

# Education for Sustainability Transformation at LCF

Compiled by Centre for Sustainable Fashion  
In consultation with Hilary Grainger, Hannah Clayton and Paul Yuille

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## Context for Education for Sustainability Transformation at LCF

Education for Sustainability in Fashion requires long-term commitment to a transformational and evolutionary process of change, that can take place inside and outside of formal teaching and learning, the university buildings, and disciplinary borders. This process involves a range of scales, methods and locations where ideas can seed and grow. It involves the imagining and conceiving of cultural, nature-based, societal and economic prosperity, requiring a deep shift in current thinking and practice. LCF has the opportunity and imperative to explore creatively the role of fashion; its artistic, culture-shaping and business practices in the context of a changing world. Human induced climate change that is taking place on our planet and the widening gap between wealth and poverty is jeopardising our fellows and our futures. The poorest suffer the most from climate change, whilst the wealthiest create the greatest contribution to it. Fashion is represented across the problems and opportunities of our times, and LCF's role as educators in fashion is a vital one.

LCF has been exploring this multidimensional challenge for a number of years, through the Better Lives initiatives, through the work at CSF, through the Sustainability Coordinator's work in estates and the LCF community, and elsewhere across the College. LCF has received recognition in pioneering the discipline of Fashion Design for Sustainability on a number of international platforms; research in this area is recognised as world leading, as are curriculum and business initiatives based on fashion, design and sustainability. LCF has partnered with and been funded by globally recognised bodies to carry out work specifically in this area. However, whilst ground-breaking in places, there is much to be done before LCF can be recognised as change-makers for future prosperity. Despite the commitment and actions of LCF's Head of College, and the work of Centre for Sustainable Fashion, a number of tutors, and students, LCF has yet to fully demonstrate that its education is based on principles of ecological and social equity.

To date, formal sustainability initiatives at LCF take place at the level of research, enterprise, MA and BA teaching, specific course units, curriculum projects, a prompt in the course validation process, competitions, Green Week and student led initiatives; but these actions are neither systemic to the workings of the college or explicit in its measuring of success.

This document recommends that this vital work is complemented and extended to define and build breadth and depth in fashion education for sustainability, its pedagogies, experiences and ambitions, to make more distinct LCF's transformational education. UAL strategic priorities for teaching and learning have been reviewed in relation to sustainability to outline:

- The current state of affairs at LCF;
- Identified limitations;
- Opportunities for LCF to embrace and embed a transformed educational experience.

## Plans for a Transformed Curriculum through Education for Sustainability

This plan has been developed by Centre for Sustainable Fashion, and has evolved through an extended period of discussion with Professor Frances Corner, PVC/LCF Head of College, LCF's Executive Group, Deans, staff and UAL colleagues. It draws on work developed with and by other UK HEIs in creating whole institutional sustainability, and its final version created and agreed by a cross college team including Professor Hilary Grainger, Dean of Quality Assurance and Academic Development, Hannah Clayton, Director of Internal & External Relations, Paul Yuille, Director of International, Professor Dilys Williams, Director of Centre for Sustainable Fashion, and Nina Stevenson, Education for Sustainability Projects Manager.

The College has an unparalleled opportunity to make distinct its commitment to Education for Sustainability in fashion, as a means to lead the field and to contribute to the enhancement of student experience, business development, social cohesion and the creative sector contribution towards an equitable and holistically prosperous future. It will take the participation of its greatest assets, its tutors, students, leaders, administrators, strategists, researchers and other members of its community to realise the possibilities that our times offer and need.

**Realisation of this plan by the College community will be guided by the above mentioned cross college team. Close coordination will take place with Susanna Burleigh, Director of College Administration, linking it with other college plans.**