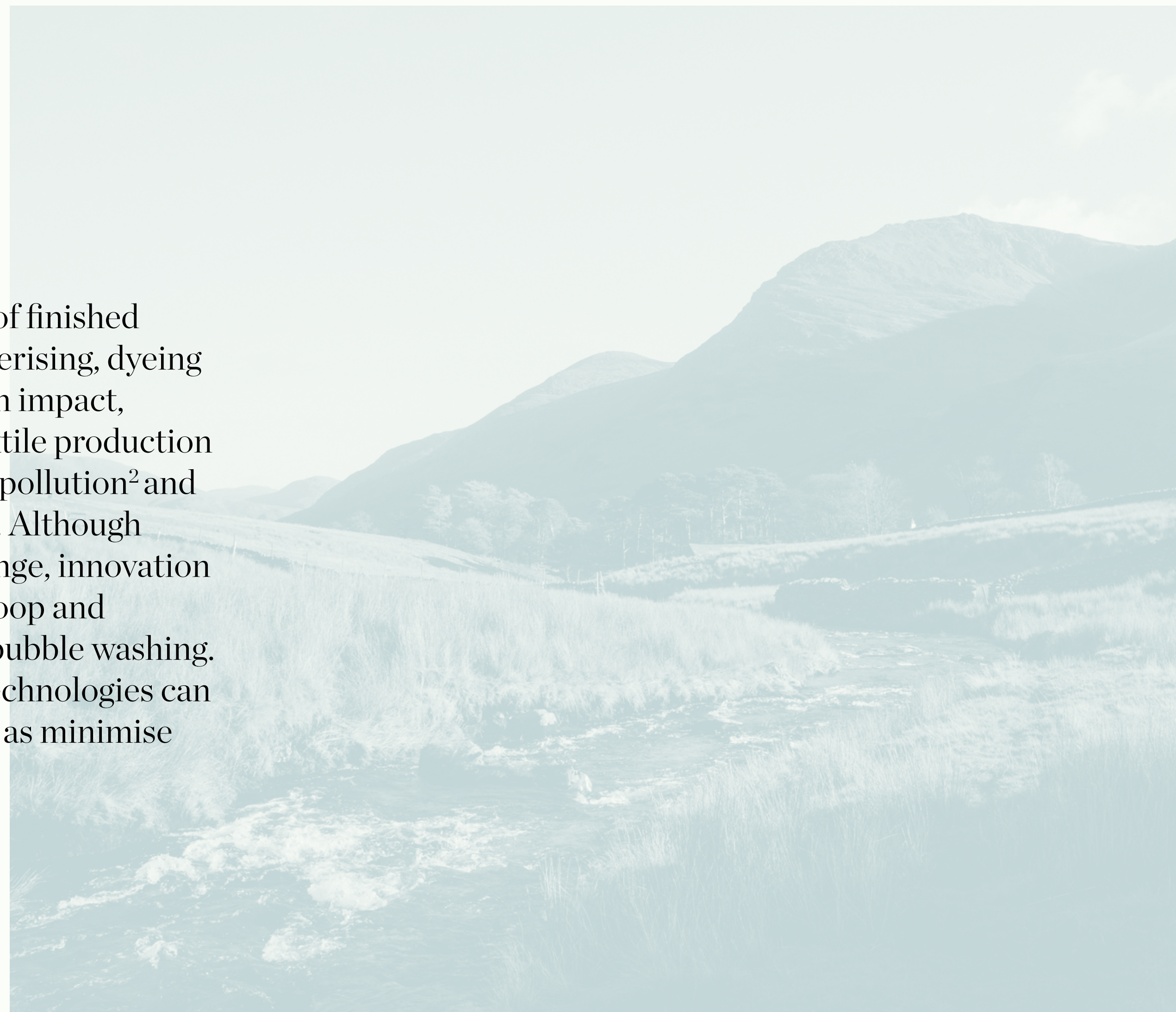
What to consider

Does the supplier have a chemical management system in place?

Does the supplier use a Materials Restricted Substances List (MRSL)?

Is the supplier committed to an industry-wide initiative? For example:

~ Zero Discharge of Hazardous Chemicals (ZDHC)
~ Greenpeace Detox
~ Better Mill Initiative
~ NRDC's Clean by Design

Explore options for sourcing materials which are certified chemically safe by an internationally recognised standard. For example:

~ Bluesign®
~ Cradle to Cradle Material Health Certificate
~ STANDARD 100 by OEKO-TEX®
~ MADE IN GREEN by OEKO-TEX®
~ Nordic Swan
~ EU Eco Label
~ GreenScreen Certified™

~ NATURTEXTIL IVN certified BEST
~ Leather Working Group
~ LEATHER STANDARD by OEKO-TEX®
~ EcoPelle by ICEC

If working with uncertified or unverified materials test the finished article or product with a third-party provider using the ZDHC Manufacturing Restricted Substances List as a guide.

Explore alternative and innovative chemical and/or water reducing dyeing and finishing processes. For example:

~ Natural dyes (made from plant-based sources such as fruits, vegetables, barks, flowers, algae, tobacco, and coffee grounds)
~ AirDye®
~ ColorZen®
~ Drydye®
~ EarthColors® dyes by Archroma
~ DyStar Crade to Cradle certified dyes
~ Wet-green (leather tanning agent)
~ Bionicdry (flourine-free water repellent)

Work directly with a dye house or wash house to apply innovations such as ozone, enzyme, laser or water recycling technologies to relevant materials or products and request data on chemical, water and energy savings being achieved.

Explore techniques which minimises waste. For example:

~ Seamless knitting
~ Utilising production scraps
~ Zero-waste pattern cutting

If the product is made using synthetic materials (including recycled synthetics) explore options for reducing the release of plastic microfibres. For example:

~ Fabric coatings that reduce the shedding of microfibres
~ Biological plastic-based synthetic alternatives – made from raw materials such as sugar cane, corn or other agricultural waste.

Animal Welfare

Protect animal welfare and promote best practice across the supply chain

Fashion relies on over 2 billion animals every year[4] for the creation of materials from leather and wool to some of the world's most valuable fibres such as cashmere and silk. Animal fibres are prized for their warmth, strength and softness, however in parts of the world there is little to no animal welfare legislation and without proper governance animals can be subjected to inhumane practices. Animal welfare promotes good animal husbandry and adherence to the Five Freedoms throughout the supply chain. Whenever sourcing animal derived fibres animal welfare should be investigated to ensure practices such as mulesing, live plucking and factory farming have not taken place.

Five Freedoms of Animal Welfare

~ Freedom from hunger and thirst
~ Freedom from discomfort
~ Freedom from pain, injury and disease
~ Freedom to express normal behaviours
~ Freedom from fear and distress

What to consider

Does the supplier have an animal welfare policy?

Can the supplier provide traceability back to the raw material origin (farm or field)?

Does the supplier implement animal welfare programmes and/or audits for managing animal fibre supply chains, especially for high-risk fibres, such as:

~ Exotic skins – alligator, crocodile, snake (eg python), lizard, stingray, shark, and ostrich
~ Angora (rabbit wool) or rabbit felt
~ Mohair
~ Cashmere
~ Merino Wool
~ Down or feathers

Avoid the use of animal fur (including mink, fox, raccoon, chincillas, and rabbits).*

Does the supplier engage in credible third-party animal welfare certifications and programmes? For example:

~ The Responsible Down Standard
~ Global Traceable Down Standard
~ Responsible Wool Standard
~ ZQ Wool
~ The Sustainable Fibre Alliance Cashmere Standard
~ The Good Cashmere Standard
~ The Responsible Mohair Standard
~ The Responsible Alpaca Standard

Carefully consider the fibres you source and how animal welfare standards are verified throughout the supply chain. In the case of high-risk fibres such as merino wool, cashmere, mohair, down and feathers certifications are strongly recommended (for the full list of certifications see the Infinity Preferred Materials List).

Where certifications are not yet widely available, for example in the case of yak and alpaca fibres, work with suppliers who can provide full traceability to country of origin and provide detailed information on the farm's animal welfare practices.

*In 2017 YOOX NET-A-PORTER GROUP implemented a Fur Free policy across all businesses strictly excluding any products made from animal fur.

Environment

Collaborate with suppliers and partners who are committed to continuous environmental improvement

How suppliers and partners operate matters. With an annual carbon contribution equal to that of France, Germany and the United Kingdom combined[5], the fashion industry's actions over the next decade will have a decisive impact on climate change. Over 70%[6] of the carbon footprint is generated by supply chain emissions from raw material production and processing through to garment manufacturing. As the industry races to achieve net-zero by 2050 businesses must demonstrate a rigorous and committed approach to environmental responsibility throughout the supply chain. This means acknowledging, assessing and addressing critical environmental risks and continuously improving the way they manage their own operations.

What to consider

Does the supplier have an environmental policy?

Does the supplier implement targets and/or initiatives related to any of the following?

~ Carbon reduction
~ Energy
~ Water
~ Hazardous chemicals
~ Pollution
~ Waste
~ Deforestation
~ Biodiversity
~ Materials
~ Packaging
~ Circularity

Does the supplier have an Environmental Management System (EMS) in place with full-time staff dedicated to it? For example:

~ EU Eco-Management and Audit Scheme
~ ISO 14001

*Does the supplier assess their impact and progress? For example, through:*

~ Environmental risk assessments
~ Environmental audits

~ Annual EMS reports

Does the supplier engage with any internationally recognised multi stakeholder initiatives or third-party certifications? For example:

~ B Corporation
~ Sustainable Apparel Coalition
~ United Nations Fashion Industry Charter for Climate Action
~ Responsible Jewellery Council
~ Ellen Macarthur Foundation
~ Science Based Targets Initiative
~ Fashion Pact
~ Leather Working Group
~ STeP by OEKO TEX®
~ Zero Discharge of Hazardous Chemicals
~ ISO 50001
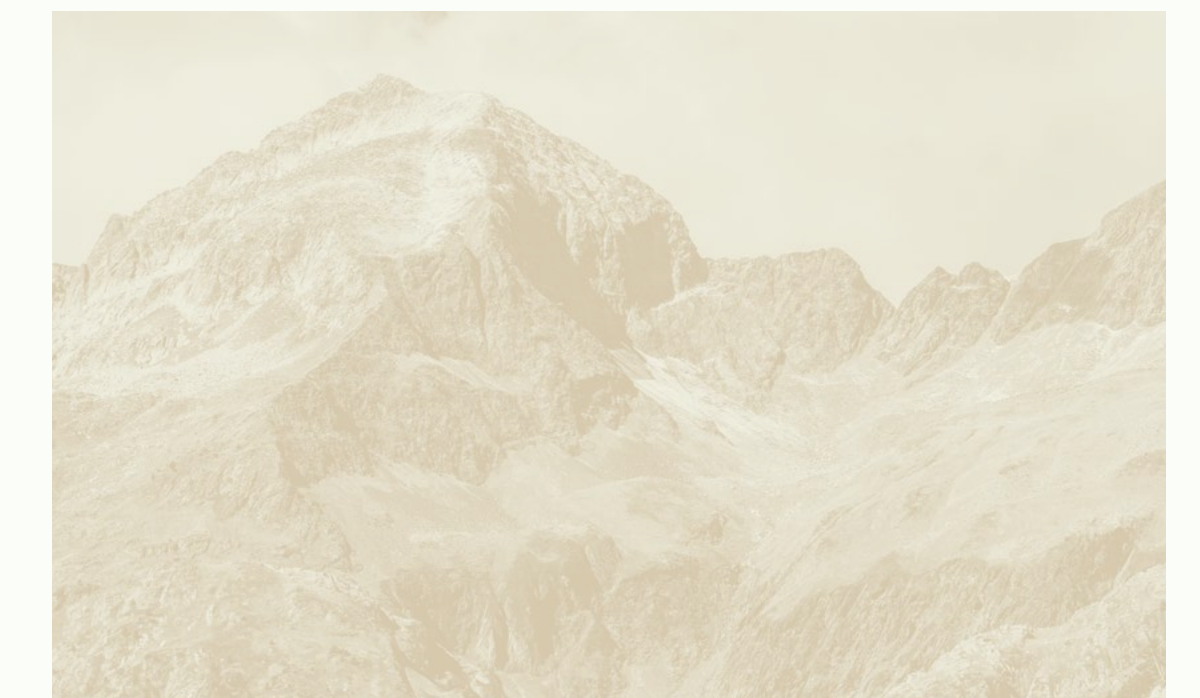
Transparency

Promote supply chain transparency with all partners

Fashion supply chains are an intricate global network. Most products contain multiple types of materials and components, involve dozens of processes, often taking place in different parts of the world, and transparency means gaining visibility on each step of the product making process. This is an ongoing operation across the industry and involves accessing information beyond direct relationships in order to trace back through the supply chain. Transparency is important because it is a tool for systemic change: it encourages communication, accountability and trust, and it is critical for identifying and improving social and environmental impacts across the supply chain.

What to consider

Does the supplier communicate information related to their supply chain?

Can the product manufacturing supplier provide the following information:

~ Company structure
~ Location and contact information of all company owned production facilities
~ Number and contact information of any sub-contractors
~ Tier 2 fabrics, yarns, trims (and other components) suppliers' location and contact information
~ Tier 3 dye houses, wash houses or other process's location and contact information (if known)

Can the fabric, yarn or trims supplier provide the following information:

~ Company structure
~ Location and contact information of all company owned production facilities
~ Number and contact information of any sub-contractors
~ Tier 3 dye houses, wash houses or other process's location and contact information
~ Tier 4 raw material suppliers' location and contact information (if known)

Does the supplier promote or prioritise sourcing from local suppliers?

The capacity to integrate environmental and social sustainability across the supply chain is much greater when there is participation and investment in local manufacturing.

Consider consulting publicly available tools such as the Open Supply Hub to gain information on other brands and organisations connected to your suppliers. This not only promotes transparency but provides the opportunity to explore collaboration at the factory level.

Ethical Labour

Enhance ethical labour standards across the supply chain

Ethical labour ensures the well-being of all workers across the supply chain respecting fundamental principles and rights outlined by the International Labour Organisation. It also means promoting a diverse and inclusive workplace where underrepresented individuals are provided access and leadership opportunities and enabled to make contributions consistent with their backgrounds and beliefs. Equality protected characteristics include race, gender, sex, age, disability, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity and religion. There are over 85 million[7] people working in the fashion supply chain globally so businesses and suppliers must work together to continually assess and improve the lives of all workers.
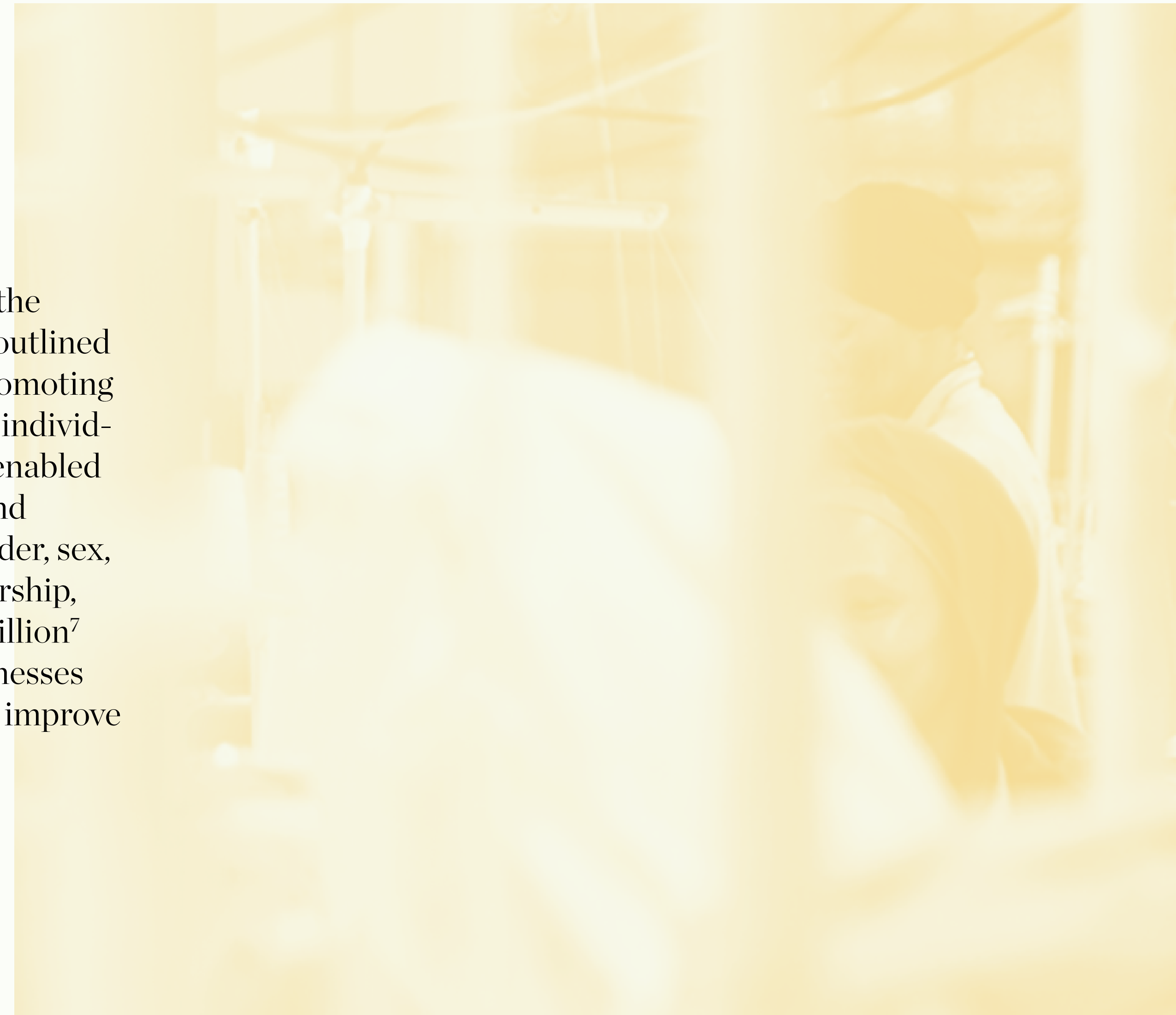
What to consider

Does the supplier have a labour policy or a code of conduct covering the following issues?

~ Modern slavery (including child labour and forced labour)
~ Living wage (a wage sufficient to afford a decent standard of living)
~ Working hours
~ Discrimination
~ Gender equality
~ Safe and healthy working conditions
~ Freedom of association or the right to collective bargaining

Is it available for their workers to access and read?

Does the supplier implement any targets and programmes to improve workers lives?

Does the supplier engage with any multi stakeholder initiatives or third-party certifications? For example:

~ Fairtrade
~ Fairmined
~ Sustainable Fair-Trade Management System
~ Fair for Life
~ Fair Wear Foundation
~ Social Accountability International (SA8000)
~ Ethical Trading Initiative
~ Business Social Compliance Initiative
~ International Labour Organisation
~ Worldwide Responsible Accredited Production
~ Ethical Clothing Australia
~ CSC9000T
~ Fair Labor Association
~ Better Work
~ Business for Social Responsibility

Is the supplier regularly audited and able to share progress reports?

Is the supplier owned or partly owned by individuals part of underrepresented groups?

Does the supplier have underrepresented groups in executive, management or leadership positions?

Does the supplier implement a policy or specific initiatives related to diversity and inclusion? For example, through:

~ Measurable goals and targets
~ Inclusive hiring practices (including blind reviews and employee referrals)
~ Training and mentoring programmes or opportunities for underrepresented groups
~ Scholarships or education opportunities for underrepresented groups
~ Promotion of underrepresented groups in executive, management or leadership positions

Craftsmanship

Create products which value the quality and skill of true craftmanship

Craftmanship is a quality only achieved with the application of exceptional skill and time. The artisan sector generates direct income to some of the most rural communities, products made with craftmanship support artisan work and the continuation of traditional and often hand-based skills that in many places are at risk of being lost. Techniques which have been passed down through generations and over centuries such as hand spinning, handloom weaving, block printing and hand embroidery are forms of making which embody provenance, community and environmental responsibility. These skills, unique to the locations and cultures from which they originate, provide a richness and diversity to fashion that cannot be replaced.

What to consider

Explore making materials or products with artisans using traditional hand-based skills that have been practiced within the community for a long period of time.

Credit the community or culture from which the technique is applied, or craft has been taken, promoting the artisans as a critical part of the product creation.

Apply and promote fair trade principles including living wage throughout the artisan supply chain.

Identify how the collaboration will contribute to infrastructure, education or skills development in the artisan community.

Partner with non-profit organisations to identify, connect and oversee collaborations with artisan communities. For example:

~ NEST
~ Artisan Alliance
~ Ethical Fashion Initiative
~ Turquoise Mountain

Longevity

Extend the life of products by increasing their use and reuse

It's not enough to just look at how a product is made, the product's entire lifecycle, including how it is used must be considered. The active life of a product is dependent on a variety of factors including its physical durability (the quality of materials and construction), its association with a transient style or trend and how users care for it. It can be challenging to predict the intrinsic qualities of products that people feel compelled to cherish but the evidence is clear that lengthening the life of a product has the potential to reduce its overall carbon footprint. Extending the average life of a product by just 9 months could reduce the overall carbon, water and waste footprints by 20-30%.[8] There is a need to find ways through design to encourage people to keep and use products for longer and to promote a culture of clothing care and repair.

What to consider

Design the product with style and/or function longevity in mind – avoid hype or quick lived trends. Consider if the product:

~ Is customisable (through an offered customisation services)
~ Is versatile
~ Adapts with the customer's needs
~ Includes a lifetime or long-term guarantee

Create the product using quality, durable materials and construction techniques. For example:

~ Fabric or product durability testing (for abrasion, pilling, strength, tear resistance, shrinkage)
~ Double needle stitching
~ Bar tacks to protect vulnerable points
~ Reinforced seams
~ Double knitting
~ Welt shoe construction

Design the product for easy repairs that can prolong its life. For example:

~ Ensure parts are easily replaceable (including common problems such as zips, clasps and buttons)
~ Identify best methods for mending rips or tears
~ Designing and providing repair kits (such as providing patches and other parts)

Share detailed information through the product labelling or an embedded Unique Digital ID code that will facilitate longevity, including:

~ Provenance
~ Composition details
~ Care guide and instructions
~ Repair instructions or services
~ Resale or recycling options

End of Life

Enable remaking and recycling for products no longer in use

Over 80 billion fashion products are purchased every year and more than 80% of the materials used to make them end up in landfill or the incinerator[9]. In order to move away from this linear model to a more circular one, products and materials no longer in use must be remade, and when that's no longer possible they must be recycled or composted. Given the resources, time and work it takes to create a product it is always preferable that it remains in existence and useful for as long as possible. Remaking and upcycling is a creative opportunity for extending the value of a product or its material components whilst using far less water, energy and chemicals than recycling technologies.

Remaking (also referred to as remanufacturing or upcycling) occurs when a product is created from existing products or components that are either modified or disassembled and remade.

Recycling occurs when products, materials and components are broken down and reconstituted into new materials and/or components. Currently not all materials and components are recyclable therefore to enable the correct recycling stream, all materials and components must be clearly identified.

Composting occurs when the product or its materials return safely to the earth through naturally occurring micro-organisms, decomposing within a short period of time.
~ Home composting requires 90% biodegradation within 12 months under temperatures between 20-30 degrees Celsius.
~ Industrial composting requires 90% level of biodegradation within 6 months under a temperature of 58 degrees Celsius.

What to consider

Explore remaking or upcycling techniques using reclaimed products or materials:

~ Communicate the provenance of the re-claimed materials or products, or
~ Verify this process through a third-party certification (eg R Cert by Redress)
~ Sources include pre-loved, vintage, unso--old or damaged items, cutting scraps, or limited vintage or past season fabric.

Design the product for recyclability, where:

~ The product is certified recyclable by an internationally recognised standard such as Cradle to Cradle® Product Standard; or
~ It is made using recyclable mono-materials and components, including threads and trims, without the use of any harmful fini-shes or surface treatments. For example:
· 100% Cotton (Preferably Organic or Recy-cled)
· 100% Hemp
· 100% Linen
· 100% Polyester (Preferably Recycled)
· 100% Nylon 6 (Preferably Recycled)
· >90% Wool (Preferably Organic, Recycled, RWS, ZQ)

Design the product using materials and components which are easily recycled by a recycling partner through a specific take-back programme. For example:

~ Teijin Eco-Circle (for Polyester products)
~ Evrnu's NuCycl
~ Aquafil's Econyl Regeneration System (for Nylon 6)
~ Samsara Eco (for Nylon 6,6 textiles)
~ Infinited Fiber (for Cotton rich textiles)
~ Circ (for Polycotton blends)

Design the product for disassembly so that it can be:

~ Easily modified; or
~ Disassembled for remanufacturing and / or recycling

Design the product for compostability, where:

~ The product is certified compostable by an internationally recognised standard such as the Cradle to Cradle Product Gold or Platinum Standard or European standard EN 13432; or

~ Is made using only materials, components, threads and trims which are 100% certified compostable by an internationally recognised standard

Communicate end of life instructions on product labelling or through an embedded Unique Digital ID Code, including:

~ Composition details on all materials and components
~ Provenance of materials and components
~ End of use options and instructions (such as disassembly, take-back, recycling, or composting)

Packaging

Reduce, reuse and recycle all packaging used throughout the supply chain

Whilst it might feel like a small part of the finished product, the fashion industry relies heavily on plastic and paper packaging throughout the supply chain, from single use polybags to hangtags and cardboard boxes. Every year 8 million tonnes of plastic leaks into the ocean[10] and 3 billion trees are cut down for paper packaging[11], often from endangered or protected forests that are critical to biodiversity and climate change. Packaging can serve a practical purpose in protecting the product and although in most cases once opened these ubiquitous bits of paper or plastic are immediately thrown away, there is opportunity to create packaging for a more positive customer experience. Moving towards a circular model means reducing packaging wherever possible, using only responsibly sourced materials and ensuring every component is reusable, easily recyclable or compostable.

Reusable means packaging that can be repurposed in its existing form.

Recyclable materials are those that can be recovered and reprocessed into new material.

What to consider

Explore possibilities for eliminating packaging, by considering if:

~ Suppliers can provide a safe way of delivering product without the use of individual packaging
~ Customers can be offered a naked packaging option

Design packaging to reduce or minimise the use of materials wherever possible.

Create packaging using 100% Regenerative, Low Impact Renewable and/or Recycled materials, including:

~ Recycled plastic
~ Recycled paper or card
~ Forest friendly paper or card
~ Compostable bio-plastic (such as corn starch, sugarcane, wheat, algae or other plant-based material)
~ For the full list of materials certifications see the Infinity Preferred Materials List.

Design the packaging to be reused.

Design the packaging for recyclability so that it is easily recycled via common collection schemes:
~ Avoid mixed materials
~ Avoid the use of harmful inks and adhesives.

Appendix

Materials Criteria

	RTW, Accessories & Bags (Excluding leather and performance-based)	**RTW Performance based Swimwear, Athleticwear and Underwear Products**	**RTW, Accessories & Bags** (Leather Products)	**Shoes** (Leather)	**Shoes** (Non-Leather)
Main Material	Must follow Criteria A or B or C	Must follow Criteria D or B	Must follow Criteria E or F	Must follow Criteria E or F	Must follow Criteria A or B or C
Secondary Material	Must follow Criteria A or B or C	Must follow Criteria D or B	Must follow Criteria A or B or C or E or F	Should follow Criteria A or B or C or E or F	Should follow Criteria A or B or C
Trims, Components, Threads, Interlinings & Other Parts	Should follow Criteria A or B or C or E or F	Should follow A or B or C or D	Should follow Criteria A or B or C or E or F	Should follow Criteria A or B or C or E or F	Should follow Criteria A or B or C or E or F

		Criteria A	Criteria B	Criteria C	Criteria D	Criteria E	Criteria F
		At least 90-95% (by weight) ~ Regenerative fibres ~ Low impact renewable fibres ~ Recycled fibres ~ Reclaimed materials (from a verifiable used/obsolete source) ~ A combination of the above	At least 50% (by weight) recycled cotton or other farmed cellulosic fibre blended with the same fibre, but from a non-recycled source	At least 50% (by weight) recycled wool or other animal-based fibre blended with the same fibre, but from a non-recycled source (high-risk animal fibres should be certified) and/or with another fibre that does not prevent its recyclability	At least 80-85% (by weight) ~ Regenerative fibres ~ Low impact renewable fibres ~ Recycled fibres ~ Reclaimed materials (from a verifiable used/obsolete source) ~ A combination of the above	At least 90-95% (by weight) ~ Leather from a rated LWG tannery (by 2025 only Silver and Gold rated tanneries will be accepted) ~ Reclaimed leather (from a verifiably used/obsolete source) ~ A combination of the above	At least 50% (by weight) recycled leather

References

[1] McKinsey & Company and Global Fashion Agenda, Fashion on Climate Report, 2020.

[2] Kant, R., Textile dyeing industry: An environmental hazard, Natural Science, Vol. 4, 1, 2012.

[3] Drew, Deborah and Genevieve Yehounme, The Apparel Industry's Environmental Impact in 6 Graphics, World Resources Institute, 2017. https://www.wri.org/blog/2017/07/apparel-industrys-environmental-impact-6-graphics

[4] Four Paws, Animal Welfare In Fashion 2020 'The New Normal' Report, 2020.

[5] McKinsey & Company and Global Fashion Agenda Fashion on Climate Report 2020

[6] McKinsey & Company and Global Fashion Agenda, Fashion on Climate Report, 2020.

[7] International Labour Organisation, Research Brief 'The supply chain ripple effect', 2020. (Includes textile and leather manufacturing, garment manufacturing and leather goods manufacturing)

[8] WRAP, Valuing Our Clothes Report, 2012.

[9] Ellen MacArthur Foundation, A new textiles economy: Redesigning fashion's future, (2017, http://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/publications).

[10] World Economic Forum, Ellen MacArthur Foundation and McKinsey & Company, The New Plastics Economy – Rethinking the future of plastics (2016, http:www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/publications).

[11] Canopy, Pack4Good, 2020 https://canopyplanet.org/campaigns/pack4good/.

Resources

AirDye: a trademarked water free dyeing and printing technology for textiles https://debscorp.com/textiles/airdye/

Artisan Alliance: US based NGO supporting artisan businesses worldwide http://www.artisanalliance.org/

Audobon Society Conservation Ranching Certification: certification of prairie-and bird-friendly cattle ranching through environmental conservation and regenerative agriculture https://www.audubon.org/conservation/ranching

B Corporation: third-party certification assessing a company's overall social and environmental performance https://bcorporation.net/

Bananatex: trademarked waterproof material made from banana plants https://www.bananatex.info/

Barktex: trademarked material made from bark https://www.barktex.com/en/products

Better Cotton Initiative: an international working group using members generated income to improve cotton farming socially and environmentally https://bettercotton.org/

Better Mill Initiative (BMI): founded by Solidaridad, aims to improve the sustainability performance of wet processing in the textile supply chain in China and Ethiopia https://www.solidaridadnetwork.org/

Better Work: partnership between the UN's International Labour Organisation and the International Finance Corporation to safeguard labour rights and improve working for workers in the garment industry https://betterwork.org/

Bluesign: a standard certifying that chemicals used in processes, materials and products are safe for the environment, workers and customers https://www.bluesign.com/

BMP Certified Cotton: Australian cotton produced according to My BMP's standards for continuous environmental improvement in cotton cultivation https://mybmp.com.au/

Business Social Compliance Initiative: supply-chain management system with a Code of Conduct driving social compliance and improvement through international supply-chains https://www.amfori.org/content/amfori-bsci

Canopy Pack4Good: an initiative run by NGO Canopy to preserve forests through transformation of the packaging supply chain https://canopyplanet.org/campaigns/pack4good/

Circularity.ID: a digital identification system (unique product digital ID codes) sharing material and product data to facilitate future reselling, remanufacture and recycling https://circularity.id/

Clean by Design (NRDC): a program working to reduce energy, water and chemical use in textile mills https://www.nrdc.org/resources/clean-design-apparel-manufacturing-and-pollution

ColorZen: a patented low impact dyeing process for cotton https://www.colorzen.com/

Cotton Made In Africa (CmiA): an initiative set up by the Aid by Trade Foundation that certifies cotton produced in Africa meeting strict social, environmental and economic criteria www.cottonmadeinafrica.org

Cradle to Cradle: certification for materials, components and products based on the environmental and circularity criteria https://www.c2ccertified.org/

CSC9000T (China Social Compliance 9000 for Textile & Apparel Industry): a Social compliance management system based on China's laws and regulations and international conventions http://www.csc9000.org.cn/ENGLISH/

Desserto: a trademarked leather alternative made from cactus https://desserto.com.mx/

Drydye: a DyeCoo trademarked dyeing process using CO2 instead of water http://www.dyecoo.com/co2-dyeing/

DyStar: Crade to Cradle certified dyes https://www.dystar.com/cradle-cradle/

Earthcolour dyes by Archroma: high-performance dyes made from non-edible agricultural or herbal industries waste https://www.archroma.com/innovations/earth-colors-by-archroma

Econyl: a regenerated recycled nylon trademarked by AQUAFIL S.P.A. https://www.econyl.com/

EcoPelle by ICEC: a product certification for leathers with a lower environmental impact based on UNI 11427 standard http://www.icec.it/en/certificazioni/sostenibilita-ambientale/pelli-ecologiche

EcoVero: a Lenzing trademarked viscose fibre made from wood pulp sourced from FSC or PEFC certified sources and certified with EU Ecolabel https://www.ecovero.com/

Ellen Macarthur Foundation: a charity working with education, business and government to accelerate the transition to a circular economy https://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/

EU Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS): a rigorous environmental management system developed by the European Commission to evaluate, report, and improve environmental performance https://ec.europa.eu/environment/emas/index_en.htm

Ethical Clothing Australia: accreditation body working with local textile, clothing and footwear businesses to protect and uphold rights of Australian garment workers https://ethicalclothingaustralia.org.au/

Ethical Fashion Initiative: NGO supporting artisan communities and connecting them with international fashion brands https://ethicalfashioninitiative.org/

Ethical Trading Initiative: member organisation for companies, trade unions and NGOs promoting best practice in ethical trade through collaborative action and resources https://www.ethicaltrade.org/

EU Eco Label: a consumer facing label identifying more environmentally friendly products www.ecolabel.eu

Evrnu's NuCycle: regenerative technology turning post-consumer waste into new fibres https://www.evrnu.com/nucycl

Fair Labour Association: member organisation for business, civil society organisations and educators to promote and protect workers' rights and to improve working conditions globally https://www.fairlabor.org/

Fair Wear Foundation: a member organisation and third-party assessor for fair working conditions in garment production https://www.fairwear.org/

Fairmined: an assurance label that certifies gold from artisanal, community and small-scale mines who meet leading standards for responsible social and environmental practices http://fairmined.org/

Fairtrade: set of standards and certification providing farmers and workers in developing countries improved livelihoods through better financial and working conditions https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/

Fashion Pact: a global coalition of companies in the fashion and textile industry committed to fighting climate change, restoring biodiversity and protecting the oceans https://the-fashionpact.org/

Forest Stewardship Council: promotes and certifies environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial, and economically viable management of the world's forests https://fsc.org/

Global Organic Textile Standard: leading standard for organic fibres based on environmental and social criteria, certifying fibres, yarns, textiles and finished products https://global-standard.org/

Global Recycled Standard: third-party certification verifying recycled input against environmental and social criteria https://textileexchange.org/standards/recycled-claim-standard-global-recycled-standard/

Good Cashmere Standard: a certification verifying the responsible treatment of cashmere goats and adherence to social and environmental criteria https://thegoodcashmere-standard.org/

Global Platform for Sustainable Natural Rubber (GPSNR): a member platform working for a fair, equitable and environmentally sound natural rubber value chain https://sustainablenaturalrubber.org/

Greenpeace Detox: a campaign and roadmap to remove hazardous chemicals from the fashion supply chain https://www.greenpeace.org/international/act/detox/

GreenScreen: a method for identifying and assessing chemicals of high concern and providing safer alternatives https://www.greenscreenchemicals.org/

Home Compostable AS 5810: an Australian standard for biodegradable plastics suitable for home composting https://www.standards.org.au/standards-catalogue/sa-snz/manufacturing/ev-017/as--5810-2010

I:CO: a take-back system enabling collection of clothing and shoes at a retailer's point of sale for reuse or recycling https://www.ico-spirit.com/en/

International Labour Organisation: tripartite U.N. agency defining labour standards, developing policies and initiating programmes that promote decent work for all https://www.ilo.org/

ISO 14001: an environmental management system for the operations of companies and organisations of any type https://www.iso.org/iso-14001-environmental-management.html

ISO 50001: an energy management system providing a practical way to improve energy use https://www.iso.org/iso-50001-energy-management.html

Leather Standard by Oeko-tex: an international standard and certification for leather and leather goods verifying human and ecological safety at all stages of production https://www.oeko-tex.com/en/our-standards/leather-standard-by-oeko-tex

Leather Working Group: a multi-stakeholder group responsible for the leading environmental standards and certification for leather production https://www.leatherworkinggroup.com/

Living Wage: is remuneration received for a standard work week by a worker in a particular place sufficient to afford a decent standard of living for the worker and her or his family. Elements of a decent standard of living include food, water, housing, education, health care, transport, clothing, and other essential needs including provision for unexpected events https://www.globallivingwage.org/

Made in Green by Oeko-tex: a product label for textiles and leather products verifying compliance with either the Leather Standard or Standard 100 under socially responsible working conditions https://www.oeko-tex.com/en/our-standards/made-in-green-by-oeko-tex

Microsilk: a lab-grown spider silk trademarked by Bolt Threads, https://boltthreads.com/technology/microsilk/

Mirum: a trademarked leather alternative bio-based material made from agricultural waste https://www.naturalfiberwelding.com/

Mylo: mycelium bio-based leather alternative trademarked by Bolt Threads https://boltthreads.com/technology/mylo/

Naia: a cellulosic fibre made using sustainably sourced wood in a closed-loop process, trademarked by Eastman https://naia.eastman.com/

Naturtextil Best: certification for organic fibre evaluating the entire textile production chain against strict environmental and social criteria https://naturtextil.de/en/ivn-quality-seals/about-naturtextil-ivn-zertifiziert-best/

NEST: US based nonprofit supporting the hand worker economy ensuring wellbeing of artisans globally through dedicated programmes and standards https://www.buildanest.org/

NewMerino Standard: a certification for ethical and environmental management, animal welfare and traceability in Australian merino wool production https://newmerino.com.au/

Nordic Swan: a certification for Nordic countries verifying adherence to strict environmental and chemical criteria specific to the type of textile or product http://www.nordic-ecolabel.org/

OK Compost Home (AS 5810, NF T 51800, prEN 17427): a certification program ensuring a product's biodegradability in a garden or home composting setting https://www.tuv-at.be/green-marks/certifications/ok-compost-seedling/

OK Compost Industrial: a certification program ensuring a product's biodegradability in an industrial composting setting https://www.tuv-at.be/green-marks/certifications/ok-compost-seedling/

Organic Content Standard: an international standard and third-party certification for organically grown fibre in a material and product https://textileexchange.org/standards/organic-content-standard/

PAS 2060: an international standard and certification for the demonstration of carbon neutrality https://www.en-standard.eu/pas-2060-2014-specification-for-the-demonstration-of-carbon-neutrality/

Pinatex: a trademarked leather alternative made from pineapple leaf fibre https://www.ananas-anam.com/

Q-Nova: a trademarked recycled nylon 6.6 fibre from traceable regenerated raw materials https://www.fulgar.com/eng/products/q-nova

R Cert: consumer-facing standard for recycled textile clothing guaranteeing brands have recycled their own factory textile waste into recycled textile products https://www.re-dress.com.hk/r-cert/about

Rainforest Alliance: an international NGO working with business to protect forests and improve the livelihoods of farmers and forest communities https://www.rainforest-alliance.org/

Recycled Claim Standard: third-party certification and chain of custody of recycled input https://textileexchange.org/standards/recycled-claim-standard-global-recycled-standard/

Recycled Content Certification: evaluates and measures the percentage of pre-consumer or post-consumer recycled content in a product https://www.scsglobalservices.com/services/recycled-content-certification

Refibra: a Lenzing trademarked material that uses technology to transform pre-consumer cotton waste into cellulose pulp https://www.tencel.com/refibra

Regenerative Organic Certification: a certification for food, textiles, and personal care ingredients where farms and products meet the highest standards in soil health, animal welfare, and farmworker fairness https://regenorganic.org/

Repreve: a trademarked recycled nylon and polyester by Unifi https://repreve.com/

Responsible Alpaca Standard: a global standard addressing the welfare of alpaca, social practices and land management at the farm level https://textileexchange.org/standards/development-hub/responsible-alpaca-standard/

Responsible Down Standard: a certification for down and feathers verifying adherence to animal welfare standards (including prohibition of live plucking and force feeding) from farm to finished product https://responsibledown.org/

Responsible Jewellery Council: a member organisation for businesses in the jewellery supply chain setting standards for social and environmental responsibility https://www.responsiblejewellery.com/

Responsible Mohair Standard: a voluntary standard that addresses the welfare of goats and the land they graze on https://textileexchange.org/standards/responsible-mohair/

Contact

Responsible Wool Standard: a global certification addressing land management practices and the welfare of sheep, including the prohibition of mulesing https://textileexchange.org/standards/responsible-wool/

Roica: a trademarked high-stretch yarn by Asahi Kasei made with recycled content and certified by Cradle to Cradle https://www.asahi-kasei.co.jp/fibers/en/roica/variation/index.html

Science Based Targets Initiative (SBTi): initiative driving ambitious climate action in the private sector by enabling companies to commit to and work towards achieving science-based emissions reduction targets https://science-basedtargets.org/

Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI): US and Canada based organisation promoting and certifying sustainable forestry in the US and Canada https://sfidatabase.org/

Social Accountability International SA8000 Standard: an audited social certification for responsible labour practices in any industry https://sa-intl.org/programs/sa8000/

Standard 100 by Oeko-Tex: a global testing and certification system to confirm the human-ecological safety of textiles addressing the entire production chain https://www.oeko-tex.com/en/apply-here/standard-100-by-oeko-tex

STeP by Oeko-Tex: a modular certification system for long-term implementation of environmentally friendly production processes, health and safety and good working conditions in textile and leather production https://www.oeko-tex.com/en/our-standards/step-by-oeko-tex

Sustainable Apparel Coalition: an industry member stakeholder group leading collaboration to measure and improve social and environmental sustainability impact and the developer of the Higg Index https://apparelcoalition.org/

Sustainable Fibre Alliance Cashmere Standard: multi-stakeholder initiative and certification for responsible cashmere based on strict environmental, social and animal welfare criteria https://sustainablefibre.org/standard/

Tencel: a Lenzing trademarked lyocell or modal fibre made with wood pulp harvested from FSC of PEFC certified sources manufactured using a closed loop production process https://www.tencel.com/

TerraCycle: a recycling company that provides innovative solutions to recycling typically hard-to-recycle waste https://www.terracycle.com/en-GB

Traceable Down Standard: a certification verifying best animal welfare practices and traceability of down and feathers from farm to finished goods https://www.nsf.org/knowledge-library/traceable-down-standard

Turquoise Mountain: UK based charity working to revive traditional crafts, provide skills development and job opportunities by creating artisan businesses and connecting them with international brands https://www.turquoisemountain.org/

TUV Austria Seedling (EN 13432): product certification program evaluating the technical requirements a product must meet in to biodegrade in an industrial composting setting https://www.tuv-at.be/green-marks/certifications/ok-compost-seedling/

UN Fashion Industry Charter for Climate Action (UNFCCC): industry-wide commitment to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050 launched at COP24 , https://unfccc.int/climate-action/sectoral-engagement/global-climate-action-in-fashion/about-the-fashion-industry-charter-for-climate-action

Vegan Society: an organisation promoting veganism and the Vegan Trademark certifying a product is free from animal ingredients animal testing in any part of the production process https://www.vegansociety.com/

Vegea: a leather alternative material made from wine industry biomass waste https://www.vegeacompany.com/

Wet-green (leather tanning agent): ecological and Cradle to Cradle Certified leather tanning agent made from olive leaves http://wet-green.com/index_engl.php

World Fair Trade Organisation: a global community of social enterprises that fully practice Fair Trade https://wfto.com/

Worldwide Responsible Accredited Production (WRAP): certification for socially responsible factories in the sewn-products sector https://wrapcompliance.org/

Zero Discharge of Hazardous Chemicals (ZDHC): global initiative and programme working to reduce chemical discharge using the ZDHC restricted substances list https://www.roadmaptozero.com/

ZQ Wool: New Zealand wool certified to the ZQ standard of environmental sustainability and animal welfare, traceable from farm to product https://www.discoverzq.com/

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INFINITY

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future for luxury fashion