



# TEXTILES INFO SHEET

## Vision

People are making informed decisions on the textile items that they purchase, including: the types of materials purchased and the nature of the supply chains; only consuming sustainably; and knowing how to fully care for the items they own, from washing to repair. Once an item is no longer wanted or is at the end of its life, residents know what their options are and no textiles end up in the bin.

## Key Facts

Around 5% of consumption-based emissions for London come from clothing/footwear and furnishings/appliances

The UK's monthly fast fashion habits produce the same emissions as flying a plane around the world 900 times

Making a piece of clothing last an extra 9 months reduces its carbon, waste and water footprint by up to 30%

London has the UK's highest weekly household expenditure on clothing at £28.50, but £30 billion worth of clothing sitting unworn at the back of wardrobes in the UK

## Theme Pillars

### Extend

Improving repair rates and opportunities for re-sale, creating new products from old and reducing impulse shopping and promoting better washing practices

### Recycle

Ensuring recycling products can be recycled at the end of their life and improved fabrics are used to reduce waste

### Sustainable Consumption

Consumer awareness and behavioural change in purchasing to reduce overall consumption

## Priority Areas for next 1-2 years

- Convenient home collection services across London
- Councils' procurement policy review on textiles
- Education pack for schools, FE, HE and community groups
- A consumer-driven campaign
- Setting up circular economy hubs
- Lobbying for policy changes

## Key Messages for London Boroughs

- The **textile waste stream has the second highest carbon value**, after food.
- Carbon emissions from new clothing being produced and bought is going up so we need to **focus on buying less and buying better** (buying better quality and second-hand)
- Making a piece of clothing last an extra 9 months reduces its carbon, waste and water footprint by up to 30%, so we need to **focus on care, share and second-hand purchasing** by helping inform residents of their options!



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- Collectively **we want to achieve #notextilesinthebin**, with appropriate and consistent recycling/reuse infrastructure across London
- Some **additional statistics** to use in messages:
  - 183 million items of outgrown baby clothing are stored in UK homes, enough to provide over 250 items for each baby born in the UK each year.
  - With the average family spending £11,000 on a child's clothing alone.
  - 1/3 of parents have still said they have thrown clothing in the bin because they did not know what else to do with it.
  - 1.4 million wearable school uniforms are thrown away each year
  - 81% of parents buy brand new school uniforms
  - Nearly half of parents don't want their children in second-hand clothes
  - Every second, the equivalent of a rubbish truckload of clothes is burnt or buried in landfill.
  - A third of Londoners buy new clothes every six months
  - In the UK we buy more fashion per person than any other country in Europe
  - More than two tonnes of clothing is purchased every minute in the UK
  - Around 920,000 textiles goes in household residual waste in the UK

## Checklist of Actions for London Boroughs

- Partner and promote TRAIID home collections:
  - include key information on relevant council website pages
  - Promote the service on platforms used by borough
  - This can be a focus on flats if TRAIID already have high participation for houses
  - Promotes the consistency message
  - Message shared internally with all council departments
- Help to incorporate sustainable textile purchasing/management into procurement:
  - Identify contracts that involve direct purchasing (boroughs to engage with procurement/commissioning colleagues) – waste contracts a likely option – share examples already identified by boroughs
  - Introduce boilerplate clauses into general contracts to encourage circular approaches to textile management amongst contractors (these are being developed by lead borough but boroughs are asked to share existing examples)
  - Engage with ReLondon circular economy training
- Share any education resources currently being used by the council regarding textiles
  - Please share relevant contacts (education department, community/neighbourhood/communications) to be able to liaise with and collaborate on the education packs
- Share any relevant local groups known to the council, which may wish to be involved in circular economy hubs and/or a consumer driven campaign around textiles.
- Share any known locations to the council, which might be suitable for a circular economy hub set-up.



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## Support & Resources for Boroughs

The list below includes existing platforms and resources that boroughs can promote to residents or use themselves. Please note: options listed below have been recommended based on research for the OWL programme, but not all are quality assured by the programme. Boroughs should undertake the usual due diligence when proceeding with them, and alternatives may be available.

- Climate conversations packs for community groups
- Schools Resources template pack into textiles module
- Key principles from West London sustainable procurement toolkit
- Packs will include relevant advice from a variety of sources with relevant links, e.g. from:
- [Ellen MacArthur Foundation](#)
- [Wrap - Textiles](#)
- [Fashion Industry Charter for Climate Action](#)

## Get in Touch!

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