



Refashionized

SUSTAINABLE FASHION  
GLOSSARY



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## Terminology

Best Available Techniques (BAT).....	5
Biodegradable.....	5
Carbon footprint.....	5
Composted.....	6
Cruelty-Free.....	6
Daily production target.....	6
Eco-certification.....	7
Eco-design.....	7
Eco-friendly material.....	7
End-of-life management.....	8
Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR).....	8
Fast fashion.....	9
Fur farming.....	9
Greenwashing.....	10
Indigo dye.....	10
Lifecycle.....	11
Micro-droplets.....	11
Microfibers.....	11
Microplastics.....	12
Raccoon dog.....	12
Renewable/non-renewable resources.....	12
Sable.....	13
Sublimation.....	13
Supply chain.....	13
Virtual clothing.....	14
Tencel.....	14
Utilitarian theory.....	14
Zoonotic.....	14

## Introduction

Welcome to the Glossary of the Sustainable Fashion Booklet, a comprehensive resource designed to explain in simple language the terminology and concepts surrounding the ever-evolving world of sustainable fashion. This glossary aims to empower trainers, youth workers, enthusiasts, and professionals in the fields of youth and adult education by providing a clear understanding of key terms associated with sustainable fashion.

As you explore the Sustainable Fashion Booklet Units for in-depth insights and theoretical frameworks, this glossary serves as a quick reference guide, reinforcing your understanding of key terms and facilitating a more immersive learning experience.

Together, the modules and glossary form a cohesive learning experience, inviting you to contribute actively to the ongoing dialogue shaping the future of fashion—one that is sustainable, ethical, and transformative for us, the industry, and the environment.

## Best Available Techniques (BAT)

BAT or Best Available Techniques refers to the most effective plant, management, and control technical solutions that promise a high level of environmental protection. These techniques involve the implementation of measures such as minimizing pollutant emissions and optimizing the use of raw materials during production processes.



## Biodegradable

All materials will eventually break down, but some can take thousands of years and release harmful chemicals in the process, such as plastic. Biodegradable items, on the other hand, can naturally decompose in the environment by the action of bacteria, fungi, or other living organisms and avoid pollution. There are three main types of biodegradable fibers: first, natural fibers, including wool, cotton, silk, hemp, and linen, as well as cellulose-based fibers such as modal, viscose, and lyocell; second, bio-based synthetic fibers, including polylactic acid (PLA) plastics, cellulose acetate, and aliphatic polyesters; and third, polyesters produced by microorganisms, usually created through bacterial fermentation.



## Carbon footprint

The term "carbon footprint" refers to the total amount of greenhouse gases, particularly CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, that are released either directly or indirectly to fulfill the needs of an individual, organization, or community. This term was coined by the multinational oil and gas company BP in an attempt to shift the responsibility of cutting emissions from businesses to consumers, but it is now commonly used to quantify the impact of organizations or products. The fashion industry produces about 10 % of annual carbon emissions.





### Composted

Compostability is a term used for products that can be disposed of with organic waste and recovered in composting plants after use. During the composting process, compostable products, along with kitchen and garden waste, are transformed into a new material called compost. Composting is an essential part of waste management as food and other compostable materials form around 20 % of landfills, and due to anaerobic conditions in landfills, these materials take longer to biodegrade.

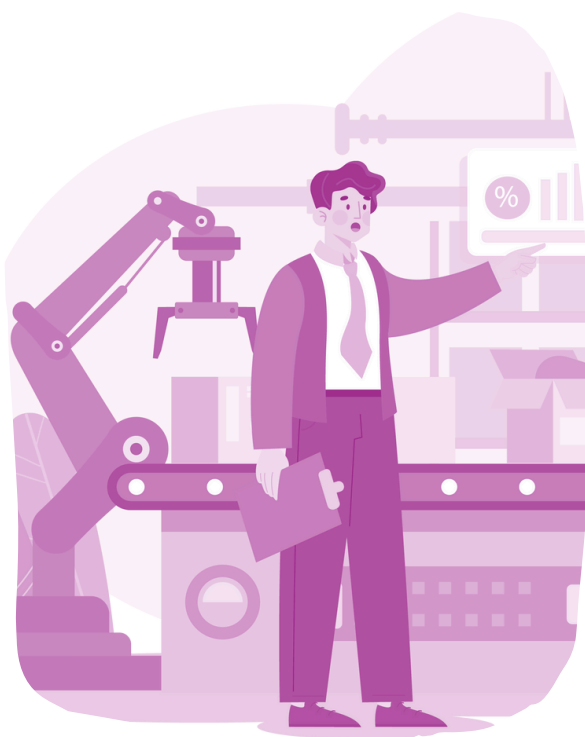
### Cruelty-Free

"Cruelty-free" is a term that refers to products, mostly cosmetics, which are not tested on animals. This implies that neither the finished product nor its components have been subjected to any testing on animals. Typically, such products are made from natural ingredients and do not contain any animal-based components.



### Daily production target

The daily production target is a crucial metric that measures the efficiency and productivity of qualified workers. It denotes the standard quantity of goods that a worker is expected to manufacture within a day. This target is essential for organizations to maintain consistency in their manufacturing processes and ensure that they meet their production goals. The daily production target is calculated based on the skill level of the worker, the complexity of the task, and the available resources. Daily production targets provide a more accurate and precise way to compare actual performance to estimated performance. This data can be used to keep projects on schedule and budget.



### Eco certification

Eco-certification is a type of environmental regulation and development that allows companies to voluntarily comply with predetermined processes or objectives set by the certification service. These certification services provide a logo, commonly known as an ecolabel, which can be applied to products certified under their standards. This is viewed as a form of corporate social responsibility, allowing companies to meet their obligation to minimize harmful impacts on the environment by voluntarily following a set of externally set and measured objectives.



### Eco-design

Eco-design refers to the incorporation of environmental aspects into the product development process, by balancing ecological and economic requirements. The aim is to consider environmental factors at all stages of the product development process, ensuring that products have the smallest possible environmental impact throughout their entire life cycle.

### Eco-friendly material

Eco-friendly means being friendly towards the ecosystem, which includes the environment, nature around us, and animals. It refers to products that are manufactured in a way that is safe for the environment from production to packaging. Eco-friendly materials are derived from renewable resources, have minimal environmental impact, and are either recyclable or biodegradable. These materials can be used to create furniture, building products, and even clothing. Examples of eco-friendly materials are bamboo, cork, straw bales, organic cotton, hemp, linen... They are generally more resource-efficient than traditional materials, requiring less energy and fewer resources.





## End-of-life management

The end of a garment's life is a crucial stage in the fashion industry. It marks the difference between a linear model and a more sustainable, circular approach. To reduce the environmental impact of clothing and support a circular economy, it is essential to extend the lifespan of garments or to ensure their proper disposal through recycling or composting. This can involve donating, reselling, recycling, upcycling, repurposing, or composting clothing to minimize waste and promote sustainability in the fashion industry. Recycling usually requires several steps that involve the collaboration of various parties.

## Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is an environmental policy approach that holds producers responsible for their products even after they have been consumed by the end-users. The EPR policy primarily involves two aspects: firstly, the transfer of responsibility (either partially or fully, physically or economically) from municipalities to the producers; and secondly, providing incentives to producers to adopt environmentally-friendly production methods. Unlike other policies that target specific points in the chain, EPR aims to incorporate environmental considerations across the entire product chain, from production to disposal. Although EPR schemes have been implemented in other sectors such as packaging, electronics, batteries, and vehicles, France is currently the only country that has introduced an EPR scheme for clothing, linen, and footwear.





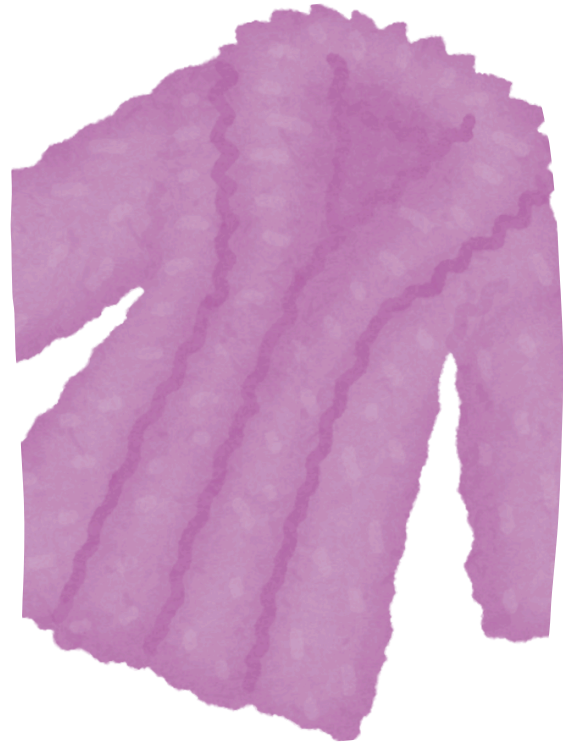


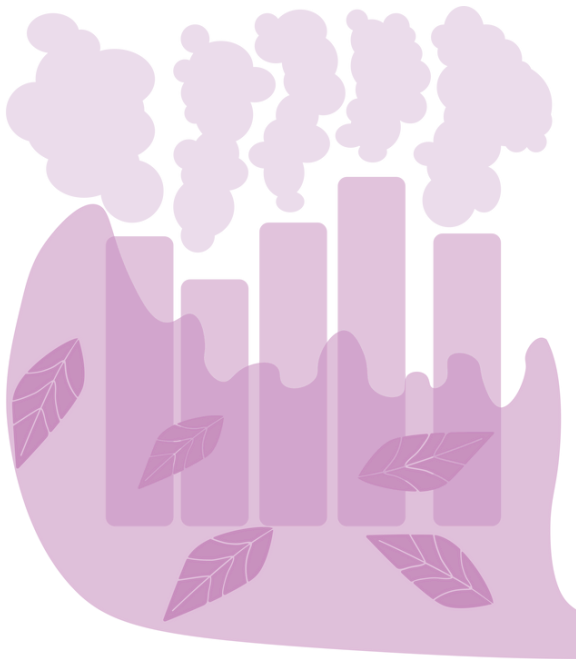
### Fast fashion

Fast fashion is a model of fashion production and consumption that prioritizes quick turnaround of styles and products, often leading to fast disposal of clothing items. This model results in high social and environmental costs throughout the entire value chain. Since the 1990s, fast fashion has expanded globally, and offshore manufacturing with access to cheap labor in developing countries has contributed to its global reach. Fast fashion plays a significant role in the toxic system of overproduction and consumption that has made fashion one of the largest polluters in the world. Within the last two decades, the average number of times a garment is worn before disposal has decreased by 36% worldwide.

### Fur farming

Fur farming is a process of breeding or raising animals like minks, foxes, chinchillas, and raccoon dogs for their fur. The majority of fur produced in the world comes from Chinese and European farms. However, fur farming is associated with several negative impacts on the environment and animals: it is highly inefficient and resource-intensive compared to other textiles, and these animals are commonly kept in small cages and killed after their first moult. Therefore, some countries including Austria, Croatia, the United Kingdom, the Czech Republic, the Netherlands, Norway (effective from February 2025), Italy, and Lithuania (effective from 2027) have banned fur farming.





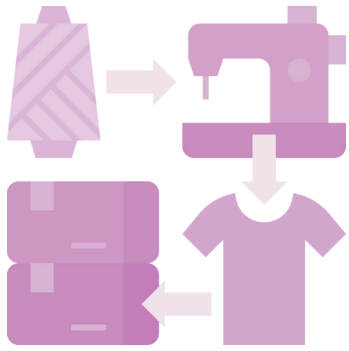
## Greenwashing

Greenwashing refers to the deceptive marketing tactics used by organizations to present their products, activities, or policies as environmentally friendly, when in reality they are not. This is becoming a growing concern nowadays as some companies are trying to capitalize on the increasing demand for more sustainable and ethical products. Companies often promote supposedly “environmentally-friendly” initiatives such as introducing a small eco-friendly product line, using recycled packaging, and switching to LED lights in their offices, while completely ignoring critical environmental and labor issues.

## Indigo dye

Indigo is a blue pigment extracted from the leaves of indigo-bearing plants. Its name comes from India, which was its main producer. It is the oldest natural source of blue dye known to humankind. For thousands of years, people have used indigo to dye natural fibers across continents and cultures: many ancient civilizations, including Mesopotamia, Egypt, Britain, Mesoamerica, Peru, Iran, and West Africa, have used it. The oldest indigo-dyed cloth discovered was in Peru and dates back 6,000 years. Most indigo dye produced today is synthetic, constituting around 80,000 tonnes each year, as of 2023. It is most commonly associated with the production of denim cloth and blue jeans, where its properties allow for effects such as stone washing and acid washing to be applied quickly.



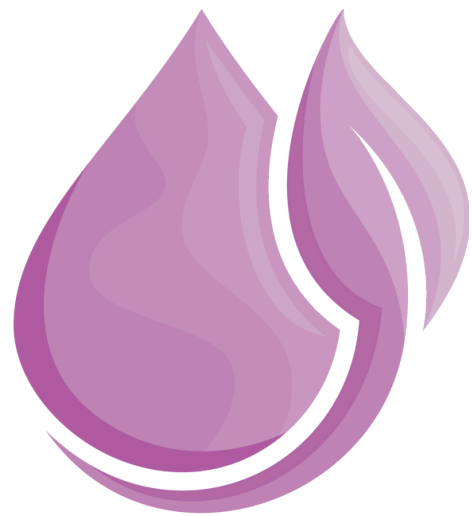


### Lifecycle

The life-cycle of a garment refers to the journey a clothing item takes from its creation to its disposal. This journey consists of several important stages, starting with extracting raw materials and moving on to fabric manufacturing, clothing manufacturing, retailing, use, end-of-life, and recycling or disposal.

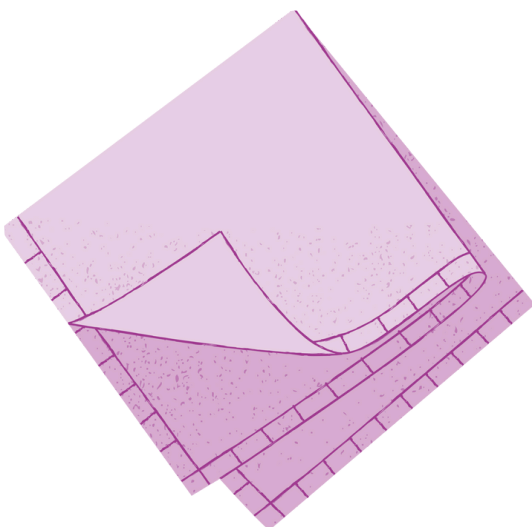
### Micro-droplets

Micro-droplets are tiny liquid droplets ranging from a few micrometers to a few nanometers. Due to their small size, they can exhibit unique phenomena and properties. They can be formed in various ways and have wide applications in fields like drug delivery, chemical analysis, and environmental monitoring. In the textile industry, they ensure precise and uniform coloring, better penetration of treatment substances, and proper coverage and adhesion on the textile surface. Overall, micro-droplets provide an efficient way to improve the functionality, aesthetics, and performance of textile products.



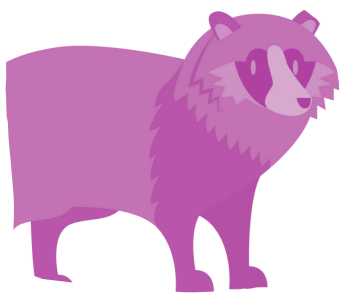
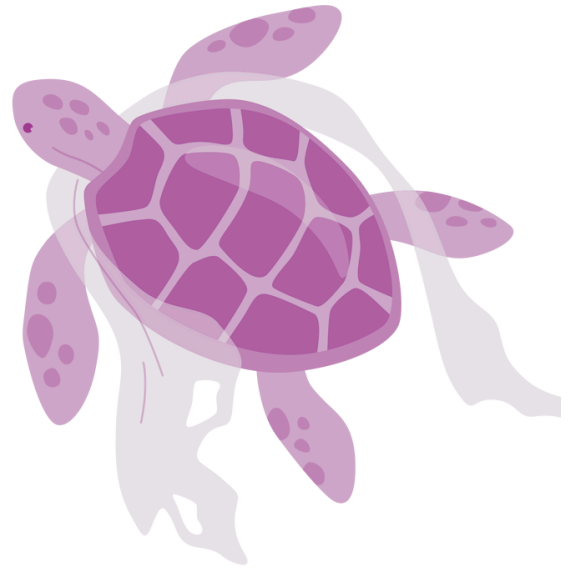
### Microfibers

Microfibers are tiny fibres of artificial origin with a diameter of less than 10 micrometres. However, fabrics and clothing, both man-made and natural, can shed particles during their production and life cycle, now known as microfibrils because of their small size. Microfibrils of synthetic origin are a significant cause of ocean pollution, posing a serious threat to marine life and the entire food chain, including humans. They can carry harmful chemicals that persist in the environment and can be ingested by marine life.



### Microplastics

Microplastics are tiny pieces of plastic that are less than 5 mm in size and can be found in the environment, especially in aquatic and marine ecosystems. Synthetic fibers like polyester, nylon, and acrylic are commonly used in about 60 % of clothing worldwide. When these fabrics are worn and washed, small pieces of the synthetic yarn, known as microfibers, are released into the environment. It is estimated that there are around 1.4 million trillion microfibers in our oceans.

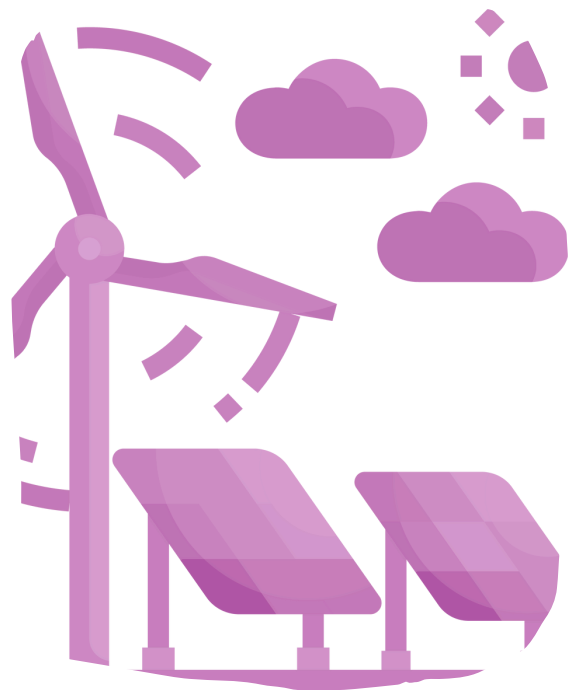


### Raccoon dog

The raccoon dog is a canid species that resembles a small fox and is found in East Asia. Its fur has markings similar to those of a raccoon, but it is more closely related to foxes. These animals are widespread in their natural habitat across Asia, but they have become invasive in Europe due to their introduction to the fur trade.

### Renewable/non-renewable resources

A renewable resource is a resource that can be naturally replenished over time, making it sustainable despite human consumption. However, proper management is crucial as overuse can deplete even renewable resources like water, wood, or food. Renewable resources are especially important for their potential to replace non-renewable, or finite, resources in energy production. They offer cleaner energy solutions than non-renewable resources such as coal and fossil fuels. Some examples of renewable resources also include the sun, wind, water, the earth's heat (geothermal), and biomass.





### Sable

The sable is a mammal that belongs to the family Mustelidae. It is similar to a marten and primarily inhabits the forest environments of Russia and northern Mongolia. The sable has a slender, elongated body, a tapered head, and a long, thick tail. Its fur is very fine, soft, and reddish-brown or grey. The sable is known for producing high-quality furs that were used in the past to create luxurious clothing.

### Sublimation

Sublimation is a sophisticated printing technique that allows you to transfer a design onto a surface, such as fabric, ceramics, metals, plastics, and wood, with impressive precision and resolution. The process uses heat and pressure to infuse the ink into the surface, producing a permanent, fade-resistant, and high-quality print that is not only vibrant but also long-lasting. This printing technique is most effective on materials with a surface coated with polyester or a polyester compound. The polyester coating allows the ink to deeply penetrate the surface, resulting in a more vivid and sharp image. Sublimation can also create a unique vintage worn-out effect on denim by removing the indigo dye from the fabric.



### Supply chain

A fashion supply chain refers to the series of processes involved in the production of a fashion item. These supply chains are intricate and involve various steps, such as sourcing raw materials, converting them into fibers and yarns, and turning those into fabrics and garments. Often, each step occurs in different countries, making traceability a complex issue, especially for large brands that offer a diverse range of products.

## Virtual clothing

It refers to virtual 3D clothing that is designed to fit both humans and digital avatars. Unlike traditional garments, these digital clothes are created using specialized 3D computer programs such as Blender and CLO3D, instead of fabric and textiles. Although virtual clothing has primarily been used in gaming, luxury brands have also adopted it to showcase new collections in the Metaverse, while some brands are implementing 3D virtual fitting and AR try-ons in their websites to reduce returns and the industry's carbon footprint.



## Tencel

Tencel is the registered trademark under which the Austrian company Lenzing marks its synthetic fibers made from cellulose, i.e. fibers obtained from natural raw materials such as beech wood pulp (TENCEL Modal) and eucalyptus wood pulp (TENCEL Lyocell). The production process involves using cellulose from trees grown in sustainable plantations, and the fibers are obtained through a low environmental impact process. Both TENCEL Modal and TENCEL Lyocell fibers are biodegradable.

## Utilitarian theory

Utilitarianism is a consequentialist ethical theory that evaluates the morality of actions based on the overall happiness or well-being they produce. In the context of animal ethics, utilitarianism is often applied to determine how animals should be treated and whether certain practices are morally justified.



## Zoonotic

The term zoonosis refers to any infectious disease that can be transmitted from animals to humans directly (skin contact, hair, eggs, blood or secretions) or indirectly (via other vector organisms or ingestion of infected food).

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