

# Future Fabrics Expo 2025

London's annual sustainable materials sourcing event showcased responsible fibres, innovative textile recycling, water and chemical management solutions, and ethical craft, alongside a special home and interiors feature

Nicole Ajimal & WGSN Materials  
07.04.25 - 9 minutes



TIP  
Trend Investment  
Projection

Cabes Gie

## Need to know

Reevaluating production methods and making informed choices in raw materials, waste management and community support were topics thoroughly discussed at The Sustainable Angle's [Future Fabrics Expo](#) (FFE) in London. The next show is scheduled for 2026.

## Opportunity

Dedicated to responsible sourcing, the show presents materials that adhere to certifications and best practices for fashion, footwear, home and interiors. Over 10,000 commercially available materials and solutions promote fibre diversification and the shift away from standard fossil-fuel materials.

New innovations at various development stages were shown, from pilot projects to market-ready, scalable solutions. A wide range of fibres and materials was on offer, from pre- and post-consumer recycled natural and synthetic materials to certified organic cotton, linen and hemp. Responsible sourcing was highlighted, from animal hair and protein silk fibres to leather with high animal welfare standards, alongside bio-based leather-like options.

The Seminar Series highlighted essential topics with insights from global thought leaders, experts and pioneers, sharing experiences on enabling and adding value through circularity, decarbonising supply chains, innovating new materials and advancing regenerative agriculture.

The Home & Interiors Area expanded to include responsible and ethical materials suited to furniture, lighting and home textiles.

**STEPIC forecasts:** [We and Me](#), [Wise Tech](#), [Climate-Changed](#), [Sharing the Stage](#), [Protective and Open](#), [Play Power](#), [Business Strategy: Navigating Tariffs](#), [Consumer Strategy: Navigating Tariffs](#), [Fashion Design Priorities: Navigating Tariffs](#)

## Buying strategies

- **Fibre innovation:** look for early-stage bio-based innovations from emergent designers and start-ups
- **Colour innovation:** prioritise waste management systems, digital colour and natural bacteria pigments
- **Home and interiors:** develop and collaborate for a sustainable footprint and innovative solutions
- **Responsible craft:** promote meaningful crafts, celebrating traditional processes and Fairtrade materials
- **Low-impact colour:** ensure water-saving techniques, reimagine natural materials and explore innovative methods in dyeing
- **Cotton:** follow controlled compliance to ensure quality cotton fibre and a conscious value chain
- **Plant fibres:** use regenerative fibres that protect natural ecosystems and generate income for farmers
- **Animal fibres:** ensure responsible farming and land management for progressive animal-fibre sourcing
- **Manmade cellulose:** look for softness and comfort in closed-loop, sustainably harvested cellulose
- **Silk:** prioritise cruelty-free processes, sustainable cultivations and farmer empowerment
- **Synthetics:** seek replacements for virgin materials and invest in low-impact, innovative strategies
- **Leather and alternatives:** focus on by-product skins with high animal welfare standards, and expand to bio-based alternatives

# Proof points

Future Fabrics Expo 25

2000+ visitors

50+ innovations

150+ organisations represented

WGSN.com

The **Future Fabrics Expo** is expanding as sustainable sourcing becomes increasingly important. This year had the largest number of exhibitors, including suppliers, non-profits and partners, showcasing their collections at the 15th anniversary



Crafts can significantly uplift artisan communities by providing economic opportunities and fostering community development. **African Straw Enterprise Ltd** (Ghana) provides support for over 5000 women while preserving cultural heritage

"What do you think is the biggest opportunity for textile manufacturers under new EU regulations?"

43%

said 'Invest in circular fashion'

WGSN.com

43% of voters in a poll feel investment in circular **fashion is the biggest opportunity for textile manufacturers**, with 'Innovate recycling technology' coming in after at 24%, and 'Sustainable brand partnerships' at 21% ([LinkedIn](#))



**Traditional textiles** are gaining renewed relevance as fashion moves towards sustainability and **cultural authenticity**. Zenam (Italy) collaborates with Cables Gie (Burkina Faso) fabrics, redefining modern luxury with **ethical branding** and opportunity for these crafts to flourish

Estimated percentage of freshwater withdrawals caused by agricultural practices

70%

WGSN.com

Our **Water Saving Solutions** report highlights that higher-income countries use more water in industry, while lower-income countries use 90% or more water in agriculture. Support and monitor water footprint in production for long-term conservation strategies





BIOfur



Jehna Yang



Future Fabrics Expo

TIP: Test 

## Fibre innovation

Test groundbreaking biobased designs and material solutions seen at the FFE's expanding innovation hub.

### Buying strategies

- Pilot innovations from emergent designers and start-ups to test and experiment with nature-led and region-specific material solutions



Liz Ciokajlo



Sajal Anubhuti

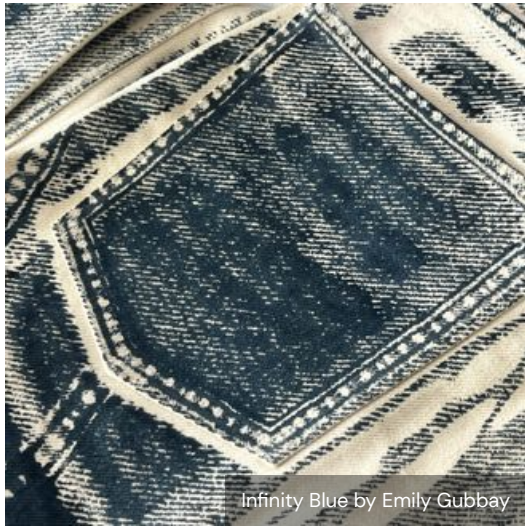


Phycolabs

### Material innovation

- Test bio-based materials as alternatives to animal-and petroleum-based options and harness the potential of biodegradable and compostable materials. Note Homage to Mountain's (UK) textile coating inspired by the survival strategies of alpine plants
- Harness region-specific and even invasive plants to expand your fibre selection, noting Invasive Futures (India) made from 100% Lantana or Seaweedfiber (Brazil) for cultivated seaweed





TIP: Test 

## Colour innovation

Research the latest sustainable colour solutions as seen at the FFE's expanding innovation hub.

### Buying strategies

- Align colour innovations with your material choice. Prioritise waste management systems, digital colour and natural bacteria pigments



### Material innovation

- Test small-scale and made-to-order innovations. Create cleaner colour using recovered dye from wastewater systems. Infinity Blue's (UK) circular colour system uses 100% recovered synthetic indigo and Switchdye's (UK) reused dyebath system for polyester fabrics
- Investigate bacteria pigments as a self-decomposing and regenerative print medium. Use digital trompe l'oeil techniques for scalable solutions





Rootfull



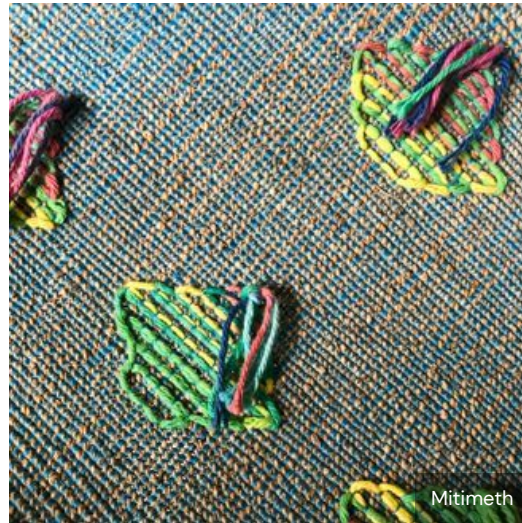
Biofluff



Parali by Aarushi



Delyth Fetherston-Dilke



Mitimeth



Re\_Considered

TIP: Invest ⓘ

## Home and interiors

The curated Home & Interiors area showcased innovative solutions from across the world.

### Buying strategies

- Source ethical and responsibly sourced materials and textiles rooted in circularity, regenerative agriculture and low-carbon supply chains
- Collaboration is key for hard and soft materials like Fabreco's (UK) waste textiles and bio-resin stool

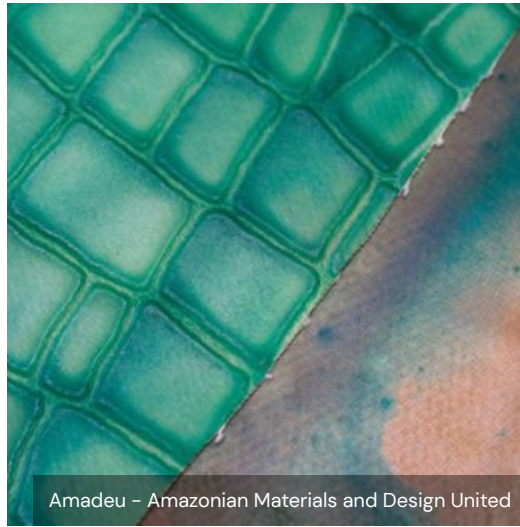
### Material and finish

- Expand natural material resources. Material innovations made use of discarded banana/plantain tree trunks, coconut shells, jute, rice straw, wild grass, nettle, wool, wheat, organic cotton, grassroots or invasive species for durable home textiles





Motif Handmade



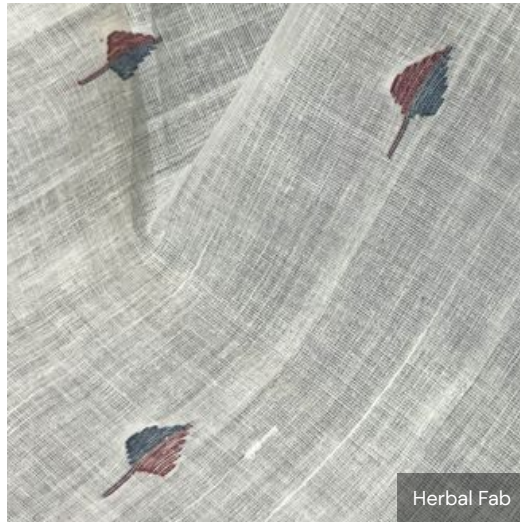
Amadeu – Amazonian Materials and Design United



Cabes Gie



Bark Cloth



Herbal Fab



Cabes Gie

TIP: Invest ⓘ

## Responsible craft

Invest in Artisan Collaboration to fully support creativity and the livelihoods of indigenous communities.

### Buying strategies

- Promote diversity through traditional patterns or techniques for authentic products that uphold brand integrity

### Material and finish

- Look for Fairtrade, GOTS-certified, and recycled cotton, hemp, linen, nettle, ramie and ahmisa silk. For heavier weights and more texture, use Bark Cloth Uganda and wild rubber from Amadeu (Brazil)
- Work with communities specialising in region-specific traditional weaving, knitting, embroidery and printing techniques





Green'ing



Amphico



Herbal Fab



Botanica Tinctoria



Positive Materials



Cabes Gie

TIP: Invest ⓘ

## Low-impact colour

Invest in lower-impact dyes using natural ingredients or innovative, lower-impact processes.

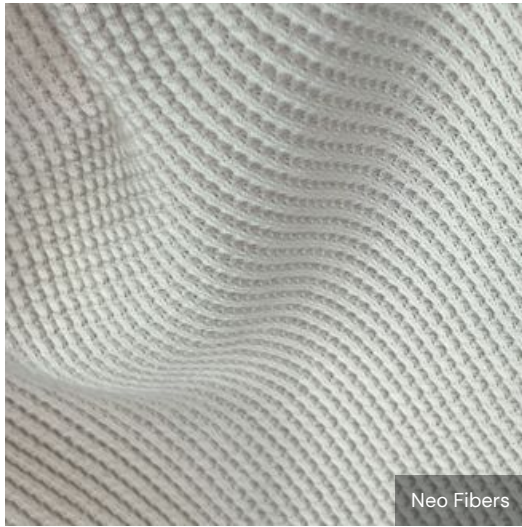
### Buying strategies

- Adopt lower-impact natural dyes along with waterless and closed-loop water-efficient dyes to achieve responsible colour

### Material and finish

- Seek natural dyes via fermentation using renewable feedstocks, textile waste that is upcycled into pigments, wood waste for black pigments and vegetable, mineral and plant dyes
- Amphicolor creates a waterless colour method that combines dope-dyeing, colour theory and AI formulation using a core palette of recycled dope-dyed yarns in weaving





Neo Fibers



Pafafil



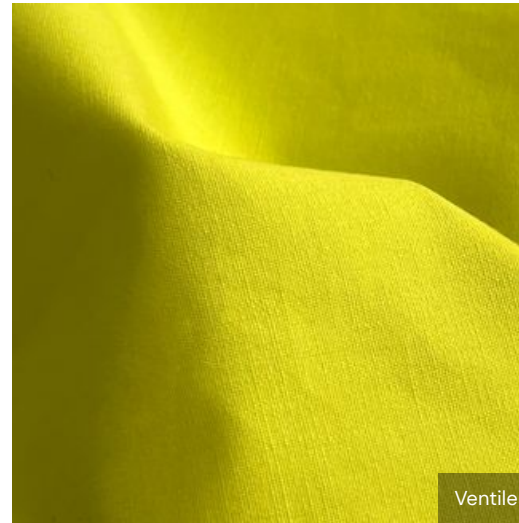
Denim De L'île Ltd



Herbal Fab



Positive Materials



Ventile

TIP: Protect ⓘ

## Cotton

Ensure certified cotton sources have a sustainable, conscious value chain.

### Buying strategies

- Choose good quality cotton that follows controlled compliance, whether it's responsibly cultivated or recycled

### Material and finish

- Favour Fairtrade, regenerative and GOTS-certified organic cotton, ensuring social empowerment for farmers, soil replenishment and agricultural diversity
- Recycled cotton reduces virgin resources, pressure on land and biodiversity loss. We note Denim De L'île's (Mauritius) fabric, which uses cotton made in Africa, blended with mechanically recycled cotton





Herbal Fab



Green Whisper



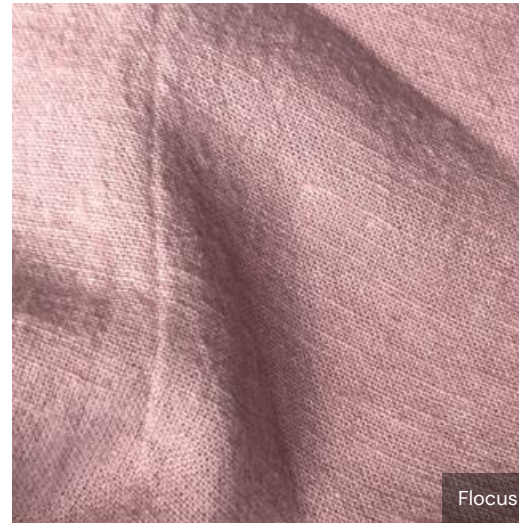
Nettle Circle



Ecological Textiles



Mitimeth



Flocus

TIP: Protect ⓘ

## Plant fibres

Source regenerative plant fibres that protect natural ecosystems and generate income for farmers.

### Buying strategies

- Embrace the natural characteristics of these fibres, avoiding harsh finishes and preserving the plant properties

### Material and finish

- Expand and source traceable linen, hemp, nettle, bamboo, pineapple, banana and kapok fibre. We highlight Flocus' (Netherlands) soft, antibacterial, hypoallergenic and quick-drying naturally regenerative kapok fibre
- For heavier weights, look for straw, jute, rattan and water hyacinth fibre, noting Mitimeth (Nigeria)





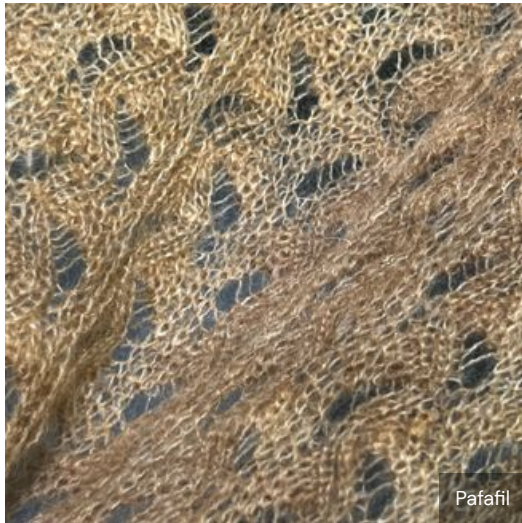
Pafafil



Pafafil



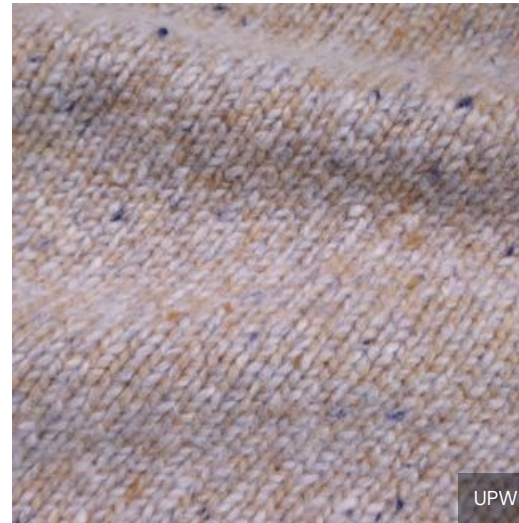
British Wool Textile Export Corp



Pafafil



Green'ing



UPW

TIP: Protect ⓘ

## Animal fibres

Ensure a progressive approach to animal welfare, land management and responsible farming practices.

### Buying strategies

- Source animal-fibre yarns and fabrics that adhere to best practices in land and animal management

### Material and finish

- Look for mulesing-free RWS and ZQ-certified, organic and recycled wool, alpaca, cashmere, yak and RMS mohair, which can be blended with other fibres, depending on cost implication and handle required
- British Wool works with Dashing Tweeds to develop modern woven designs, with animal Welfare being integral to each fabric





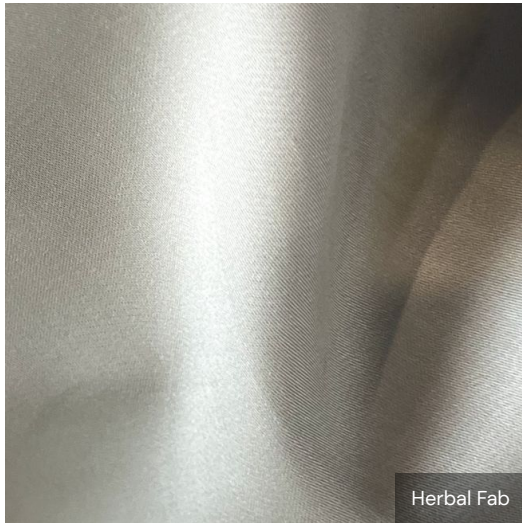
Soktas



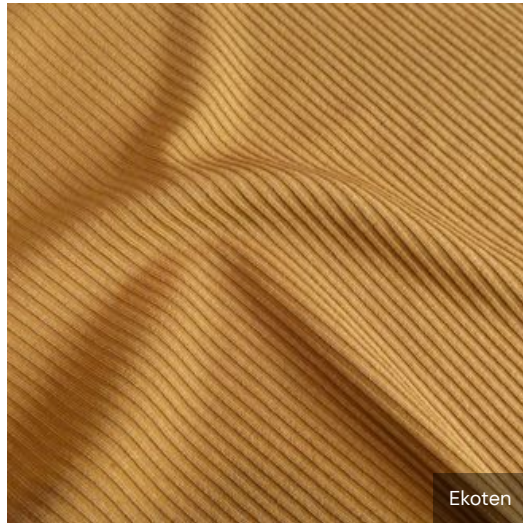
Advance Denim



Lenzing



Herbal Fab



Ekoten



Ekoten

TIP: Protect ⓘ

## Manmade cellulose

Source closed-loop cellulosic fibres from sustainable forests, harvested through certified controlled sources.

### Buying strategies

- Explore this fibre group's softness, comfort and versatility while ensuring a responsible closed-loop production

### Material and finish

- Source Tencel lyocell and Modal, Tencel Luxe, Lenzing Ecovero, cellulose-based HeiQ AeonIQ and FSC-certified viscose. Use either on its own or blend with other fibres for additional softness and lightness
- Tencel explores 'fibres with climate actions' for assessing the carbon footprint, calculated using a cradle-to-customer method





Coccon Crafts & Loom



Seidentraum



Coccon Crafts & Loom



7weaves



Bombyx Ltd.



Seterie Argenti

TIP: Protect ⓘ

## Silk

Identify best practices for luxurious fibre silk, prioritising social and environmental options.

### Buying strategies

- Market the benefits of cruelty-free processes, sustainable cultivations and the empowerment of farmers and makers

### Material and finish

- Protect eco-friendly farming methods by sourcing regenerative, GOTS-certified organic and non-violent, peace Ahimsa silk. Choose a close proximity between all parts of the supply chain for reduced emissions
- For recycled silk, we noted Bombyx's (Hong Kong) pre-consumer waste jersey, the colour of which depends on the raw material





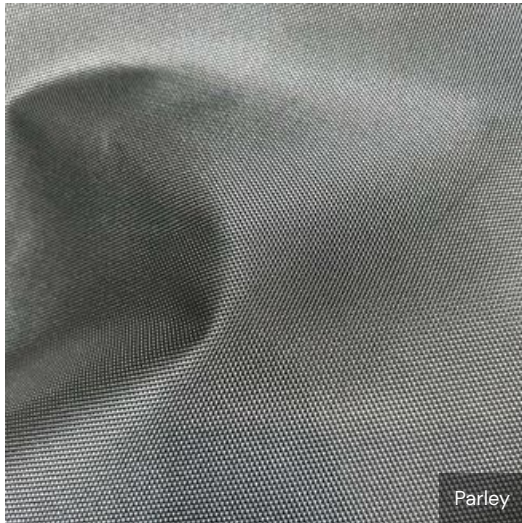
Kipas Textiles



Ambercycle



Everest Textile



Parley



Positive Materials



Seterie Argenti

TIP: Protect ⓘ

## Synthetics

**Source synthetics that are using innovative processes or recycling to reduce their carbon footprint.**

### Buying strategies

- Look for certified, recycled synthetics and test biobased and bio-recycled options to carbon-capture innovations

### Material and finish

- Upsell low-impact options, such as well-known GRS-certified polyester and nylon. Parley's Ocean Plastic-based yarns raise awareness of marine life. Collaborate with branded recycled fibre innovators, including Repreve, Tex2Tex and RE&UP
- Ambercycle (US) develops Cycora regenerated polyester, minimising petrochemical-based inputs and circular fashion

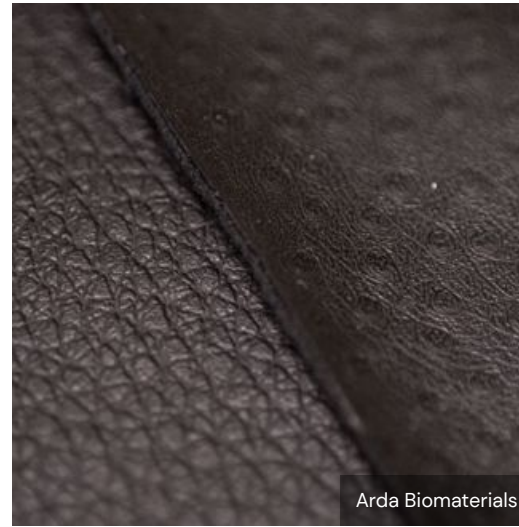




Pureway Biotechnology



Oleatex



Arda Biomaterials



ISA TanTec



British Pasture Leather



Nova Kaeru

TIP: Protect ⓘ

## Leather and alternatives

Choose leathers that consistently reduce environmental impact while considering good quality and design.

### Buying strategies

- Guarantee high-quality leather and tanning production and promote innovative bio-based alternatives

### Material and finish

- For leather, ensure by-product skins with high animal welfare standards, looking at fish, cattle, sheep and goat hides. Explore recycled leather with water-fusing processes. Finish with chrome-free and vegetable tanning
- Expand leather alternatives, with closed-loop systems, such as protein-rich biomass, hemp-based, algae-based and mushroom-based materials



## Supplier contacts

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## Further research



Future Fabrics Expo 2024



Sustainability & Innovation: Artisan Collaboration



Sustainability & Innovation: Garment-to-Garment Recycling



Key Trend: Waste as a Resource



Intelligence: Sustainability Legislation for Fashion