

NONPROFITS

## British Fashion Council forges two-year partnership to foster circularity

September 15, 2023



*According to the partners, industry-wide change in the U.K. must happen sooner rather than later. Image credit: BFC*

By LUXURY DAILY NEWS SERVICE

The British Fashion Council (BFC) is collaborating with multiple entities in the United Kingdom to bolster the apparel industry's overall sustainability efforts.

In partnership with the U.K. Fashion & Textile Association (UKFT) and governmental public body U.K. Research and Innovation (UKRI), the trio is launching the Circular Fashion Innovation Network (CFIN). Announced last week, the project aims to create change in the country's clothing industry at an industrial scale.

"We look forward to The Circular Fashion Innovation Network being the catalyst for essential transformation within the fashion industry," said Caroline Rush, CEO of the **British Fashion Council** and co-chair of CFIN, in a statement.

"Collaboration has always been our guiding principle in effecting change," Ms. Rush said. "The new Circular Fashion Innovation Network rests on this very spirit. Our cross-sector advisory board will combine and advance novel technologies and approaches, which we hope will create a world-class blueprint here in the U.K."

"It builds on the BFC's Circular Fashion Ecosystem work, established in 2020 as a multi-year endeavor to establish not just what needs to be done to achieve circularity in our fashion industry, but who needs to do it."

### Changemakers

According to the partners, industry-wide change in the U.K. must happen sooner rather than later.

While the overall fashion business accounts for 29 billion euros of the U.K.'s GDP, estimates have shown that the country purchases more new clothing than any other European country. Paired with low usage rates and a large volume of waste during apparel production, a big problem is rearing its head; the CFIN aims to alleviate these issues.

At the launch of the Circular Fashion Innovation Network (CFIN), an industry-led programme in partnership with [@UKFTorg](#) and [@UKRI\\_News](#) to accelerate the UK towards a Circular Fashion Ecosystem, [pic.twitter.com/DwzymbuJGg](https://pic.twitter.com/DwzymbuJGg)

BFC (@BFC) **September 8, 2023**

A roadmap for potential actions is currently being planned by the partners and an advisory board made up of "luxury, premium, high street, supermarket and value-led" brands, alongside academics and representatives from the BFC, the UKFT and UKRI. French fashion house Chanel stands out among the list of participants.

CFIN is the first industry-led program of its kind supported by UKRI, granting it greater legitimacy as part of the government body's 15 million euro commitment to the cause. CFIN will also receive 1.8 million euros from the government to operate the network.

The move comes soon after European Parliament backed a strategy to end textile waste in June 2023 ([see story](#)).

Six topical working groups will report to the board, each carrying out separate duties. They include circularbusiness models, recycling infrastructure, sustainable manufacturing, diverse and future-proof workforce, novel technology and green growth.

"It has never been more important to combine knowledge and networks to tackle the challenges of sustainability," said Adam Mansell, CEO of UKFT and co-chair of CFIN, in a statement.

"We're excited to work with the BFC and other partners via the Circular Fashion Innovation Network to establish both direct interventions and long-term plans to help the transition towards a new circular economy in the U.K.," Mr. Mansell said. "Our particular area of focus will be sustainable manufacturing and recycling infrastructure, which we believe will be key drivers in helping to build the most resilient, sustainable and competitive sector for future generations."

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