

Garments that are no longer being worn and waste materials can be used to make new clothing and accessories. Here are some ideas from our workshops about how to work with clothing and waste materials. We used clothes from our own wardrobes and leather waste from a car upholsterer.



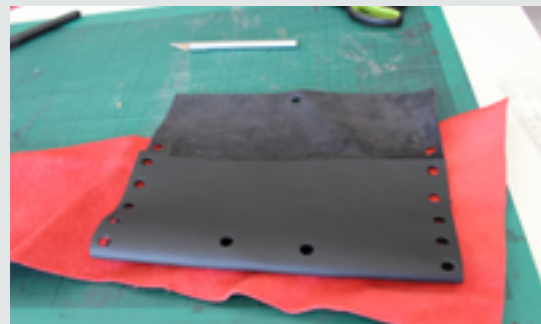
Sketching to plan changes to garments



Embroidery on, breathable' perforated leather



Using the sketchbook to plan alterations



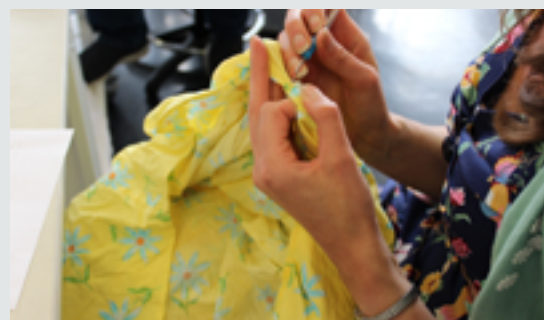
Holes punched in leather to be laced together



An apron made from an old shirt



A phone cover made out of waste leather from a car upholsterer



Unpicking seams to remake a garment or maximise the amount of fabric available for a new garment



Experiments with making forms by cutting and punching leather

Increasingly designers are working with waste materials to make new items:

Antiform are based in Bristol and work with textile waste.
www.antiformonline.co.uk

Elvis and Kresse make designer accessories out of waste materials including fire hoses and leather waste.
www.elvisandkresse.com

There are also a number of scrap stores around the UK that redistribute clean waste from businesses for use for children's play and craft projects.

ReusefulUK provides a directory so you can find your nearest scrapstore
www.reusefuluk.org/scrapstore-locations/directory



Designing a Sensibility for Sustainable Clothing



Re-make, Re-purpose, Upcycle



S4S – DESIGNING A SENSIBILITY FOR SUSTAINABLE CLOTHING

‘**S4S – Designing a Sensibility for Sustainable Clothing**’ is a ground breaking collaborative research project funded by the **Arts and Humanities Research Council**. It is co-hosted by academics from the Department of Politics at the **University of Exeter’s** Environment and Sustainability Institute (ESI) in Penryn and the Fashion Department of the School of Art at the **University of Wolverhampton** in the West Midlands.

The **collaboration** has involved **community spaces, NGOs, local clothing brands, local designers and crafts people, film-makers and members of the public**. Between February and October 2018, it engaged **fifty members** of the public in **Cornwall** and the **West Midlands** in a series of **workshops** making fabric, and making, mending and modifying clothes.

A range of **innovative social science and arts methodologies** have been used to explore whether these **workshops** have **encouraged people to think, feel and act more sustainably in relation to clothing**. This set of leaflets shows a snapshot of the processes and outcomes from our **workshops**.

RE-MAKE, RE-PURPOSE, UPCYCLE

This was the final set of workshops held in the West Midlands, and they were hosted by the Wolverhampton School of Art fashion Department in their Fashion Lab. They were facilitated by Jo Bloodworth with support from Hanny Newton, Pat Dillon and Jack Roberts. The aim was to rethink, re-make, upcycle and re-purpose items that are no longer in use, re-activating our wardrobes and extending garment life. Fifteen people brought in garments, which were swapped and transformed based on strategies and techniques that Jo has developed with fashion students. In the second week, Jo introduced waste leather donated to the department by Aldridge Trimming (www.aldridge.co.uk), a family run business in Wolverhampton that specialises in classic car trimmings and upholstery. In the remaining workshops people worked on a range of projects combining the clothing and waste leather including making bags, accessories and garments.

‘I don’t think it’s hard to make the changes; I think it’s more about awareness and mind-set. Once you’ve got a greater awareness of the impact, you want to make those changes. And they’re not necessarily big changes and they’re not difficult to do because any change you make that is more sustainable is a positive change and I suppose that maybe it snowballs that you might just choose to start with your clothes. Or, from a sustainability point of view, look at how much water you’re using or how much electricity you’re using and how small changes can make a difference.’

The workshop schedule included:

- 1) Ice-breaker: Jo gave a talk about sustainable fashion design and creative approaches to upcycling and repurposing clothing, followed by a workshop exploring repurposing ideas for participants’ garments.
- 2) Skills focus: sewing machine skills, design skills, re-working garments, styling garments, leather working (using punches and leather work tools).
- 3) Participants worked on their own garments combining leather working with upcycling and remaking items.

Participants made a diverse range of items including clothing, bags, accessories and household items. This was also an opportunity to utilise techniques learned in previous workshops. Some employed their visible mending and embroidery skills to embellish leather, whilst others incorporated knitted elements. Towards the end of people were in particularly reflective mode. Their observations, signalled by the quotation reproduced here, suggest a nuanced and growing understanding of what a sensibility for sustainable clothing might mean. This included its benefits, challenges, and appeal, framed through the lens of participants’ involvement in the S4S workshops and related methods, and their own life experience.

Website: sites.exeter.ac.uk/s4s - Twitter: @S4sSensibility - Instagram: [s4s_sensibility](https://www.instagram.com/s4s_sensibility) - Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/S4sSensibility> - S4S Shropshire and West Midlands: <https://www.facebook.com/S4sStitchedup>