

13th of March 2024

Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee  
Welsh Parliament,  
Cardiff Bay,  
Cardiff,  
CF99 1SN

Dear Esteemed Members of the Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee,

I write to you today not just as a concerned constituent, but as a passionate advocate for the well-being of our planet and the preservation of our communities. The urgency of our environmental crisis demands immediate action, particularly when it comes to addressing the detrimental impacts of the fashion industry on our environment.

The fashion industry stands as a significant contributor to pollution, resource depletion, and waste generation, casting a shadow over the sustainability of our planet. Yet, amidst these challenges, there exists a beacon of hope, a path towards a more sustainable future through actionable solutions. A key one in my opinion is a circular economy which includes the following.

Circular fashion principles offer a multifaceted approach to addressing the environmental challenges posed by the fashion industry. By prioritising the concepts of reduce, reuse, and recycle, circularity endeavours to revolutionise the way we perceive and interact with clothing. This paradigm shift emphasises the importance of extending the lifespan of garments through various means, including repair, upcycling, and sharing economies. By instilling a culture of conscious consumption, circular fashion principles encourage consumers to reconsider their purchasing habits and opt for pre-owned or second-hand items whenever possible. This not only diverts clothing from landfills but also reduces the demand for new production, thereby curbing the extraction of raw materials and minimising the associated environmental footprint. Moreover, initiatives like clothing swaps, where individuals exchange items they no longer need, foster community engagement and promote the idea of collaborative consumption. Similarly, thrift stores and online platforms dedicated to pre-owned fashion provide avenues for individuals to access high-quality clothing at affordable prices while simultaneously diverting textiles from the waste stream. By embracing circular fashion principles, we not only mitigate the ecological strain imposed by fast fashion but also foster a more sustainable and resilient industry. Through collective action and a commitment to circularity, we can pave the way for a future where fashion serves as a force for positive environmental change.

However, it is imperative to acknowledge the challenges and complexities inherent in these solutions, ranging from accessibility and affordability to scalability. Overcoming these hurdles necessitates a comprehensive and adaptable approach that considers diverse perspectives and stakeholder interests. As stewards of our environment and representatives of our communities, I implore the Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee to champion policies that promote sustainability within the fashion industry, prioritising environmental preservation above all else. By rallying behind initiatives that address the multifaceted challenges we face, we can pave the way towards a more sustainable and equitable future for generations to come. Some simple ideas to initiate include implementing tax incentives for companies that adopt circular business models, establishing partnerships between fashion brands and recycling facilities to ensure the proper disposal and repurposing of textile waste, subsidising the cost of eco-friendly materials to encourage their use in garment production, and launching public awareness campaigns to educate consumers about the benefits of circular fashion and responsible consumption habits. These measures, along with broader policy initiatives, can lay the foundation for a thriving circular fashion economy that not only minimises environmental impact but also fosters innovation, economic growth, and social responsibility within the industry.

Thank you for your unwavering dedication to this critical cause. I eagerly await your support and decisive action on behalf of our community and the planet we call home.

Yours Sincerely,  
Faye Baugh