

Textile Recovery Educational Event Final Report

CalRecycle's Recycling Market Development Zone (RMDZ) Program combines recycling with economic development to fuel new businesses, expand existing ones, create jobs, and divert waste from landfills.

Co-funded by technical assistance from the RMDZ Program and LASAN, CPSC, on behalf of Los Angeles County Public Works, hosted a textile recovery educational event for relevant regional stakeholders, including brands, manufacturers, designers, local government, haulers, thrift stores, educators, and other sponsors, that provided a community building opportunity to discuss and plan for diversion activities within the Zone.

CPSC, in conjunction with LA Department of Water & Power, Homeboy Threads, and Rag Royalty, facilitated the recovery and processing of retired uniforms into upcycled bags.

Project Overview

- Created **event outreach materials** such as social media and website content.
- Placed an **advertisement** with the **California Apparel News.**
- Collaborated with **6 textile stakeholders** within LA County.
- Coordinated the **upcycling of 518 lbs of LA DPW uniforms** to bags.
- Hosted a **recovered textile exhibit** in Los Angeles with **95 attendees.**
- Secured **16 event sponsors.**
- Reached out to **city officials, waste generators, brands, manufacturers, designers, and nonprofit organizations.**

Objectives & Evaluation Metrics

I. Total number of event attendees.	95 event attendees 18 exhibitors 16 speakers & 16 sponsors 3 collaborators & 3 co-hosts
II. Breakdown of event attendees by relevant textile/recycling manufacturing businesses.	17 Local government attendees 17 Educators/students 15 Designers/upcyclers 14 Non-profit organizations 10 Brands 9 Textile/apparel manufacturers
III. Media outreach, including media content, advertisements, and event information.	12 speaker graphics 7 sponsor graphic and flyers 6 exhibitor graphics 2 recorded podcasts at event 1 event flyer & 1 event website
IV. Outreach to local businesses, advertisements in local news outlets, and targeted social media.	56 direct emails to invite speakers, exhibitors, brands, manufacturers, NGOs, and non-profits to event 1 advertisement in the California Apparel News
V. Number of business leads or referrals generated from the event.	8 business leads/referrals from attendees and speakers
VI. Estimated amount of textiles diverted from landfills as a result of increased awareness and participation by businesses attending the event.	513 lbs of uniforms collected, 329 lbs upcycled, and 94 lbs recycled, remaining on hold for future projects 300 lbs of diverted denim upcycled into bags

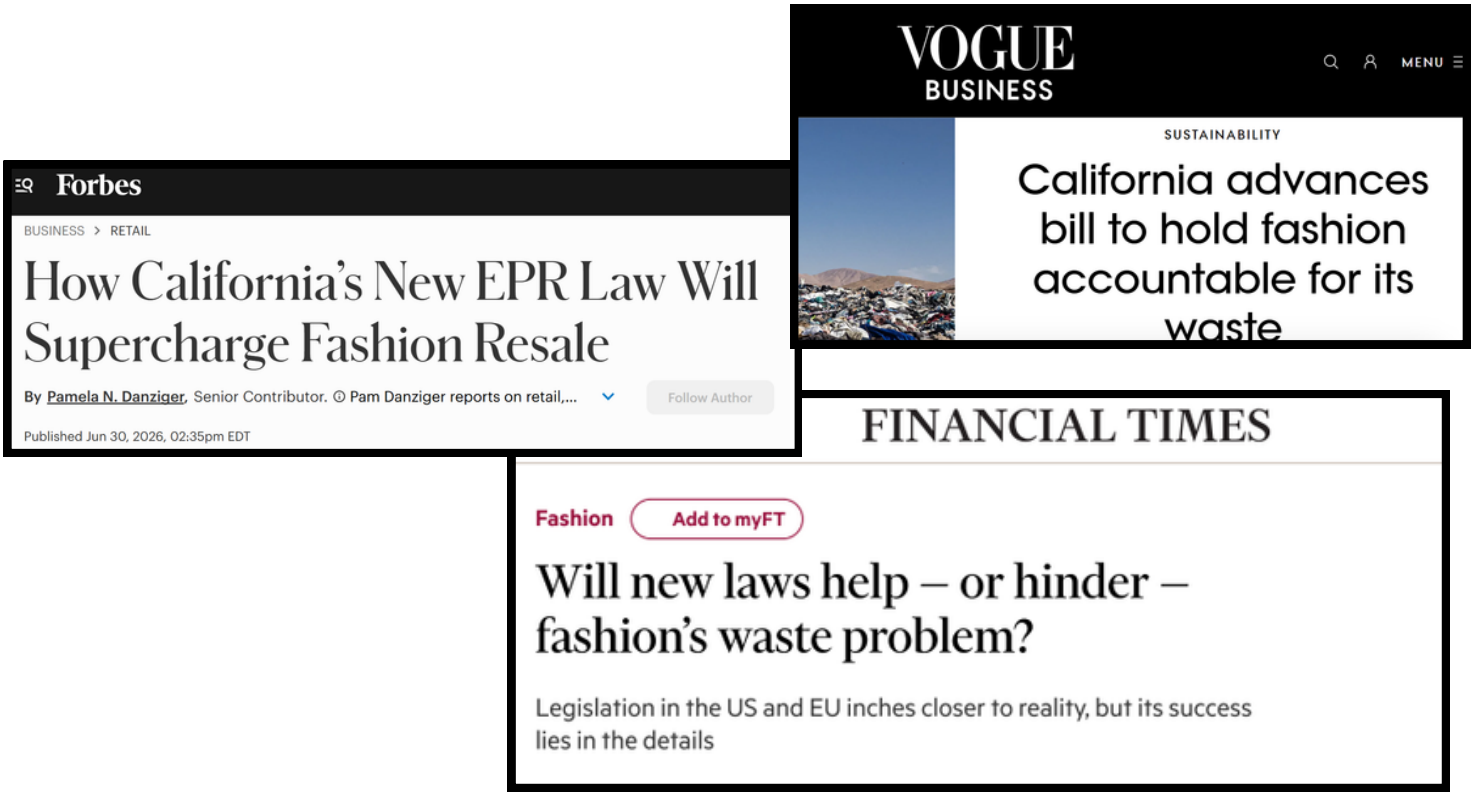
Background and SB 707 Impacts

Textiles are a top material in the waste stream. California was the first state in the nation to add regulations to reduce textile waste.

CPSC-sponsored bill, SB 707, established an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) program for textiles, creating a producer-funded mechanism to expand collection, sorting, processing, and reuse markets. Funding for the program will begin in 2031.

For **Los Angeles County**, this legislation offers a pathway, through future funding opportunities, to **build local infrastructure** that keeps materials and jobs within the region, advances the County's zero-waste and climate objectives, and reduces dependence on unregulated export markets.

A textile EPR program **supports thrifts, collectors, sorters, and alteration/cleaning businesses** who are already doing the work to divert textiles from the landfill.



The Textile Recovery Educational Event hosted in LA **educated and prepared businesses to thrive under SB 707.**

Textile Recovery Education Event

June 10th, 2026 at the Los Angeles Cleantech Incubator





"Empower and fund repair/thrift businesses to have a successful city-run, commercial textile recovery program"

Post-Event Survey Feedback:

"Inspired, Motivated, Engaged"

"Informative"

"Interactive"







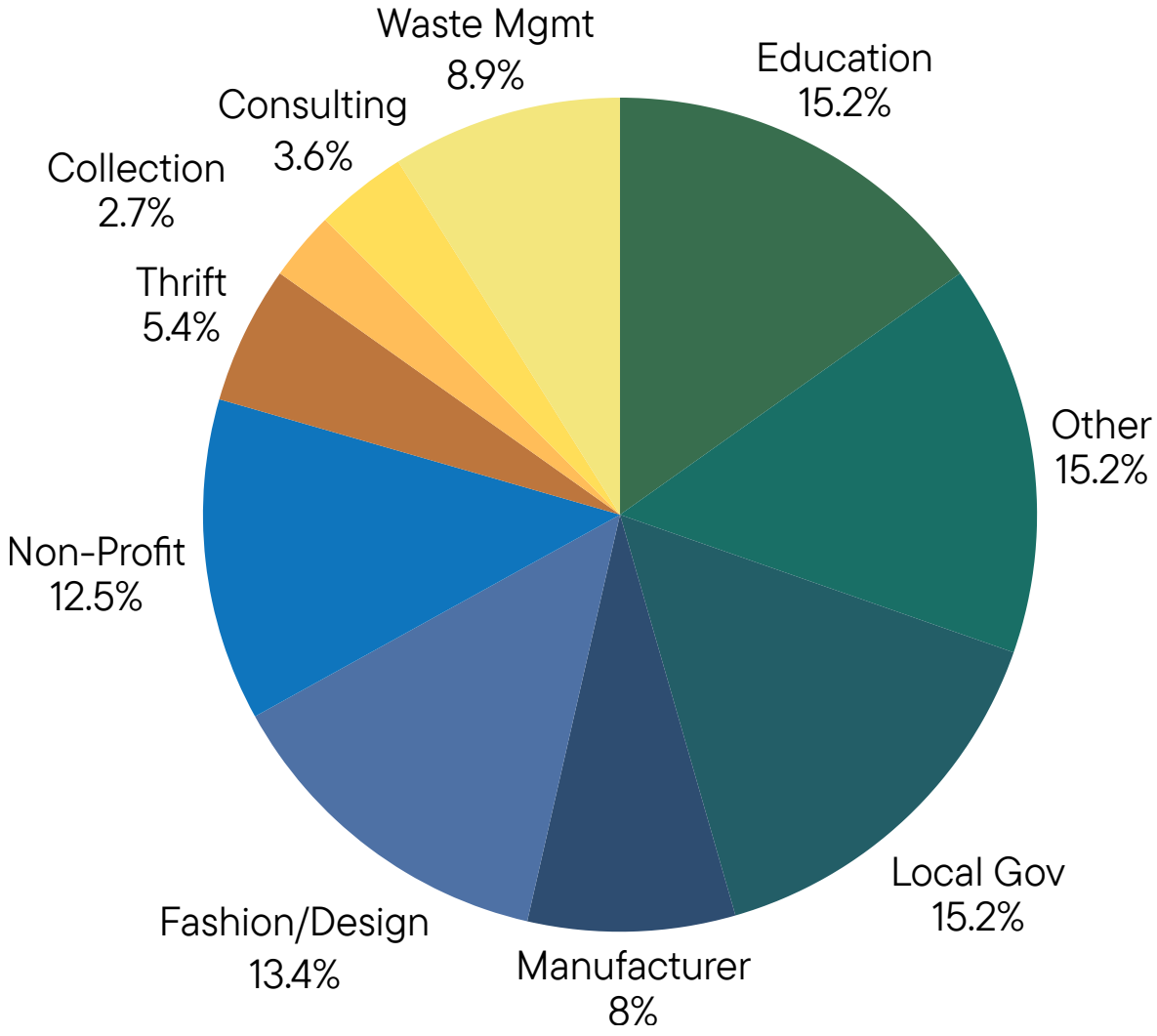


"People want to collaborate!"

"Engage with the general public as well as industry professionals"

Snapshot of Event Attendees

With 112 pre-registrations, the event gathered a total of **95 attendees**.



Examples of Attending Organizations included:

Santa Monica College

CalRecycle

Ethix Ventures

Sustainable Entertainment Alliance

Earth Boutique

SCS Engineers

Trashie

Sustainablek9

Circular Textile Alliance

NASA Services

Speakers & Panels

Hard-To-Manage Materials: Moderated by CPSC



Eorte

aberdeen fabrics, inc.

LOS ANGELES FIBER

SUAY

Landbell USA
A Landbell Group Company

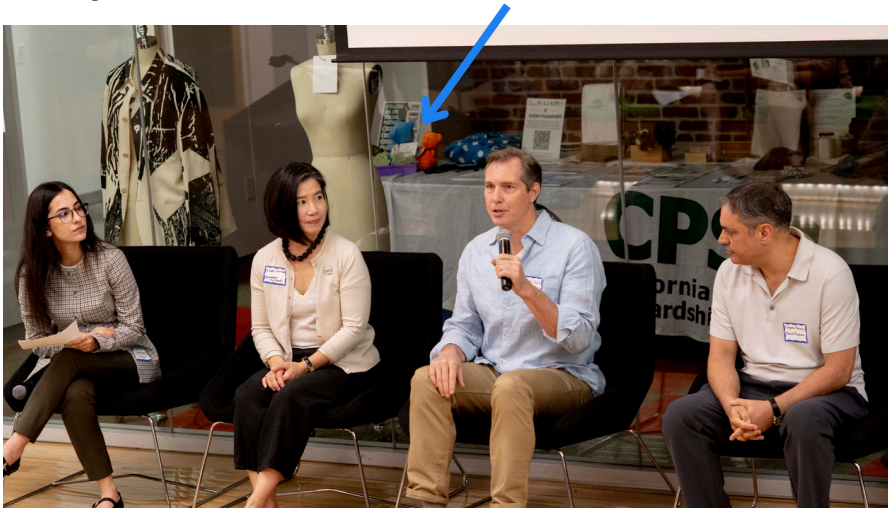
HOMEBOY threads

RAG ROYALTY
SUSTAINABLE APPAREL CONSULTANCY

Upcycling and SB 707: Moderated by CPSC



Recycled Cotton Fabric Sourced from LA: Moderated by LASAN



environment LA SANITATION
CITY OF LOS ANGELES

NATURE USA

LAGUNA FABRICS

LOOPTWORKS

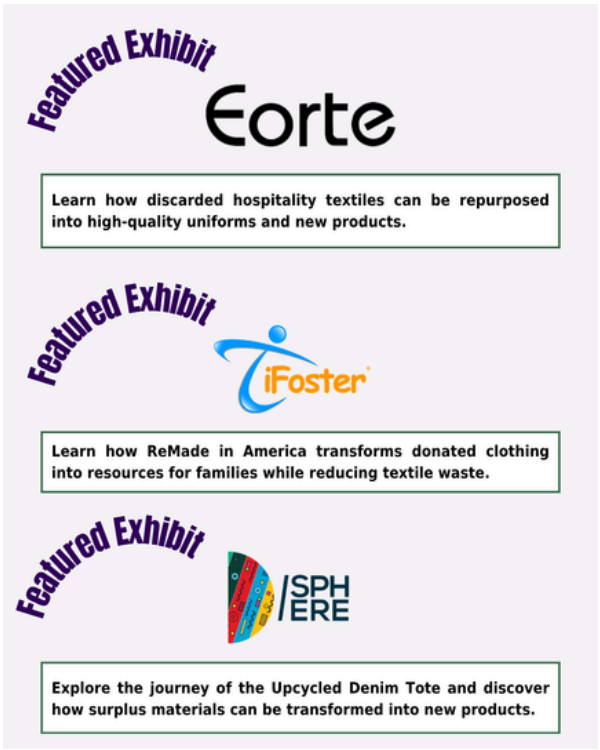
HOMEBOY threads

Outreach/Educational Content

To promote the event, CPSC prepared **multiple graphics, an event flyer, a website, and an advertisement.** CPSC further made **56 direct emails** to invite local brands, designers, manufacturers, non-profits, government agencies, and educators.



Example of exhibitor graphic.



Example of speaker graphic.





CPSC placed an advertisement for the event with the **California Apparel News** that reached over **24,000 subscribers.**

Outreach/Educational Content

Event Website Snapshots:







[Event Website Link]

Thank You Graphic



Exhibits and Activities

CPSC California Product Stewardship Council

CPSC leads the state in unique waste management programs, including leading LA Sanitation's multi-year initiative on textile recovery. CPSC sponsored California's new Textile EPR law and leads pilot projects throughout the state. Stop by the table to see the recycled cotton fabric we developed with LASAN and other opportunities to process

environment LA SANITATION CITY OF LOS ANGELES LA Industry

The City of Los Angeles generates 71,898 tons of textiles annually, representing about 6% of the landfill waste stream and 2% of recyclable waste stream, both of the commercial waste stream. The City of Los Angeles has long been committed to diverting textile waste and has pursued conceptual studies on textile waste since

Public Works LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Los Angeles County Public Works is one of the largest municipal public works agencies in the United States, providing vital 21st Century infrastructure and essential services to more than 10 million people across a 4,000-square-mile regional service area. They are the zone administrators for CalRecycle's Recycling Market Development

Upcycled Bags

Through this pilot, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP), Homeboy Threads, and Rag Royalty, facilitated the recovery and processing of approximately **600 retired LADWP uniforms.** After sorting, this amount estimated at roughly **329 pounds of material diverted and upcycled into bags.**

The bags were given out to attendees at the LA Recovered Textile Exhibit event. Attendees had the opportunity to **decorate their bags at the upcycled charm bar station.**











There are over **300 registered garment factories** in unincorporated LA County. Many willing to work with upcycled and recycled materials.

Upcycled Denim Totes

During this pilot, two custom upcycled denim tote bags were made from **diverted denim waste from Reformation.**

Working with two designers, Rag Royalty and D-Sphere, they turned the faulty denim into tote bags.



Upcycled totes are a great model for events, such as conferences or large sporting events, like LA28.



Design process working with Cut-Sew Factories

Completed denim totes designed by Rag Royalty

HOCKING HILLS GARMENT CENTER

EXPERIENTIAL JOURNEY

FROM DEADSTOCK MATERIAL, DEFECTIVE INVENTORY TO UPCYCLED TOTES

/SPHERE
Design. Upcycle. Impact.

Sustainable fashion. Second chances. Real impact.

1 DHANA DESIGNS THE STYLE
Dhana provides the pattern and creates the style for our upcycled tote.



Dhana
PROVIDER
Provides pattern & creates the style.

2 PREPROCESSING
Homeboy Threads sorts, inspects, and prepares the materials—ensuring quality and readiness for transformation.



HOMEBOY THREADS
PREPROCESSOR
Prepares & empowers through meaningful work.

3 DESIGN-LED DECONSTRUCTION & MATERIAL TRANSFORMATION
HHGC's team deconstructs the denim and materials based on the patterns and transforms each piece, optimizing fabric use to reduce textile waste with maximum impact.



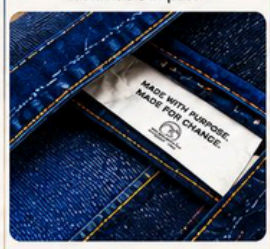
HOCKING HILLS GARMENT CENTER
DESIGN & TRANSFORMATION
Deconstructs, transforms, & optimizes every piece for maximum impact.

4 PRODUCTION WITH PURPOSE
Skilled artisans—many with lived experience—sew each tote with care, pride, and healing hands.



HOCKING HILLS GARMENT CENTER
MADE WITH PURPOSE
Crafted by our community. Built on second chances.

5 QUALITY & SUSTAINABILITY
Durability & Sustainability Standards ensure our totes meet the highest standards for safety, durability, and sustainable impact.



CPSC California Product Stewardship Council.
DURABILITY & SUSTAINABILITY STANDARDS
Ensuring quality, safety & impact.

6 DIGITIZATION & CUSTOMIZATION
Pattern is digitized into tote template with panels for users to customize one-of-a-kind denim tote.



/SPHERE
FUTURE COLLABORATION, INFINITE POSSIBILITIES, STORYTELLING

PEOPLE
Creating jobs. Restoring dignity. Building stronger communities.

PLANET
Upcycling deadstock. Reducing waste. Protecting our earth.

PURPOSE
More than a tote. It's a movement. It's a second chance.

THANK YOU FOR WEARING THE CHANGE.

Dress Forms: Upcycled Displays



Sustainable dress forms **manufactured in LA** by: GRENEKER

The event had **10 upcycled and recycled designs** on display from the following brands and organizations:

LAGUNA FABRICS

WHEN SIMON MET RALPH

naia™ from Eastman

Eorte

THREAD HAUS

ENNA

Lab Denim



RE/ASSEMBLY

Event Interactive Activities

AFFLARE
WHAT COMES AROUND

Charm Bar & Denim Bag Decor



With donations from Goodwill Southern California and the Salvation Army, Afflare Co. coordinated an **upcycled charm bar** for attendees to **create keychains and decorate their upcycled bags.**



All materials diverted from:

Goodwill Southern California

THE SALVATION ARMY





FASHION IS OUTRAGEOUS

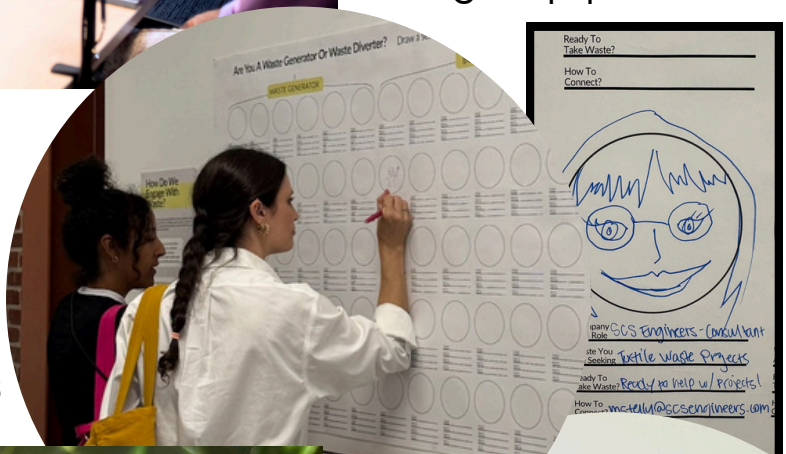
Mapping Needs, Challenges, & Connections



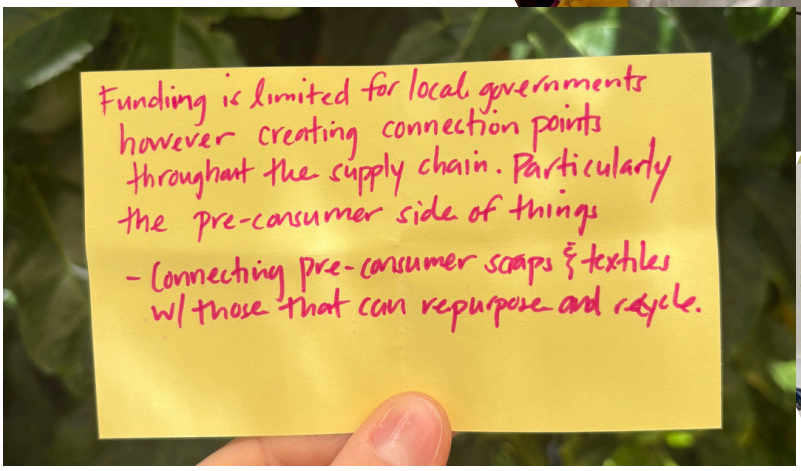
Fashion is Outrageous designed multiple interactive activities for attendees to **showcase their background and involvement with textiles.** Activities included: profile mapping, waste knotting, and group podcasts.

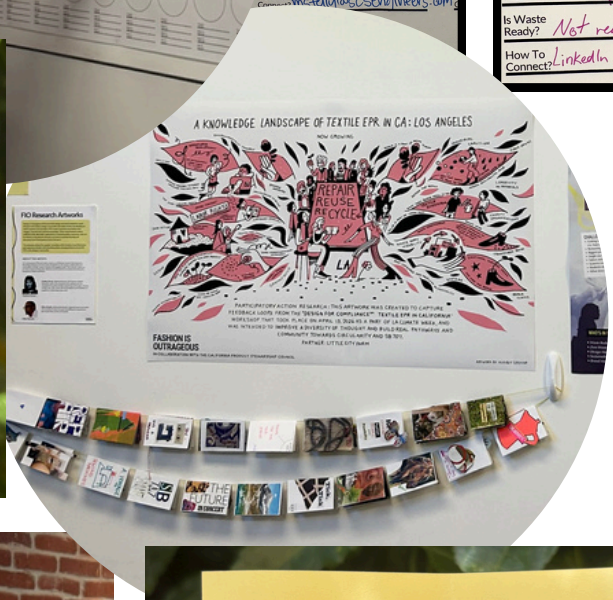
Podcast interviews:

- Looptworks
- Landbell - PRO
- Goodwill So Cal
- Aberdeen Fabrics

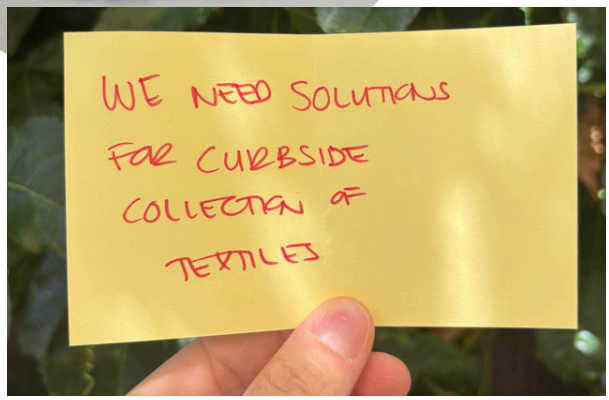












Garment Repairs & Dyeing

Circular Fashion LA provided a **“ReDye to ReLove”** workshop to revive stained, faded, or outdated garments.





They further offered **on-site repair services** such as patching, knit shaving, resewing seams and hems, & elastic replacement or refitting.



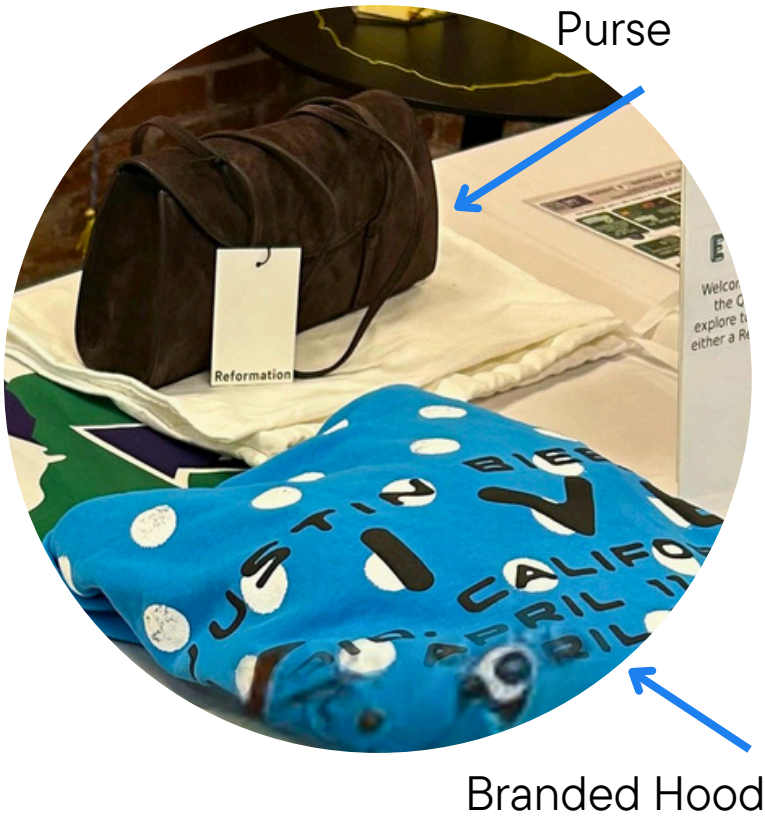


Attendees were able to **bring in items for repair** and drop them off at the Circular Fashion LA truck. A **premium secondhand shop** was also on display for attendees to look through and purchase items.

Event Passport Survey

To encourage interaction amongst attendees and the exhibits, CPSC created an **"Event Passport"** filled with event trivia questions. Everyone who filled out the form were entered into a raffle. Two winners were selected to win either a **Reformation purse or a branded hoodie.** Both donated prizes were manufactured in Los Angeles.





Event Passport Questions/Responses Included:

Share something new you learned today regarding textile reuse, repair, and recovery.

"Re-dying as an option to give clothing a second appearance and life"

"I learned that recycled materials are being used to create clothing for unhoused people that doubles as a sleeping bag."

Received 10 responses total!



Upload a picture of the upcycled denim SWAG bags.

Event Outcomes

This event focused on identifying **existing markets and opportunities** for textile reuse, repair, and recycling. As a result of this event, partnerships, connections, and conversations were formed, **aiming to invest in the markets within LA County** to prepare for the implementation of SB 707 and creation of collection systems.





Textile collector meeting an upcycler





Upcycler meeting a textile manufacturer

Examples of Business Leads and Referrals

CPSC quantified the number of business leads by counting the emails and texts that included or thanked CPSC for a specific outcome such as:

Haulers meeting recyclers

Upcyclers meeting brands

Waste generators meeting the EPR program operator

Recommendations



- **Participate in CPSC's LA textile working group and engage in regional textile education**
  - Ensure the success of these initiatives by dedicating County staff to join CPSC's quarterly textile calls, CalRecycle workshops, and the plethora of educational events in the region.



- **Regional Government Coordination**
  - Achieve efficient textile management by synchronizing effort across the County's specialized teams and state agencies like Econ Development, General Services, GO-Biz, and CalRecycle to bridge the gap between regional infrastructure and legislative mandates.



- **Reconsider Government Purchases to Drive Regional Textile Markets**
  - Align purchases of uniforms, coveralls, and towels with recycled-content and upcycled designs, effectively utilizing the County's purchasing power.
  - Hold laundries accountable for repair and recycling contract requirements.
  - **Lead by example, proving that upcycling and recycling have viable commercial markets.**



- **Adopt Local Programs to Drive Markets**
  - Support clothing distribution programs for social services from regional collection programs.
  - Require retailers offer repaired and recycled items at their stores and online.

Next Steps

- Host more **educational events** for various audiences such as schools, thrift stores, and local businesses.
- Engage in **extended producer responsibility regulations** to implement the textile program in LA County.
- Recruit local businesses to join **CPSC's STRAT, a free Textile Taskforce** and active Working Groups.
- Work with **established collectors and local thrifts** to bolster repair programming.
- **Pilot textile reuse and repair** of collected materials before the LA 2028 Summer Olympics.

Resources

Website Updates for CPSC and LA County Public Works

Social Media Campaign

CPSC Textile Resource Map