



Building an Environmentally Sustainable Business

We are working to build an environmentally responsible and sustainable business at Schoolblazer.

We have started by adopting a single core principle:

Durability = Sustainability

The best way to reduce the environmental impact from clothing is to manufacture fewer things and ensure that each item will last¹. We design all of our garments to be worn for at least 2 years – that's well over 100 times. In contrast, the average fashion garment is worn just 7 times before being discarded². This requires a clear and stringent approach to textile development, garment testing and quality control, but minimises the total cost for the planet and our customers.

As part of this we introduced a repair service in 2021 to enhance the longevity of our garments.

We do still need to produce new garments, so we are committed to building an environmentally responsible supply chain.

We have adopted five core initiatives to ensure that the items we produce under our Schoolblazer or Limitless brands to minimise our environmental impact. We know we could do more and plan to add more initiatives over time but we are a small part of a giant industry. These initiatives let us make the biggest impact quickly and help us drive wider industry change.



1. Sustainable Cotton

We are proud members of the Better Cotton Initiative³. The Better Cotton Initiative connects people and organisations throughout the cotton sector, from field to store, to promote measurable and continuing improvements for the environment, farming communities and the economies of cotton-producing areas. By buying cotton products from Schoolblazer, you're supporting the Better Cotton Initiative farmers who use water efficiently, care for soil health and natural habitats, reduce use of the most harmful chemicals and respect workers' rights and wellbeing. Better Cotton is sourced via a system of Mass Balance.

In 2022 over 75% of our cotton was sourced as Better Cotton. We are committed to sourcing 90% of our cotton as Better Cotton by the end of 2023 and as close to 100% as we can by 2024.



2. Recycled Polyester

Where we can, we plan to move to using recycled polyester. At present this fibre is more expensive and often doesn't perform as well as "new fibre", potentially compromising our "Durability = Sustainability" principle. This is a significant issue given the number of wears our garments experience, so we are proceeding carefully, working with reputable suppliers at the forefront of this technology and fully testing all our garments in use before adoption. We are also taking great care to ensure that any fibre with recycled claims is genuinely recycled – this is a real issue given the lack of any traceable chemical markers in these yarns and the opacity of the supplier base, many of whom are based in China.

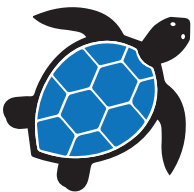
In 2022 almost 60% of our polyester came from verified recycled sources, principally plastic bottles. We are targeting 80% by the end of 2023 and 90% by 2024.



3. Clean Waste Water

Water pollution through the dyeing and finishing process is a massive global problem. We ensure that all of the factories supplying fabric to our supply chain have full water treatment plants and are fully inspected and compliant with the most stringent environmental legislation⁴.

Target: 100% Audited compliance across our mills supplying own label product.



4. Reduce Single Use Plastics

We have set ourselves ambitious targets to reduce the use of single-use plastics throughout our supply chain. We need to be careful as often these plastics are protecting our fabrics or garments during transport and simply eliminating them would lead to more damage and wastage, easily outweighing the environmental cost of the plastics and compromising our core, "Durability = Sustainability" principle. Where we need to continue to use SUPs we ensure that they are disposed of carefully and recycled where possible.

In 2020 we began to ship our jackets and other products in reusable outer packaging. This is returned to the factory after use, eliminating plastic bags.

After detailed trials on various options, including "naked shipping" with

no packaging, we began to move all of our garment production into paper bags. This protects the garment whilst eliminating these SUPs from our supply chain.

We have taken the decision to keep our shipping bags, which we use to send some products through the post to our customers, and the packaging protecting our fabrics during transport in Single Use Plastics at present. Our work shows that the potential environment impact from packaging failure and the subsequent damage to the fabrics or garments easily outweighs any possible damage from this packaging. However, we have ensured that these bags are made from recycled materials which can then be recycled again after use.

In 2022 we achieved a 50% Reduction in SUP vs 2018 benchmark and are targeting an 80% reduction by 2024.



5. Reduce our Carbon Footprint

We are very conscious of our energy usage. We are working hard on all aspects of our operation to minimise our Carbon Footprint. Where we cannot, we have partnered with Climate partner, the leading Carbon management company (www.climatepartner.com) to offset the carbon dioxide that we produce.

We now offset 100% of our Operational CO2. We are on-track to reduce our core operational CO2 usage by 20% by the end of 2024 with energy saving measures in our warehouse and offices.

Sources

- 1 – Wrap, Sustainable Clothing Action Plan
<http://www.wrap.org.uk/sustainable-textiles>
- 2 – Barnardos
www.barnardos.org.uk
- 3 – Better Cotton Initiative
www.bettercotton.org
- 4 – Oeko-Tex Standard Detox to Zero
www.oeko-tex.com