



## Artefact:

# **Designing Solutions: An accessible and inclusive learning resource for sustainable fashion design**

As Sustainability Lecturer for Fashion Design at Central Saint Martins, I've realised that our curriculum must embed more diverse, 'radical' concepts surrounding sustainability. During my own BA and MA studies, the lack of pedagogy in these areas led me to self-initiate my own research which, in turn, I found to be predominantly Eurocentric and largely inaccessible.

The two-hour workshop and extended resource I have developed align directly with our revised course curriculum and [UAL Climate, Racial and Social Justice Principles](#). Delivered to students at the beginning of their course, the workshop breaks down complex sustainability concepts and jargon into more accessible ideas and terminology, addressing the diverse learning needs of our students, including those with dyslexia and neurodiverse learners. The workshop enables an open discussion in a 'one to many' format, which can be delivered to multiple groups at a time.

The artefact content draws from a multitude of diverse perspectives, away from mainstream sustainable fashion that has been popularised by white female sustainability advocates such as Gwyneth Paltrow and Emma Watson. The discussion covers four key areas of sustainability: cultural, social, environmental, and economic, based on the Centre for Sustainable Fashion's Fashion SEEDS guidelines. The workshop poses questions to the students to consider the purpose and perspective of their own work and potential for solution-led design.

Staff have offered positive feedback on this resource during meetings. Students have also responded well to the session, indicating its usefulness and accessibility in understanding sustainable concepts. The continued success of the artefact will be evaluated based on the feedback gathered via a Padlet and the influence of these discussions within the design work of students and pedagogical approaches of staff. The feedback will guide how the resource is updated each year.

The extended resource is included below for reference.

## **Bibliography**

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# Designing Solutions: CSM Sustainable Fashion Resource



Jake Zhang, Graduate Diploma, Central Saint Martins 2023

## Key Organisations

1. **Circular Fashion Summit** [Visit Website](#)  
Circular Fashion Summit by lablaco is a global Collective Action Summit, supporting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals 2030.
2. **British Textile Biennale** [Visit Website](#)  
The British Textile Biennial throws a spotlight on the nation's creativity, innovation, and expression in textiles against the backdrop of the impressive infrastructure of the cotton industry in Pennine Lancashire.
3. **Centre for Sustainable Fashion (UAL)** [Visit Website](#)  
A UAL research centre based at London College of Fashion.
4. **Colèchi** [Visit Website](#)  
Colèchi is a collective and research agency actioning sustainable development in the fashion industry.
5. **Common Objective/Ethical Fashion Forum** [Visit Website](#)  
Common Objective (CO) is an intelligent business network for the fashion industry. CO builds on ten years of work by the Ethical Fashion Forum, which now reaches a global network spanning 141 countries.
6. **Ellen MacArthur Foundation** [Visit Website](#)  
A charity committed to creating a circular economy, which is designed to eliminate waste and pollution, circulate products and materials (at their highest value), and regenerate nature.
7. **Estethica** [Visit Website](#)  
Creating agency for change in the fashion industry with innovation and inclusivity, vision, and kindness at the core.



8. **The Mills Fabrica** [Visit Website](#)  
A focus on incubating and investing in sustainable innovations, building an international community of sustainability, innovators, entrepreneurs, and visionaries, and sharing with everyone our physical spaces (co-working/ events/ prototyping lab/ experiential store).
9. **Fairtrade Foundation** [Visit Website](#)  
Fairtrade works with farmers and workers so they can improve their living standards, invest in their communities and businesses, and protect our shared environment.
10. **Fashion Act Now** [Visit Website](#)  
Fashion Act Now urges a crisis response to dismantle the dominant globalised Fashion system predicated on growth, oppression, and planned obsolescence.
11. **Fashion Revolution Open Studio** [Visit Website](#)  
Fashion Revolution Open Studio is dedicated to showcasing, mentoring, and celebrating designers from around the world.
12. **Fashion Revolution** [Visit Website](#)  
The world's largest fashion activism movement, mobilising citizens, brands and policymakers through research, education, and advocacy.
13. **Fibreshed** [Visit Website](#)  
Fibreshed is a non-profit organisation that develops regional fiber systems that build ecosystem and community health.
14. **Fixing Fashion** [Visit Website](#)  
Fixing Fashion is a project teaching people how to care, fix and repair their clothes to tackle the problems connected with fashion.
15. **FutureFabricsExpo** [Visit Website](#)  
The largest annual dedicated showcase for sourcing certified, sustainable material solutions founded by The Sustainable Angle.
16. **Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS)** [Visit Website](#)  
The aim of the Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS) is to define requirements to ensure organic status of textiles, from harvesting of the raw materials, through environmentally and socially responsible manufacturing up to labelling to provide a credible assurance to the end consumer.
17. **Maison 0** [Visit Website](#)  
Maison/0 is the Central Saint Martins-LVMH creative platform for regenerative luxury.
18. **NOoF** [Visit Website](#)  
New Order of Fashion is the international platform for exceptional fashion talent supporting sustainability in fashion by presenting fresh and radical perspectives through innovation, experimentation, and co-creation.
19. **Oeko-tex** [Visit Website](#)  
Oeko-Tex is a registered trademark, representing the product labels and company certifications issued and other services provided by the International Association for Research and Testing in the Field of Textile and Leather Ecology

20. **Provenance Proof Blockchain** [Visit Website](#)

Provenance Proof Blockchain focuses on building a platform that uses this process to create a digital ledger tracing a gem's lifetime journey.

21. **Remake** [Visit Website](#)

Remake is a global advocacy organisation fighting for fair pay and climate justice in the clothing industry.

22. **Slow Factory** [Visit Website](#)

Slow Factory is an award-winning organisation creatively addressing the intersecting crises of climate justice & human rights through cultural change, science, and design.

23. **Sustainable Angle** [Visit Website](#)

The Sustainable Angle is a not-for-profit organisation and founders of FutureFabricsExpo who initiate and support projects with a focus on sustainability in Fashion and Textiles and related industries such as food and agriculture.

24. **Sustainable Apparel Coalition** [Visit Website](#)

The SAC brings together expertise from across the globe to develop sustainable solutions that redefine the industry.

25. **Textile Exchange** [Visit Website](#)

A global non-profit driving positive action on climate change across the fashion, textile, and apparel industry.

26. **Trash Club** [Visit Website](#)

A non-profit organisation, global network, and community championing independent creatives through holistic support an interconnectivity.



## Read

### Books

1. Beckert, S. (2017). Empire of Cotton: A Global History. New York, NY [Library Resource Here](#)
2. Brown, S., (2010). Eco Fashion. London: Laurence King Publishing.



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## Online Resources

14. Woodford, C. (2022). What COP27 means for the fashion Industry. [Online] Available at: [Read Here](#) (Accessed: [10/06/2023]).
15. Tham, M., & Fletcher, K. (2020). *Earth Logic*. [Online] Available at: [Read Here](#) (Accessed: [10/06/2023]).
16. UAL Climate, Racial and Social Justice Principles [Read Here](#)
17. Fashion Revolution Transparency Index [Read Here](#)

## Listen

### Podcasts

1. Sustainable Fashion in Africa with Adebayo Oke-Lawal, Abrima Erwiah and more: [Listen Here](#)
2. Common Threads Podcast: [Listen Here](#)
3. Black Material Geographies [Listen Here](#)
4. Conscious Chatter with Kestrel Jenkins: [Listen Here](#)
5. The Business of Fashion Podcast: [Listen Here](#)
6. Spirit of 608: [Listen Here](#)
7. Wardrobe Crisis with Clare Press: [Listen Here](#)
8. Circular Economy Podcast by Ellen MacArthur Foundation: [Listen Here](#)





# Watch

## Documentaries

1. **A New Economy** (2016) [Watch Here](#)  
*Watch as several organizations move towards a more cooperative future by experimenting with open and non-traditional business models. By rewarding human effort fairly and proportionately instead of obsessing about the bottom line, these revolutionary businesses are creating a more people-friendly future, creating new ways to make money and make it sustainably.*
2. **Blue Gold: American Jeans** (2014) [Watch Here](#)  
*Explores the cultural and environmental impact of the jeans industry.*
3. **Cotton Road** (2014) [Watch Here](#)  
*Cotton Road follows the commodity of cotton from south Carolina farms to Chinese factories to illuminate the work and industrial processes in a global supply chain.*
4. **Earthlings** (2005) [Watch Here](#)  
*Narrated by Joaquin Phoenix, writer/director Shaun Monson's 2005 documentary about humanity's economic dependence and treatment of animals is a sobering, hard-hitting reality check into the pet, food, clothing, entertainment, and scientific industries.*
5. **Farm to Yarn** (2019) [Watch Here](#)  
*Director, Nate Peraccini follows Big Tony Alvarez, Volcom's VP of Global of Compliance & Supply Chain to India to document the progress of Volcom's 'Farm To Yarn' initiative. Big Tony, Alison Ward (CottonConnect CEO), the farmers and village women share their experience with the program and the benefits of moving away from conventional cotton farming and embracing organic farming.*
6. **Fashion Reimagined** (2022) [Watch Here](#)  
*Raised off-the-grid in rural England by activist parents, Amy Powney of cult label Mother of Pearl has always felt uneasy about the devastating environmental impact of her industry. When she wins the coveted Vogue award for the Best Young Designer of the Year, which comes with a big cash prize, Amy decides to use the money to create a sustainable collection from field to finished garment and transform her entire business.*
7. **Fashion's Dirty Secrets** (2018) [Watch Here](#)  
*Presented by Stacey Dooley, this documentary reveals shocking truths about the impact of fast fashion on the environment.*
8. **Fashionscapes** (2021) [Watch Here](#)  
*Fashionscapes produced by Andrew Morgan (director of The True Cost) and Eco-Age founder and creative director Livia Firth, is a five-part docu-series that takes an investigative look at fashion's global supply chains and puts forward sustainable solutions.*
9. **For the Love of Fashion** (2016) [Watch Here](#)



*Alexandra Cousteau, National Geographic Emerging Explorer, filmmaker, and globally recognised advocate on water issues, travels the world to present a picture of the cotton industry, with a focus on its history and the modern-day challenges and innovations. She will discover the threats and the solutions facing our fashion industry.*

10. **Frontline Fashion** (2015): [Watch Here](#)

*Frontline Fashion is an award-winning docu-series that follows the most talented emerging fashion designers from all over the globe, who have earned their place as finalists in the world's largest sustainable fashion design competition, the Redress Design Award.*

11. **I Am Greta** (2020) [Watch Here](#)

*This documentary follows Greta Thunberg, a teenage climate activist from Sweden, on her international crusade to get people to listen to scientists about the world's environmental problems.*

12. **Made In Africa** (2020) [Watch Here](#)

*This 30-minute short film is narrated by Sarah Diouf, founder of the Senegalese brand, Tongoro, and offers a lens into foundations of this 100% made in Africa brand that draws on generational culture and craftspeople.*

13. **Minimalism: A Documentary About the Important Things** (2015): [Watch Here](#)

*A documentary examining the many flavours of minimalism by taking the audience inside the lives of minimalists from all walks of life—families, entrepreneurs, architects, artists, journalists, scientists, and even a former Wall Street broker—all of whom are striving to live a meaningful life with less.*

14. **Patriot Act with Hasan Minhaj: The Ugly Truth of Fast Fashion** (2019) [Watch Here](#)

*Fast fashion brands like H&M and Zara are churning out cheap, new clothes every few days, fuelling us to shop more than ever before. Hasan explores how our desire to look “fresh to death” is actually killing the planet.*

15. **ReDress the Future** (2021) [Watch Here](#)

*Whether it's calling out the very notion of being “on trend”, which drives relentless consumerism, or it's focusing in on the pioneers that are bucking the trend against outdated and unsustainable business models and manufacturing processes, this series seeks to challenge the fashion industry as we know it and give viewers a glimpse at a more circular fashion future which they never even knew was possible.*

16. **RIVERBLUE** (2018) [Watch Here](#)

*Through harsh chemical manufacturing processes and the irresponsible disposal of toxic chemical waste, one of our favourite iconic products, blue jeans, is destroying rivers globally.*

17. **Slay** (2022) [Watch Here](#)

*From the makers of award-winning films ‘Cowspiracy’ and ‘What The Health’, SLAY follows filmmaker Rebecca Cappelli's journey around the world to uncover the dark side of the fashion industry. Rebecca's investigation into the animal skins trade unravels a harrowing story of greenwashing, mislabelling, animal cruelty and cover-ups from some of the world's major luxury fashion brands.*

18. **Slowing Down Fast Fashion** (2016) [Watch Here](#)

*Alex James presents a critical look at the fashion industry and the trend of 'fast fashion' in a shortened version of Akers' first solo documentary.*





19. **Sweatshop - Deadly Fashion** (2014) [Watch Here](#)  
*A Norwegian documentary series that focuses on the lives of fashion bloggers sent to Cambodia to experience the life of a sweatshop worker.*
20. **The Clothes We Wear** (2020) [Watch Here](#)  
*The Clothes We Wear is a short sustainable fashion documentary filmed in Germany that peels away the allure of bargain-hunting and fast fashion to show how overconsumption affects planetary systems.*
21. **The Machinists** (2013) [Watch Here](#)  
*A vivid and moving documentary in which the personal stories of three female Bangladeshi garment workers and the boss of a fledgling trade union in Dhaka intersect to portray the human cost of western high street fashion.*
22. **The Magnitude of All Things** (2020) [Watch Here](#)  
*An essayistic documentary film about the process of grieving a dying earth. Director Jennifer Abbott draws parallels between personal and environmental experiences of grief. The film asks us to be hopeful despite the hopelessness we might feel when it comes to the fight against climate change.*
23. **The Next Black** (2014) [Watch Here](#)  
*A documentary that brings together designers, innovators, and leaders from around the globe for an open discussion on the concept of clothing. It probes beyond what we are wearing to explore how we produce clothes, how we interact with them and how we care for them.*
24. **The Positive Chain of Change** (2020) [Watch Here](#)  
*A documentary about the next generation game changers showing the power of connection.*
25. **The True Cost** (2015) [Watch Here](#)  
*Filmmaker Andrew Morgan travels around the globe to see the people who make clothes for the worlds fashion.*
26. **UDITA** (2015) [Watch Here](#)  
*This documentary follows the lives of female garment workers in Bangladesh, providing a personal and touching account of the human cost of fast fashion.*
27. **Unravel** (2015) [Watch Here](#)  
*A short film that follows the journey of discarded clothes from the West as they travel to India to be recycled. It offers a fascinating look at how our waste becomes a resource.*
28. **Wasted! The Story of Food Waste** (2017): [Watch Here](#)  
*Although this is not specifically about fashion, this documentary offers useful insights about waste and sustainability that could be applied to the fashion industry.*





## Films

29. **Made in Bangladesh** (2021) [Watch Here](#)

*In this film by Rubaiyat Hossain, the viewer follows the journey of 23-year-old Shimu who works in a textile factory in Dhaka, earning very little and the fashion industry's exploitative labor practices firsthand. After crossing paths with a labor union advocate who teaches Shimu about worker rights, she embarks on a journey to unionize the women she works with but is met with resistance at every turn.*

## Webinars

30. **History of Cotton with Teju Adisa-Farra and Sha'Mira Covington** [Watch Here](#)

*Teju Adisa-Farrar is a Jamaican-American writer, poet and geographer. Her focus is on contemporary and historical Black geographies as they relate to the environment, urban ecologies, and culture. This webinar is part of Slow Factory's open education platform that gives an insight into the origins of cotton and how they relate to colonialism, cultural erasure and the ongoing struggle of Black Brown and Indigenous Peoples around the world.*

## Visit

1. The Mills Fabrica Showroom, York Way, London [Visit Here](#)
2. Open Cell, White City, East London, Hammersmith, London [Visit Here](#)
3. The Sustainable Angle's Future Fabrics Expo: [Visit Website](#)
4. Crafts Council Gallery: Check for ongoing exhibitions and events focused on sustainable textiles and fashion. [Visit Website](#)
5. The Wellcome Collection [Visit Website](#)

## Retail

1. **APOC Store** [Visit Website](#)

APOC STORE is an online marketplace for independent fashion, design, and art marketplace. They curate and source progressive and ethically created pieces from creatives across the globe, celebrating and supporting a new generation of designers and artists.

2. **Bleaq** [Visit Website](#)

In response to the current 'post-COVID' society, a concept evolved from the disregard and bleak outlook cast on the art world: bleaq highlights the importance and necessity of creative industries in initiating reform and justice.



3. **Machine-A** [Visit Website](#)

Machine-A is a multi-brand luxury concept store located in Soho, London, focused on an aim to continuously showcase an eclectic mix of emerging and established brands.

4. **PARO Store** [Visit Website](#)

PARO STORE showcases emerging designers who are driving the fashion industry towards a sustainable future.

5. **50m** [Visit Website](#)

50m is a luxury concept store that exists to support and showcase emerging fashion designers and artists providing them with a platform to sell and present their collections and a community to grow with.



## Sourcing

### Secondhand/Sustainably Produced Materials

1. The Sustainable Angle: An organisation connecting fashion brands with sustainable fabric suppliers, including those based in London. [Visit Website](#)
2. Ray Stitch [Visit Website](#)  
A fabric shop in London known for its collection of sustainable, organic, and environmentally friendly fabrics.
3. UAL SWAP SHOP [Visit Website](#)
4. TRAIID Charity Shops [Visit Website](#)  
Secondhand and upcycled clothing, supporting charitable initiatives in the fashion industry.

### Deadstock Fabric

1. The Last Yarn [Visit Website](#)
2. The Materialist [Visit Website](#)



3. NONA Source [Visit Website](#)
4. UAL Fashion Fabric Estore [Visit Website](#)
5. The New Craft House [Visit Website](#)
6. Simply Fabrics [Visit Website](#)
7. Fabrics Galore [Visit Website](#)
8. RS Textiles [Visit Website](#)
9. Good Fabric [Visit Website](#)
10. AmoThreads [Visit Website](#)

## Production

1. Fashion-Enter Ltd.: A social enterprise providing sustainable fabric sourcing and production services. [Visit Website](#)
2. Making for Change [Visit Website](#)

## Print

1. East London Printmakers: A printmaking studio cooperative in London offering access to screen printing and other printmaking techniques, including facilities for fabric printing. [Visit Website](#)
2. Jealous Print Studio: A printmaking studio in Shoreditch that offers screen printing facilities, courses, and services for fabric printing and design. [Visit Website](#)

## Media

1. Atmos [Visit Website](#)
2. BRICKS Magazine [Visit Website](#)
3. Eco Warrior Princess: [Visit Website](#)
4. Eco-Age: [Visit Website](#)
5. Glass Magazine [Visit Website](#)
6. The Calendar Magazine [Visit Website](#)
7. The Good Trade: [Visit Website](#)
8. Good On You [Visit Website](#)
9. BCome [Visit Website](#)

*\*This resource document had been designed using the British Dyslexia Association Style Guide.*