

# Researching Sustainability with the library

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Library Services

# Collaborative Padlet

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[artslondon.padlet.org/bcoxhead1/88u780fzyx5jrarn](https://artslondon.padlet.org/bcoxhead1/88u780fzyx5jrarn)

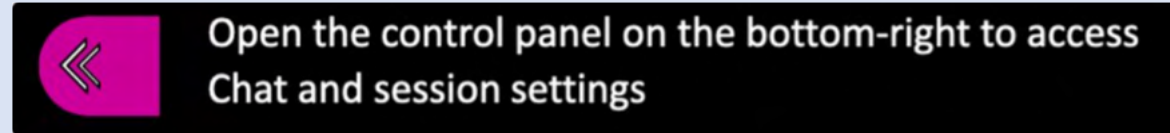
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# Housekeeping / Netiquette

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Check you can use the chat function:



We will be recording the main room presentation and group work feedback.

We will not be recording your breakout room discussions/activities.



Your participation is key!

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# Welcome

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- Julia Flood, Assistant Academic Support Librarian  
CSM.
- Billie Coxhead, Materials & Products Co-ordinator  
CSM & LCF.



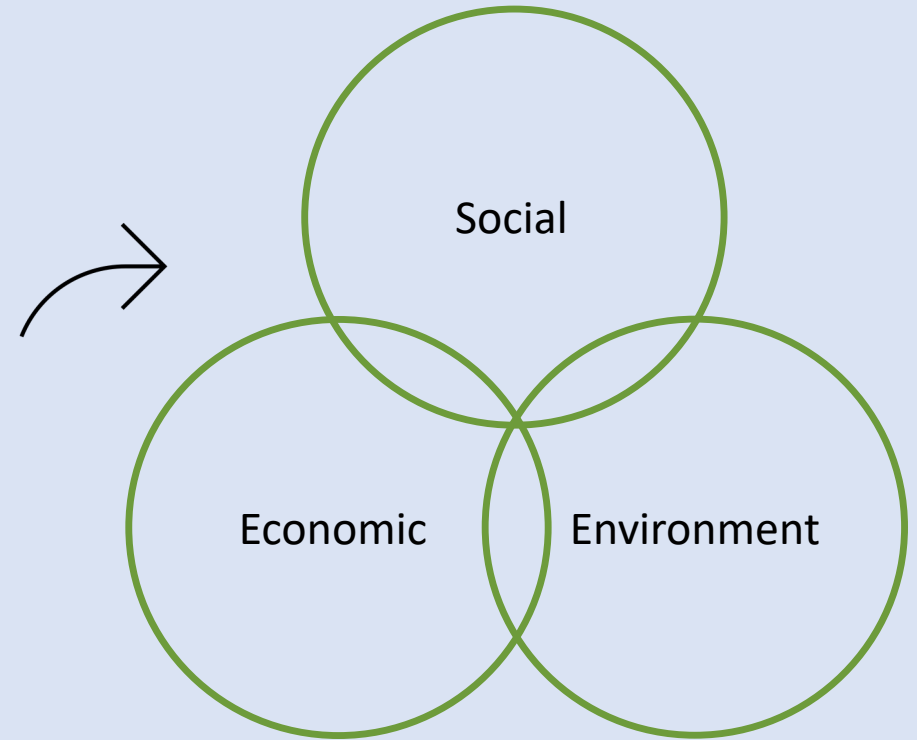
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# In this session...

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- Keyword mapping.
- Overview of sustainability.
- How to research sustainability your practice/object/material using the three pillars and questions as a framework.
- You will have the opportunity to search the library resources in groups and discuss your findings.



# Session outcomes

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- Three pillar framework: leave session with a framework and set of questions within each for thinking about and researching sustainability, your practice/materials/objects.
  - Awareness of concepts underpinning sustainable thought.
  - Library tools/resources you can use to research sustainability.
  - Researching sustainability in a supportive collaborative space.
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# What does sustainability mean to you?

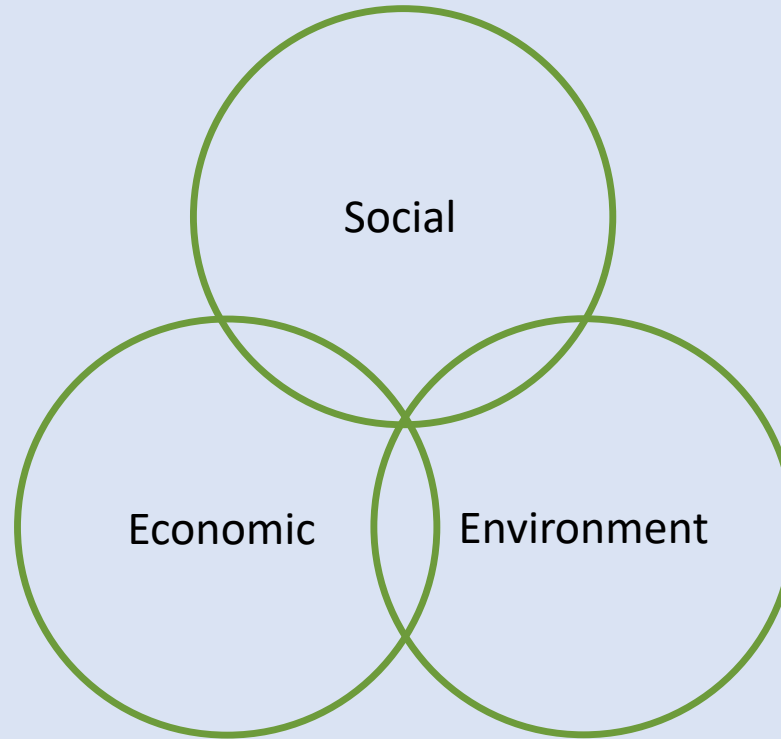
Add all the different words you can think of related to sustainability to this board using the T tool

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# Researching sustainability

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*Venn diagram adapted from the University of Michigan Sustainability Assessment*

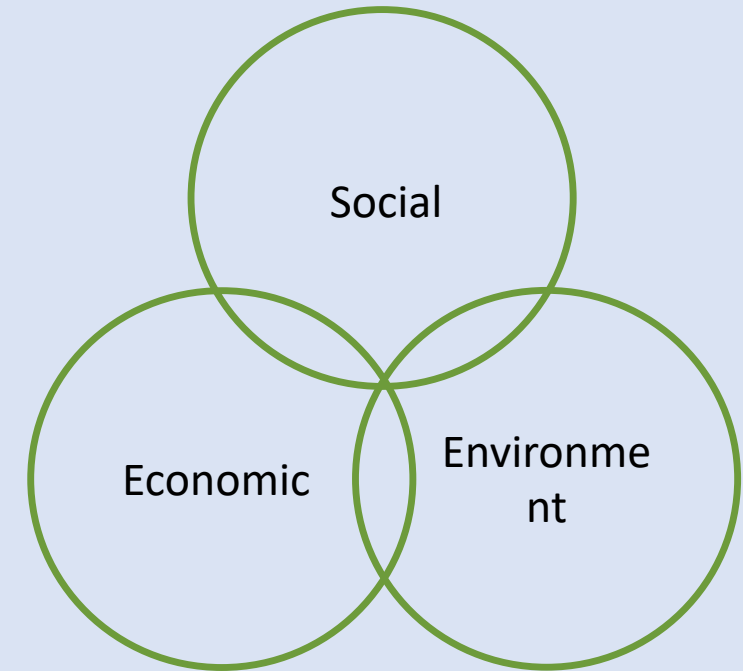


# Researching sustainability

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We can research and relate sustainability to our practice or chosen object using this framework:

- **Social**



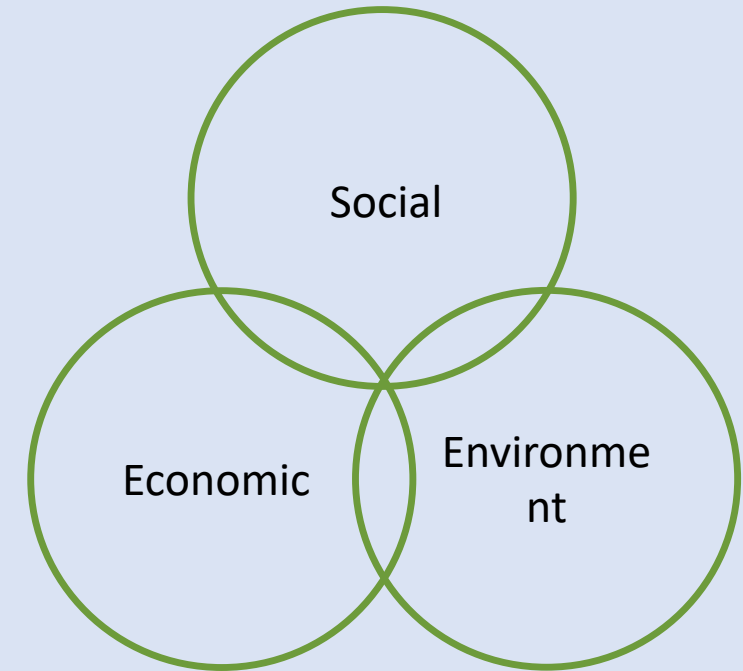
# Researching sustainability

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We can research and relate sustainability to our practice or chosen object using this framework:

- **Social**

People, Equal opportunity, Community, Fair living standards,  
Education for all, Cultural habits and preservation.



# Social Sustainability

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**Inclusive, safe, just and resilient societies can make more sustainable choices!**

How? By supporting human rights through government and institutional policy:

- Work
- Education
- Health
- Housing
- Social justice and equality



Ethical agricultural land management report on Allbirds fashion brand, LSN: Global, July 2021

# Social Sustainability – Google Scholar and WGSN



Image from FibreTrace, WGSN

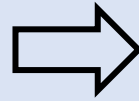
- What initiatives exist in the production of cotton that benefit the community? (*policy*)
- How can cotton production benefit farmers economically? (*equality*)
- How can cotton be produced with less impact on water use? (*environment*)
- Which communities suffer from an abundance of plastic waste? (*equality*)

	Cotton	Social
Similar terms	"Natural cloth" "Natural fibres" "Plant-based cloth"	Community People
Related terms	Land Water Pesticide Organic "Regenerative Organic Certification"	Policy Equality Cheap/ inexpensive "Land ownership" "Land guardianship" Countries
Narrower terms	Twill Canvas "Better Cotton"	Women Children Minorities Indigenous Farming

# Cotton - Is it Socially Sustainable?

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1. Chose a material/object/idea
2. Gathered keywords
3. Used these resources to research:



Cotton

**Reference 1** (Google Scholar):

Mancini, F., Termorshuizen, A.J., Jiggins, J.L. and van Bruggen, A.H., 2008. Increasing the environmental and social sustainability of cotton farming through farmer education in Andhra Pradesh, India. *Agricultural Systems*, 96(1-3), pp.16-25.

**Reference 2** (WGSN):

Cotton: from fibre to fashion (2021). WGSN.

Accessed on November 9th. URL:

**Theory:** Leopold, A. (1981) *A Sand County almanac, and Sketches here and there*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Ask Questions!

Build a research Vocabulary

Perform your search on databases:

- Google Scholar
- WGSN

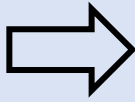
Keep building your vocabulary and refining your topic

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# Is it Socially Sustainable?

## Group activity

10 minutes

1. Choose something from our ideas   
OR  
choose your own to discuss and research as a group.

2. Use one or both resources to research:

- [Google Scholar](#)
- [WGSN](#)

3. As a group choose and add a link to one reference on the Social Sustainability Padlet.

3D Printing

Biofabricated materials

Bioplastics

Cotton

Concrete

Food waste

Hemp

Mushrooms

Paper

Petro chemicals

Plastic

Rubber

Solar power

The Internet

The Fashion Industry

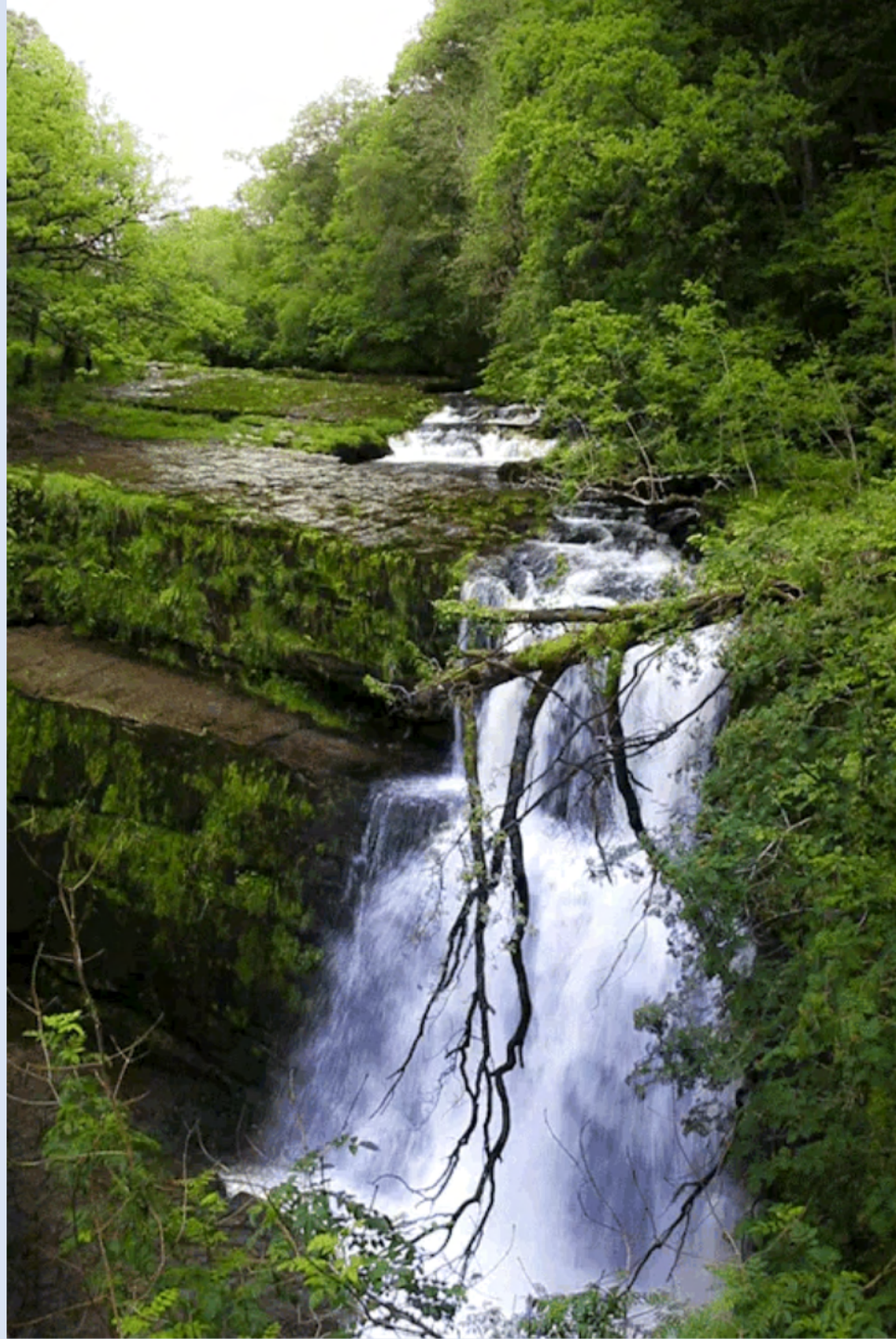
Vegan Leather

Wood



**Break time**

**5 minutes**



# Researching sustainability

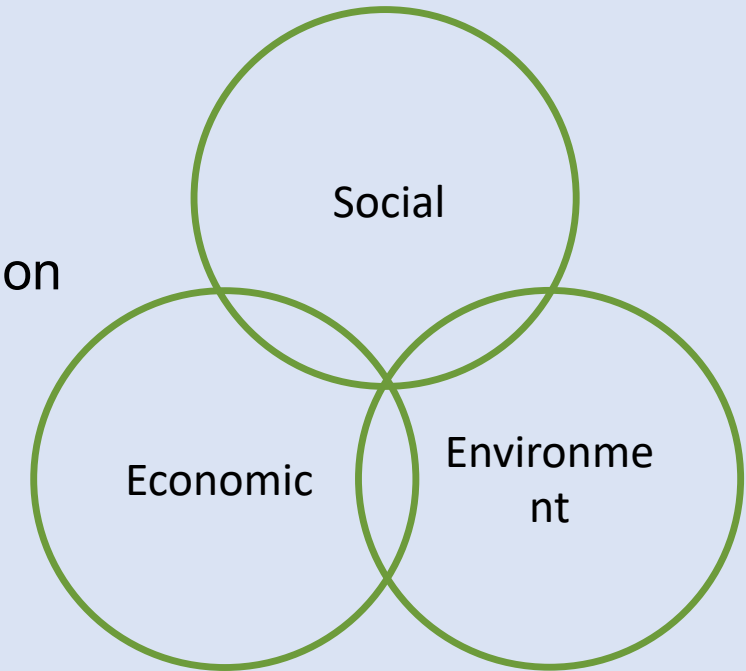
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We can research and relate sustainability to our practice or chosen object using this framework:

- **Social**

People, Equal opportunity, Community, Fair living standards, Education for all, Cultural habits and preservation

- **Economic**





# Researching sustainability?

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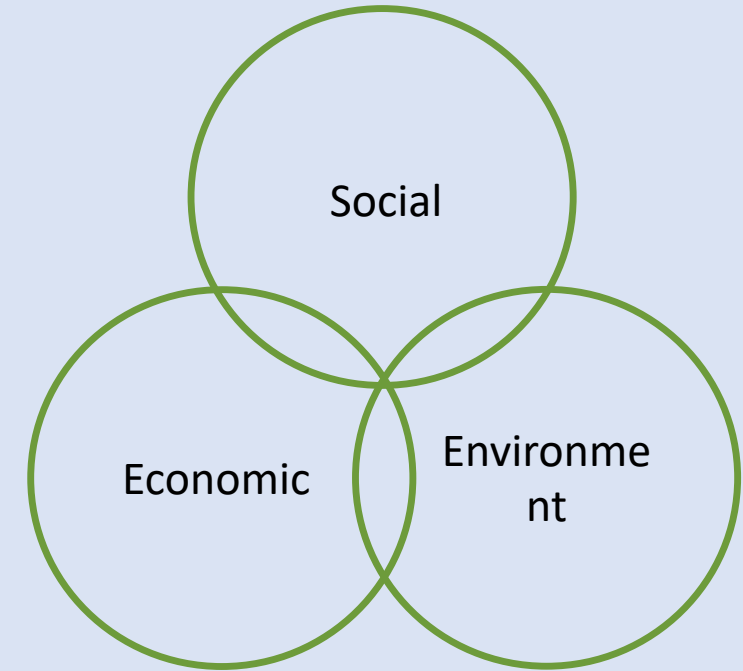
We can research and relate sustainability to our practice or chosen object using this framework:

- **Social**

People, Equal opportunity, Community, Fair living standards,  
Education for all, Cultural habits and preservation

- **Economic**

Business, Cost savings, Consumption, Equitable growth, Financial,  
Trade, Sustainable research and development



# Economic Sustainability

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Finding ways to reconcile economic growth with the earth's capacity.

Methods may include:

- Technology innovations
- Environmental standards / Certification
- Green policies
- Market forces

But is this enough?

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# Economic Sustainability

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Is sustainability compatible with economic growth?

Do we need a fundamental shift in global economy?

This could include:

- Localisation
  - Smallness
  - Self-sufficiency
-

# Economic Sustainability – questions to ask

- What company produces/makes the object?
- What steps are they taking to be socially and environmentally sustainable?  
E.g. Certification, Environmental standards
- Are they able to achieve economic success AND be environmentally and socially sustainable? Or do they prioritise profits over sustainability?

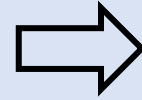
Beware of Greenwashing!

	Plastic Packaging	Economic
Similar terms	Plastic wrapping Plastic bags	Business Consumption Financial Trade Industry
Related terms	Waste; landfill Recycling Re-purposing Biodegradable Paper; metal; glass, etc.	Profit Cost savings Equitable growth Sustainable development
Narrower terms	bottle punnet Box Tube	Certification Life cycle analysis

# Is it Economically Sustainable? Activity example

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1. Choose something from our ideas  
OR  
choose your own to discuss and research as a group.



2. Use one or both resources to research:

- [Articles Plus](#)
- [ProQuest News & Newspapers](#)

3. As a group choose and add a link to one reference on the Social Sustainability Padlet.

## Plastic packaging

Full Text | Wire Feed

### PANTENE ANNOUNCES FIRST SHIPMENT OF INNOVATIVE MORE SUSTAINABLE BOTTLES MADE FROM PLANT-BASED PLASTIC

Anonymous. Canada NewsWire; Ottawa [Ottawa]. 26 Apr 2011. PR Newswire a CISION company

Full text | **Abstract/Details** | [Hide highlighting](#)

#### Abstract

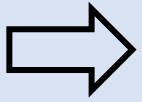
[Translate](#) ▾

About P&G Beauty & Grooming P&G Beauty & Grooming products help make beauty dreams real for women and help men look, feel and be their best everyday. With 8 billion dollar brands and products available in nearly 130 countries, P&G's beauty and grooming products delivered sales of over \$27 billion in fiscal year 2009/10, making it one of the world's largest beauty and grooming companies. P&G Beauty & Grooming offers trusted brands with leading technology to meet the full complement of beauty and grooming needs, including **Pantene**(R), Olay(R), Head & Shoulders(R), Max Factor(R), Cover Girl(R), DDF(R), Frederic Fekkai(R), Wellaflex(R), Rejoice(R), Sebastian Professional(R), Herbal Essences(R), Koleston(R), Clairol Professional(R), Nice 'n Easy(R), Venus(R), Gillette(R), SK-II(R), Wella Professionals(R), Braun(R) and a leading Prestige Fragrance division that spans from point of market entry consumers to high end luxury with global brands such as Hugo Boss(R), Lacoste(R), and Christina Aguilera(R). Please visit <http://www.pg.com> for the latest news and in-depth information about P&G (NYSE: PG) and its brands.

# Is it Economically Sustainable?

## Group activity

10 minutes

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2. Use one or both resources to research:
  - [Articles Plus](#)
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3D Printing

Biofabricated materials

Bioplastics

Cotton

Concrete

Food waste

Hemp

Mushrooms

Paper

Petro chemicals

Plastic

Rubber

Solar power

The Internet

The Fashion Industry

Vegan Leather

Wood

# Researching sustainability?

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We can research and relate sustainability to our practice or chosen object using this framework:

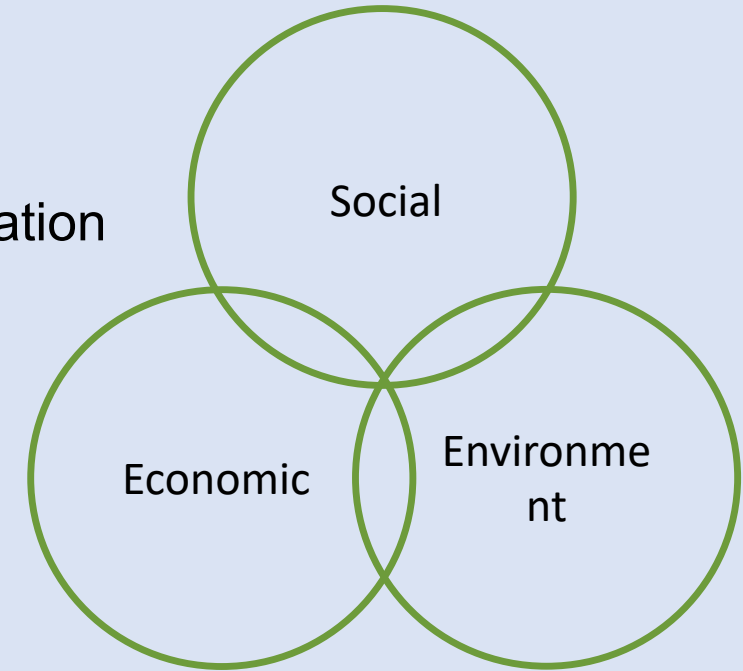
- **Social**

People, Equal opportunity, Community, Fair living standards, Education for all, Cultural habits and preservation

- **Economic**

Business, Cost savings, Consumption, Equitable growth, Financial, Trade, Sustainable research and development

- **Environment**



# Researching sustainability?

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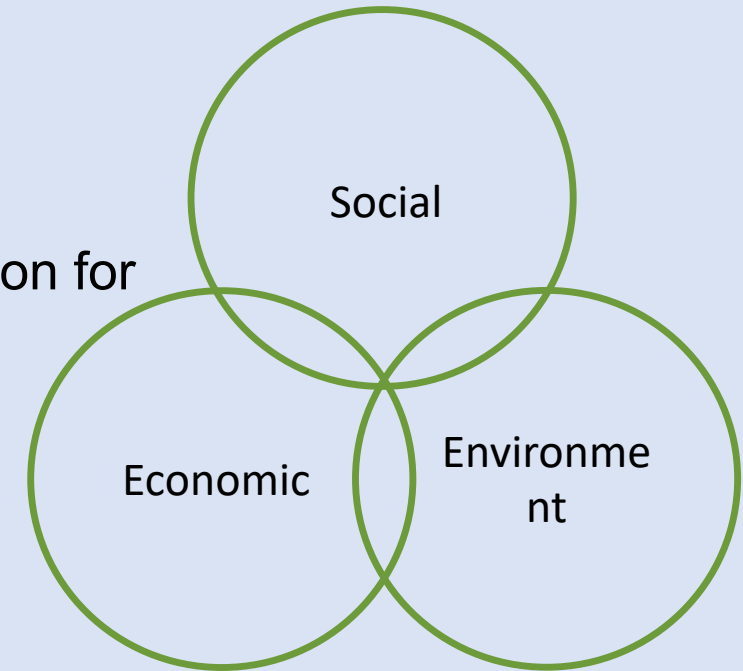
People, Equal opportunity, Community, Fair living standards, Education for all, Cultural habits and preservation

- **Economic**

Can (and should) a business be profitable and sustainable?

- **Environment**

Responsible use of natural resources, Pollution prevention, Biodiversity, Soil regeneration

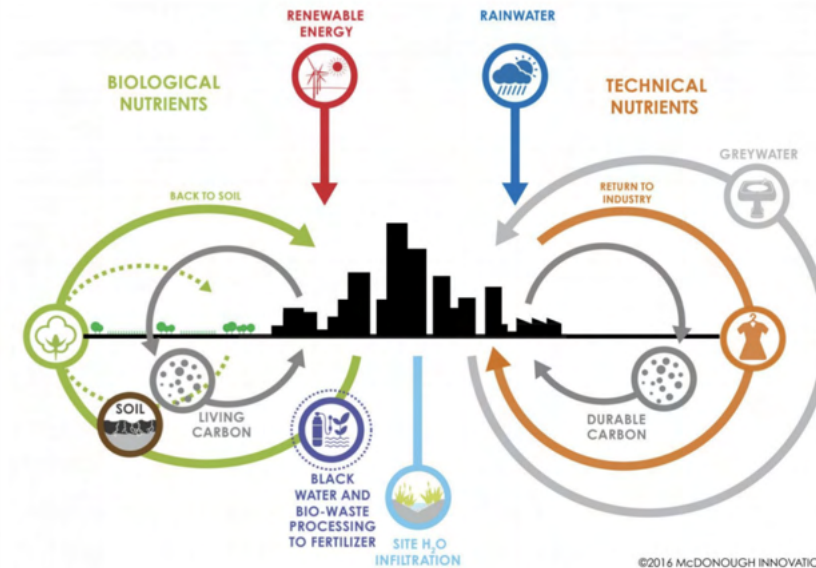
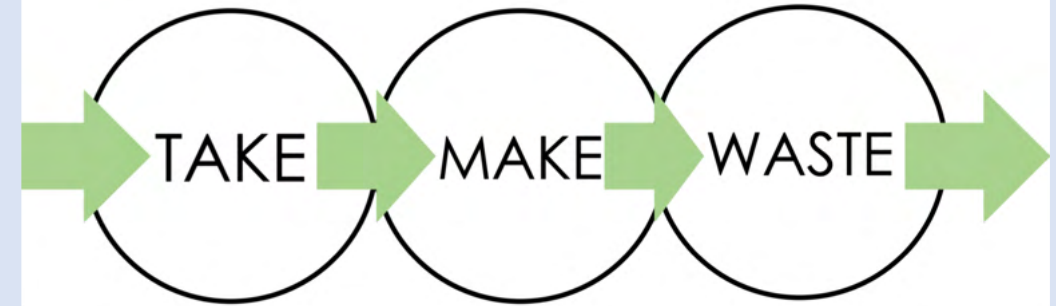




# Environmental Sustainability

- Finding ways to conserve natural resources.
- Thinking about the lifecycle of a product Cradle to Cradle.
- Developing alternate sources of power and reduce pollution.
- Innovating new materials or utilising materials above ground - 'waste' to reduce harm to the environment and biodiversity.

## LINEAR SYSTEM MODEL



The Cradle 2 Cradle vision created by chemist Michael Braungart and architect William McDonough proposes a manifesto for an intriguing and radically different philosophy of environmentalism...



Adapted from McDonough Innovation. Icon credits from The Noun Project: Stephanie Wauters, Vectors Point, Adrien Coquet, Barlama Graphic

2020 © All rights reserved, The Sustainable Angle.



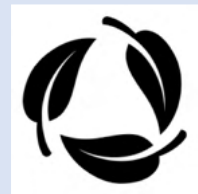
# **MATERIALS REALLY MATTER!**

ABOUT 80% OF A PRODUCTS  
IMPACT

LIES IN THE MATERIAL CHOICE  
ALONE

# Environmental Sustainability – questions to ask

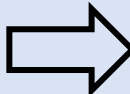
- Do you know what the material/s it is made from? Do you know it's full content and it's raw form? (*material choice*)
- Is it naturally grown, industrially farmed, synthetic? (*material extraction / impact on land and biodiversity*)
- How is it made? What process, energy, chemicals are used to extract and produce this material or product? (*processing*)
- Who makes it and where? (*social*)
- What will happen to it after it is used? Can it be re-used, recycled or does it go back into the earth? Is it Biodegradable or Compostable? (*life-cycle / environmental / land biodiversity impact*)



	Bioplastic	Environment
Similar terms	Green plastic Eco plastic Biopolymer	Biodiversity Ecological Material Extraction / Land Eco - concious Pollution
Related terms	Biodegradable Compostable Organic matter Material innovations Landfill Infrastructure	Natural world Energy / Power Ecosystem Circular Life cycle Processes of manufacture Industrial agriculture farming
Narrower terms	Industrially compostable Domestic composting	Regenerative Renewable Biodegradable Compostable Material impact

# Is it Environmentally Sustainable? Activity example

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1. Choose something from our ideas   
OR  
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2. Use one or both resources to research:

- [LS:N Global](#)
- [Material District](#)

3. As a group choose and add a link to one reference on the Environmental Sustainability Padlet.

## Bioplastic



Earlybirds UK, Bioplastic power, LSN: Global, 2019

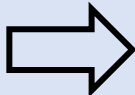


How Biodegradable is Biodegradable plastic, Material District, 2019

# Is it Environmentally sustainable?

## Group activity

10 minutes

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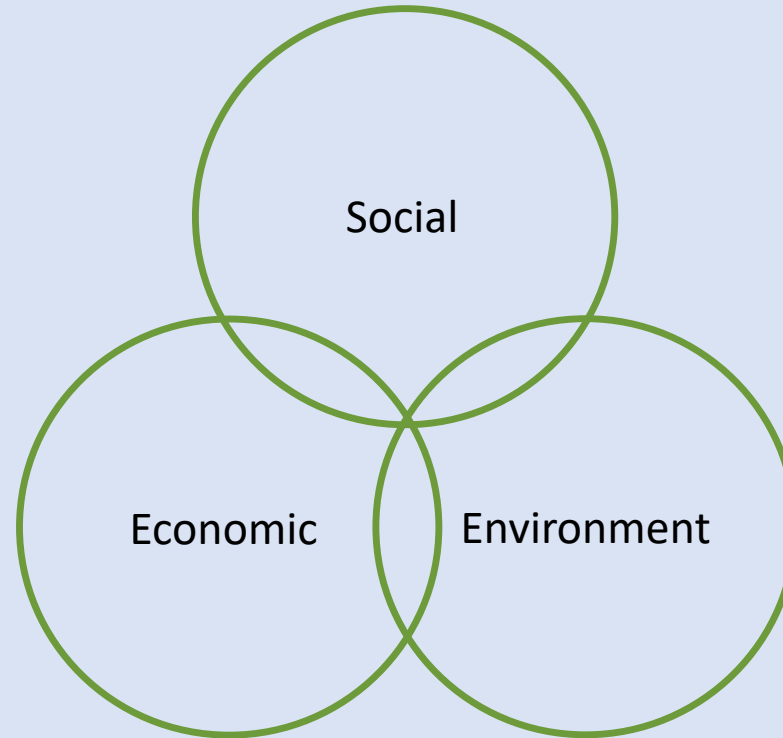
The Fashion Industry

Vegan Leather

Wood

# Reflection

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*Venn diagram adapted from the University of Michigan Sustainability Assessment*

# Researching sustainability

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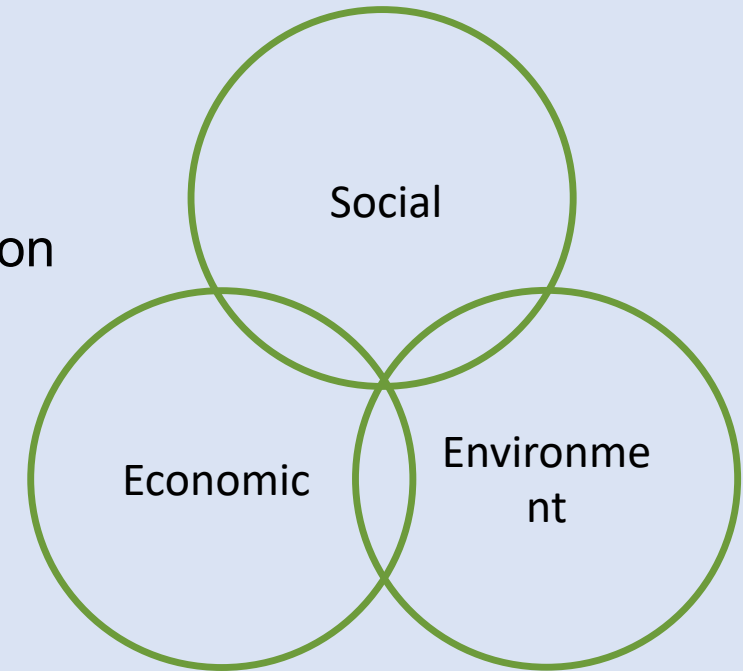
People, Equal opportunity, Community, Fair living standards, Education for all, Cultural habits and preservation

- **Economic**

Can (and should) a business be profitable and sustainable?

- **Environment**

Responsible use of natural resources, Pollution prevention, Biodiversity, Soil regeneration



# Recommended resources

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- [Articles Plus](#)
- [Material District](#)
- [Google Scholar](#)
- [LS:N Global](#)
- [ProQuest: News & Newspapers](#)
- [Sustainable Materials EduSeries by The Sustainable Angle](#)
- [WGSN](#)

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[libsearch.arts.ac.uk](http://libsearch.arts.ac.uk)



# Subject Guides

Materials and Products: Sustainability: reading, viewing, listening

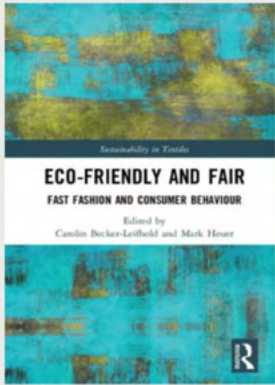
UAL Materials Collections

Home About the LCF Collection About the CSM Collection Materials Databases Books & E-books Journals & E-journals Sourcing materials

Recommended viewing and listening Sustainability & Materials DIY Making your own materials Worksheets / guides / tutorials Studios / Workshops / Fab Labs London

Special Collections, Museum & Archive Collections The Sustainable Angle: Sustainable Materials EduSeries Contact & Support News, Events & Workshops


**Recommended reading**




Eco-Friendly and Fair

**Recommended viewing**

- Sustainability documentaries: Box of Broadcasts
- Sustainability documentaries: Kanopy
- Centre for Sustainable Fashion videos
- Ellen MacArthur Foundation: Circular economy YouTube channel
- The Sustainable Angle - Materials solutions masterclass presentation zoom recording
- TED Talks: Sustainability






**Recommended listening**

- The Guardian: Is fair trade finished? Podcast
- Smart Creation: Exploring the potential of sustainable fashion. Podcast
- The Drop: investigative, mindful, and creative dive into the future, through the lenses of design, fashion, and creativity. Podcast
- The Guardian: Can the fashion industry ever be sustainable? Podcast
- Sustainababble Podcast


Description

Sustainababble: a weekly podcast about the environment, for and by the confused.



- Think: Sustainability - #77 - The hunt for coral supe...
- Think: Sustainability - #76 - The Age Of Citizen Scie...
- Think: Sustainability - #75 - Why we shouldn't chop...

Cookie policy



- Recommended resources.
- Great place to continue your research.

[arts.ac.libguides.com/Materials/sustainability](https://arts.ac.libguides.com/Materials/sustainability)

# Session outcomes

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- Three pillars: leave session with a framework for thinking about and researching sustainability and materials/objects.
  - Awareness of theories underpinning sustainable thought.
  - Library tools/resources you can use to research.
  - Researching sustainability in a supportive collaborative space.
-

# Final activity

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Please fill in this Microsoft form and help us with your reflections and any questions.

[forms.office.com/r/HGyU8f4Bz6](https://forms.office.com/r/HGyU8f4Bz6)

# Questions?

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**Library Services**