Measures for Sustainable Development in Leather Products Industries

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Climate anxiety is emerging, alongside a desire to actively limit, or even reverse, catastrophic damage to the planet’s ecosystem.

Source: UNIDO, The Framework for Sustainable Leather Manufacture
The linear economy based on take, use, dispose is broken.

**Circularity is the new reality**

Source: UNIDO, The Framework for Sustainable Leather Manufacture
New business models that avoid waste generation

The birth of the ethical consumers - who are embracing sustainability through longer-lasting products.
LESS IS THE NEW MORE- Reuse Revolutionaries

Companies are selling spare parts, teaching consumers how to repair products and launching buy-back schemes to recover materials.

Recycling is no longer enough. Reuse Revolutionaries are now looking into ways to decrease their footprint with disruptive business models becoming mainstream. The reuse economy, where materials and products are reused several times, is booming.
Sustainability is everybody’s responsibility
Consumers, investors and stakeholders are starting to demand accountability for environmental impact.

So what is your sustainability quotient?
Shifting business values

New
Cheap
Fast
Easy
Attractive

Unique
Guaranteed resale value
Durable
Modular
Attractive and sustainable
Resale is Capturing Market Share

- 2% annual growth from $360B to $400B
- 15% annual growth from $20B to $41B

2017 2022

Retail apparel Resale apparel
BE COUNTED IN: As the resale industry continues to scale, prevent yourself being disintermediated.

Also, the circular economy models will see Secondary Waste Retail come to the fore, with both businesses and consumers elevating unwanted resources.
NEW LINKAGES: Take control of the resale process through partnerships with marketplaces including the customer.

THE NEIGHBORHOOD TAILOR IS YOUR NEW COMPETITOR: Begin to build closed loop mechanics, growing the infrastructure that helps consumers develop the habit of bringing old clothing back to a store for reuse.
YES TO ACCESSIBILITY, NO TO OWNERSHIP: Redevelop product quality to withstand multiple owners. Build products that hold their value through the resale, readoption or donation

CUT THE FLAB: Build strategies that take control of changing attitudes to excess – find ways to make them a benefit, or work towards removing them from your business.
So, What does this mean?

The Pressure of sustainability will be felt on the supply chain.

Social and Technical audits would now prioritize sustainability measures and parameters among the list – Higgs Index.

Export houses may have to disrupt current ways of working and introduce a sustainable model covering every aspect - Product, People, Process and Physical environment.
Product

Raw Material - Fashion’s Biological Revolution and other Material revolution, Advancements in Leather & leather Tanning and Leather Alternatives and other raw materials are driving sustainability. To name a few:

1. Tileather
2. Green Leather
3. Bio Fabricated leather
4. Pinatex
5. Lab-engineered pigment producing bacteria (“coelicolor”)
Prepare yourself for:

1. Homogeneity of material quality and smart materials with very low emissions.
2. Blurring of gap between Leather and other fabrics.
3. Precision in raw material consumption leading to zero or near zero wastage.
4. Shrinking production cycle time, energy economy.
Finished Product

Prepare yourself for:
1. Techno Designs and Techno Leather products
2. Highly durable products with transparency in development process
3. Combined with less production time would mean longer lean periods
4. Slow or zero fashion
5. Product Customization
6. Exclusive Recycling / Upcycling / repair factories in the buyers' country
People (Planet and Profit)

Co-create sustainable practices with employees – Share ownership

Change in mindset – A sustainability attitude. Begins with society, family and organization.
## Process and Physical Environment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category/Process stage</th>
<th>Cleaner methods</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EMS</td>
<td>A licensed or own Environmental Management System, Incorporating OSH and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in place</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Water</strong></td>
<td>Strict water monitoring/control and savings measures at process, department and company level; batch washing, recycling</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Energy</strong></td>
<td>Usual consumption/savings measures combined with the energy from renewable sources, heat pumps, etc.</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>RSL</th>
<th>Apply the global strictest Restricted Substances and SVHC lists and avoid any limitations and risks in exports of leather and leather products</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Strict segregation of acidic and sulphide containing streams, H₂S monitors in place, staff trained</td>
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<tr>
<td>OSH</td>
<td>Noise, vibrations, malodour control; appropriate lighting and ventilation, sanitary facilities</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Occupational Safety and Health measures, general and personal (Personal Protection Equipment, PPE), Including rigorously implemented and observed training</td>
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Thank you!