



THREADING
RESILIENCE

Growing Regional Fiber Systems Worldwide

“Rediscovering and forming a relationship with the landscape that defines a textile resource base is a process that sensitizes us to the conditions our lands, communities, and local economies are currently in. And when we tune in to these conditions, the imperative to restore ecological function to our regional landscapes and repair our social fabric becomes evident.”

— Rebecca Burgess,
Executive Director
of Fibershed

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Background photo by Paige Green

Cover photos: Blue Ridge Blankets Project by Caroline Williford, Fibershed Sri Lanka, Acadiana Fibershed by Paige Green, Fibershed DACH by Alexander Ratzing for hiddenland

fiber•shed:

Strategic geography that defines the landscape for and connectivity to a natural textile resource base

I'm in awe, each time I think about the origin story of the shirt I am wearing; the initial seed or blade of grass powered by solar energy — an abundant and reliable source indeed — nurtured by networks of microbial life and nutrient exchanges beneath the soil's surface. The plant (think cotton), the ruminant (think grazing animal eating the blade of grass, ie. sheep), unconsciously working to turn seemingly nothing into something. As these plants and animals grow, stalks and other plant parts are harvested, animals are shorn, and they continue on their lifecycles; but left in their wake is an abundance of fiber capable of transforming human society.

The intricate processes involved from taking that initial seed or blade of grass and turning it into long-lasting clothing — each individual step itself worthy of a moment to pause and appreciate— is beautiful and awe-inducing. Plant stalks are peeled, fermented, softened; cotton bolls are harvested; wool is shorn, cleaned, carded — all to be twisted into yarns and woven into fabrics. This depiction itself is far too simplistic to outline the complex processes involved. It's full of craft, skill, wisdom, and is a work of art to create the basis of our textile systems.

We are all a part of this textile system — whether we grow, create, or wear. Clothing is and always will be one of humanity's basic needs; a protection from the environment, a cultural identity, a place of comfort and home, freedom of expression, a societal indicator, our second skin. And although our recent track record shows a lack of consideration and protection of our basic needs — water, food, medicine, material systems — they are the foundation to our livelihoods, and all interconnected through ecological systems and human stewardship.

There are communities around the world, continuing ancestral ways of caring for the land and these stated systems. There are communities around the world revitalizing land-based textile economies that restore the soil and cultural practices. This collective action is necessary and inspiring.

Fibershed has the honor of supporting some of these communities through our Fibershed Affiliate Network. In this network, there are 65+ fibersheds working in their specific bioregions to connect the

pieces of intricate land-based textile systems — working with the fiber farmer, shearer, spinner, weaver, designer (and many more people) to produce clothing and other textiles rich with life and stories of the land and communities. Some of these stories are told in this year's Threading Resilience Zine, while some are quietly moving along with a strength that is ready to transform a system. I encourage you to follow along on the journeys of these grassroots organizers who dream and act out of necessity, out of creativity, and out of pure will to believe that the world can be different.

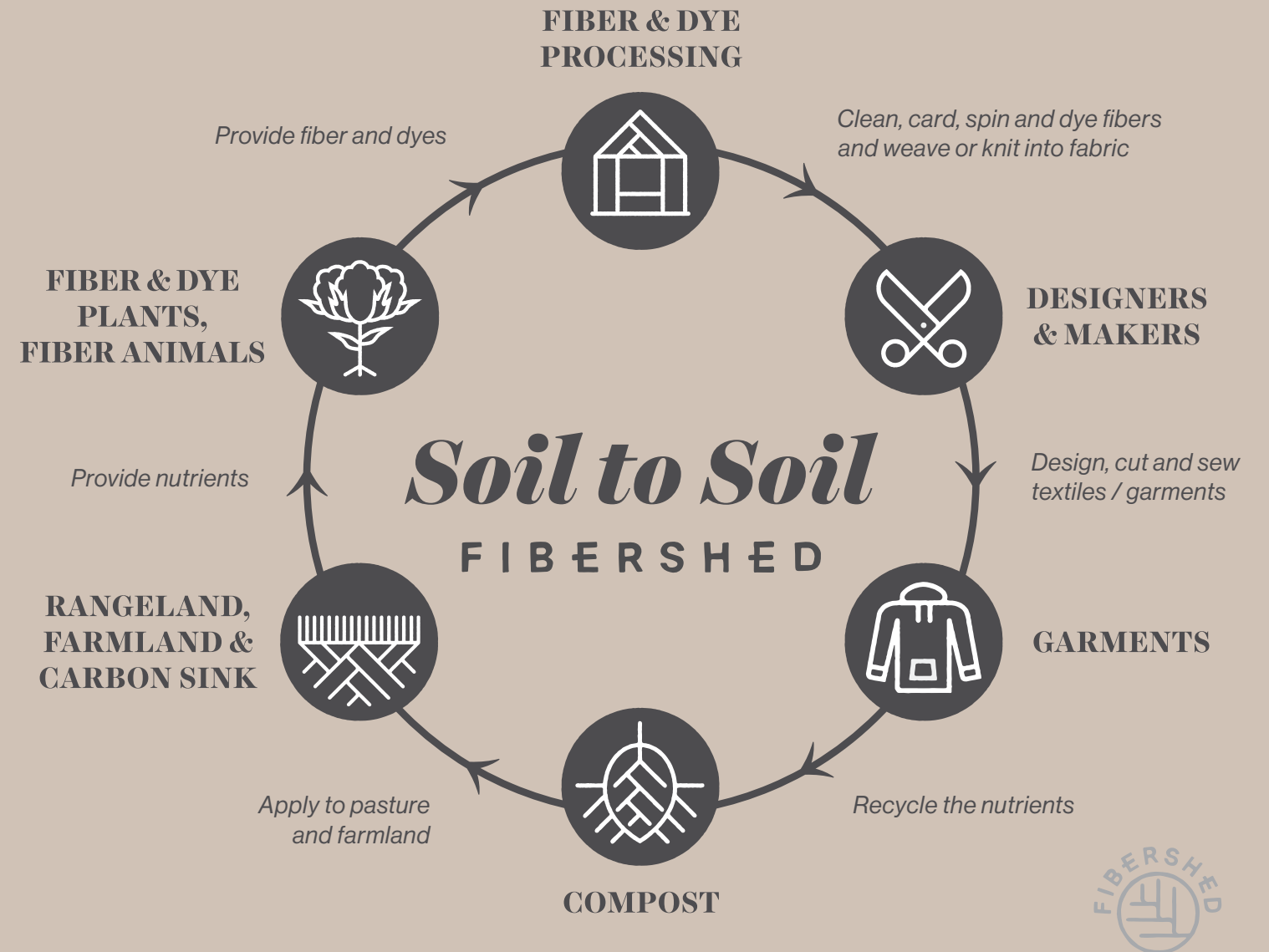
The answer to many of humanity's current challenges is not in new technological innovations, it is and has always been here. You just must be willing to look at what is already happening, rumbling beneath the surface — literally and metaphorically. I hope you join this movement of climate activists who believe that collectively we can live abundantly and in balance with the natural world while generating a LIVING material culture.



Best,
Lexi Fujii
Affiliate Network Coordinator

“The Affiliate Community exudes the essence of soil-to-soil systems. Working at the regional scale, they show us that textiles can be made within a culturally rich, energy efficient, circular system that provides meaning, aesthetic clarity and differentiation, while standing up a core set of values that are, at their heart, about taking responsibility for a place and experiencing the benefits of working reciprocally with natural systems.”

— Rebecca Burgess



Southern California Fibershed

San Luis Obispo to San Diego, California

“Many of us recognize fashion as aspirational, highly profitable, and innovative, yet clothing’s humble origins, necessity, and profound implications for our wellbeing and that of the earth is under-appreciated, and often feels mysterious.”

San Luis Obispo

San Diego



Sympoiesis: making with Explores Material Culture

By Lesley Roberts

The Southern California Fibershed presented its first gallery show, *Sympoiesis: making with* this past Spring. The exhibition explores how one of humanity’s oldest craft and industrial forms—the making of clothing—has shaped our relationship to the

land, our bodies, and each other. The exhibit also showcases the process and outcome of the chapter’s 2021 Slow and Local Clothing Project.

The title calls up author and scholar Donna Haraway’s neologism *sympoiesis*, or making with, the idea that we are creatures of the earth in a dance of co-creation. Director of the So Cal Fibershed and instigating curator Lesley Roberts explains, “Sympoiesis is a hybrid art show—social practice that follows

the threads linking our agricultural and economic ecosystems, and our wellbeing, with what we wear.”

The exhibit opens with a definition of poiesis, which is the ability to make the world and to make the world anew, to create. Haraway’s term *sympoiesis* then expands that idea into collaboration (sym = with), whether that be making with other people, or making with something, i.e., materials or ideas. Collaboration as a theme runs through the exhibit in myriad ways: as the entwined

ecological and agricultural systems that nourish the fiber and natural color used; collective natural dye gardens; the craftspeople and artisans who made the objects and took the photos that are on display; the donors who supported the printing and installation of the show; the gallery itself; and everyone who came to visit the show and share their experiences.

For thousands of years, people have transformed animal- and plant-based fiber to craft garments that clothed and protected their bodies, offered decoration, and ultimately engendered a radical and disruptive transformation of the earth, cultures, and economies. Many of us recognize fashion as aspirational, highly profitable, and innovative, yet clothing’s humble origins, necessity, and profound implications for our wellbeing and that of the earth is under-appreciated, and often feels mysterious. **Fiber-based work embodies generations of cultural skills and concepts; our**

disconnections from the sources of the material we wear and the knowledge of how that material is transformed is a rupture of our natural relationships to the earth and each other. This intimate exhibition is a journey through local ecosystems and craft traditions, entwining instructional didactics, handmade garments, weavings, video, and tactile components to draw connections between soil, plant, animal, work, hand, and body.

Lesley explains, “It was important to present these fibershed systems in the context of an art exhibit, to showcase the work in a space more commonly associated with challenging or transformative experiences. Caring for our soil, raising healthy plants and animals, and making our clothing, working with our hands, is a profoundly grounding experience. These practices have the power to transform how we live in the world and how we understand our belonging to the world.

To quote bell hooks, ‘The function of art is to do more than tell it like it is – it’s to imagine what is possible.’ We expected our audience would be impressed with the artistry in these garments, but more than that we wanted to introduce them to the richness of the ecosystem in which they live. If we inspired someone to visit a farm or ranch, mend an item of clothing, support regenerative agricultural practices, or vote in ways that protect people and land, then we’ve leveraged art and craft in a socially positive way. The exhibit was part exposure of what is, and part aspiration for what could be.”

The exhibit was rich in material: we showcased raw fleece, combed top, and spun yarn samples from various breeds; natural dye samples; research and dye handbooks, including a 1935 US government compilation, Native American dyeing practices, and a reprint of a 300-year-old French dye book; our own Regional Fiber Sourcebook; a shearing video from The Livestock Conservancy and another video featuring Fibershed founder Rebecca Burgess explain soil health and systems; a self-published zine with quotes, illustrations, and recommendations for how to be a fiber activist; and of course, finished garments. The garments were each beautiful in their own way, but were also representative of a mind (many minds) enacting itself in the world. As humans we think through material, through craft and our





enveloping environments. Each of the garments represented a specific way of imagining a possible future and making those outcomes tangible.

Works included a striped wool and llama coat (page 4, third photo) woven and sewn by Patricia Mulcahy, Joyce Dulch, Liz Jones, Margaret Tyler, Stacy Swenck, and Mary Saxton of the San Diego Creative Weavers Guild; a multi-color, naturally dyed, woven ruana (page 4, second photo) and accessories by Shannon Anderson, Teresa Camarillo, Michelle Gannes, Cindy Hahn, Melissa Hanson, Judy Hersh, Kait Hilliard, Deborah Low, Susie Meach, Allyson Swaney, Deb Thompson, and Betty Villafana of the Ventura County Handweavers and Spinners Guild; a handspun, hand-dyed, mixed breed wool and Pygora goat, dyed with local dandelion dress (page 4, first photo) by Barbara Madley, local artist and natural dyer; a handspun, hand-knit sweater in multiple shades of Navajo Churro wool, accented with upcycled denim (page 4, fourth photo), from LA-based artisanal clothing brand Greg Lauren; and a handspun and handknit wool-alpaca blend sweater made from fiber sourced from Rancho Borrego, designed and created by Kait Hilliard.

The exhibit closes with another thought from Haraway, "Each time I trace a tangle and add a few threads that first seemed whimsical but turned out to be essential to



the fabric, I get a bit straighter that staying with the trouble of complex worlding is the name of the game of living and dying well together on terra." The exhibit celebrates the work of a vast community of people engaging with each other creatively and economically, practicing agency, radical hope, and awareness of each other and their ecosystems.

Sympoiesis was curated by cultural producer and social entrepreneur Lesley Roberts, director of the Southern California Fibershed chapter, and artist-researcher Aneesa Shami Zizzo, co-owner and director of Studio 203, an LA based gallery that challenges traditional art hierarchies by providing exhibition opportunities for craftspeople and activists.



Groundwork

Written by Lesley Roberts

On March 4, 2023, the So Cal Fibershed presented *groundwork*, our first symposium. The event brought together ranchers and farmers, designers, advocates, academics, and changemakers for a day of presentations and networking. We shared projects underway in our fibershed, and enjoyed time for conversation and resource sharing before, during, and after the event.

The symposium was our first in-person event in years, and many of the people in the audience were familiar to us. Their faces reminded me of a description I read recently in an artist's bio: we are "patchworkers, absorbed in the practice of weaving ideas, relationships and information into fabrics of possibility."

We gathered at shared tables, physically creating the possibility for collaboration and naturally encouraging us to engage with each other as much as with the speaker. In this way, we recognized each other as "the ones we have been waiting for." We recognized each other as the community we want to build.

Cole Bush of Shepherdess Land & Livestock in Ojai opened the day, sharing process and philosophies about her wide-ranging enterprise. She shared anecdotes about her "flerd" of sheep and goats, the animals' work clearing brush as part of a fire mitigation program, updates on the newly launched Shepherd School, and a thoughtful plea for us to engage in and value a culture of care.

She was followed by Nicholas Brown, representing Textile Exchange and a new project they are launching called Communities of Practice. This is a national networking and resource sharing

platform for regenerative fashion initiatives.

Tony de Verea of the Rodale Institute shared an engaging and wide-ranging overview of hemp, its challenges, growing conditions, and opportunities. He chatted about regulations, water usage, and profit: how could hemp be profitable under current conditions? Tony explored alternative and additional usage scenarios such as construction, animal bedding, and viability as a crop rotation solution. Production and processing into a bast fiber for garment use remains a logistical and financial challenge.

Christina Wheeler of Greg Lauren shared details of the brand's creative process, multi-layered upcycling and re-use approaches, and her recent project with Irene Bennally of New Mexico and her Navajo Churro sheep. Irene was introduced to Christina by Katherine Tucker of Desert Churros Roving Ranch, one of So

WAKING UP TO LOCAL ABUNDANCE



Cal's producer resources. The project resulted in ten handspun, handknit sweaters, plus a handful of beanies. Christina offered an eye-opening systems approach that laid bare why most hyper-local fiber projects happen at the luxury level (i.e., lack of economies of scale and a desire to pay living wages).

Nathanael Gonzales-Siemens, an organic agriculture consultant, finished the day. Nate shared a radically transparent story of his own family's path to CA's Central Coast, a journey both of immigration and of values; a story that mirrors much of the political and economic history of how California came to be settled by others, how family dynamics have evolved over generations, and how those structures are reflected in the land and in our practices. Nate also kept it real about his experiences growing cotton, a painful experience that elicited compassionate laughs. Nate gave us all permission to be in process, while reminding us that this work is hard, and there are no short cuts.

In my opening remarks, I talked

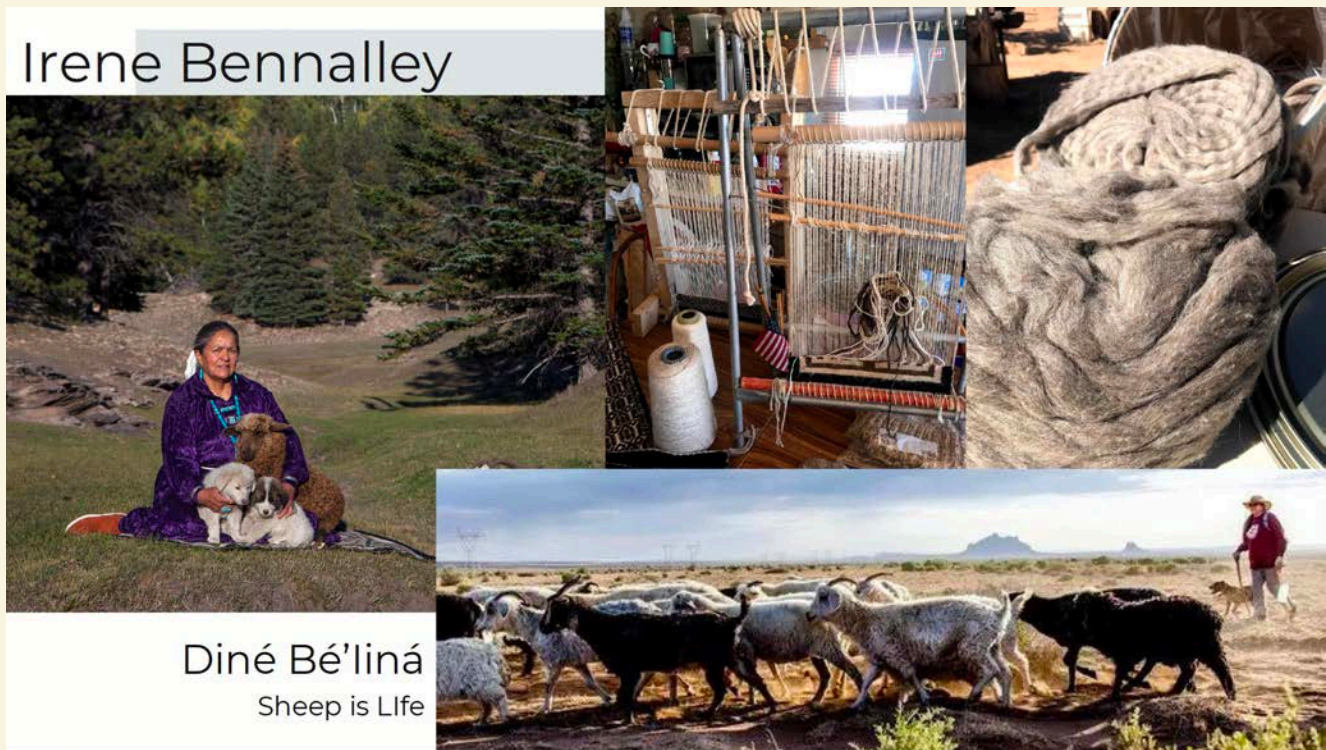
about how we live in a culture "addicted to growth and ambivalent about depth." Through events such as this symposium, I hope to help us build a space where we can experiment with and employ radical alternatives to the dominant systems we live in. What would it look like to reimagine our systems: our economies, our landscapes, our relationships to plants and animals and the earth? Can we imagine an alternative future? What can we discover about a material-based, embodied practice of doing the work of relationship—with other humans, animals, plants, and places?

Being in relationship is difficult and always changing. It shifts, we change, our needs and desires change. Sometimes being in relationship becomes awkward and cumbersome. The scholar and author Donna Haraway has coined the expression "staying with the trouble." Her meaning, or one of them anyway, is that staying with the trouble means being present. It means showing up. Our speakers are people who

by trade, by calling, must enmesh themselves in a series of (human-animal) relationships and stay with the trouble.

Our audience, aka our community, was also created by the energy of the folks who show up and stay with the trouble: 45 people arrived from all over our fibershed, from San Diego to the Central Coast. Scholars, costume designers, brands involved with upcycling and alternative resources, textile advocates, hemp growers, steadfast Fibershed advocates, a newly minted shepherd, a soon-to-be shearing student, scientists concerned with plastics, a natural dye expert, a handmade broom maker, high school teachers, Ph.D. students, a few folks representing an eco-winery. It was a community full of talent and enthusiasm. Lots of conversation filled the space, lots of contact information was shared.

We included a display table, where we showed off our Regional Fiber Sourcebook with yarns from local producers, some natural dye samples, as well as a sweater from local artisanal brand Greg Lauren, handknit from fibers sourced from Irene Bennally and Katherine Tucker's flocks of desert churro. Tony of Rodale shared hemp fibers in various states.



Irene Bennally

Diné Bé'liná
Sheep is Life

To learn more, visit their website: socalfibershed.org and follow them on Instagram: [@socalfibershed](https://www.instagram.com/socalfibershed)



Acadiana Fibershed

Lafayette, Louisiana
(22 parishes in
southwest Louisiana)

Acadian Brown Cotton Is Back

Written by Stephany Wilkes and
Photographed by Paige Green

In the six years since its inception, the Acadiana Fibershed has brought Acadian Brown cotton seedstock, cultivation, and culture back from the brink of near-permanent loss. In 2017, when only two known people had Acadian Brown Cotton (ABC) heirloom seed, the Fibershed affiliate set out to begin seed banking, revitalize Acadian cotton production with farmers committed to regenerative practices, and establish a short, fully traceable supply chain that honors and maintains Acadian culture. They have done that and then some.

Since [we last profiled them in 2020](#), founder Sharon Donnan, Jennie Lallande, Larry and Andre Allain, and Randon and Jena Dufrene have re-established Acadian Brown cotton in diverse environments: a single-acre regenerative battleground bordering sugar cane fields, a suburban lot, and a small 12-acre farm. Together, they and other Acadiana Fibershed members are a living seed bank, ethnobotanists, craftspeople, educators, and land stewards.



“The network of Fibershed is: you do what you can where you are, and realize you are not alone.”

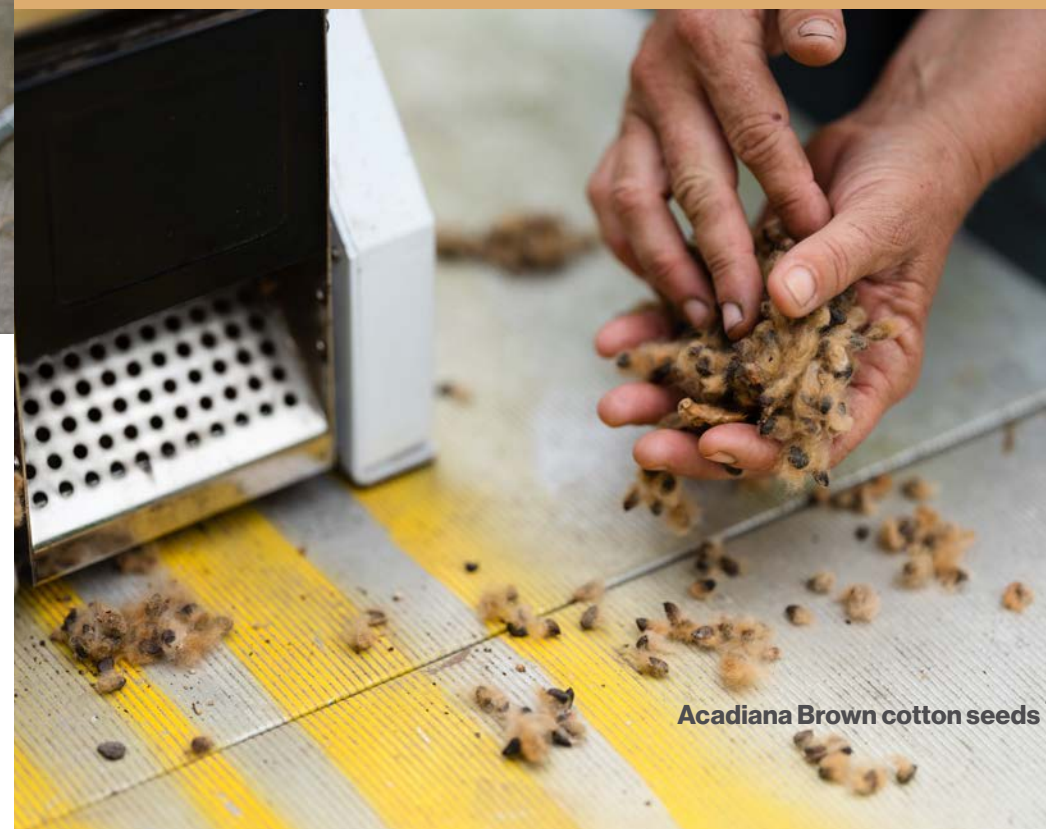


Acadiana consists of twenty-two parishes in southern Louisiana. Tell people you're going to Lafayette and they say, "Oh, you're headed to Cajun country." Billboards mark the way east from New Orleans and encourage drivers to "Stop here for live crawfish, boudin balls

and cajun everything." The roadkill is armadillos, a very large snake, and one alligator. Eventually, the highway becomes a bridge, the water of the Atchafalaya Basin spreads in every direction, and glorious old Cypress trees stretch up and out.



“I say I have a demonstration farm, but I'm just demonstrating that you could actually have every plant you can imagine instead of a dead turf lawn.”



Acadiana Brown cotton seeds

Jennie Lallande studied environmental science and farms full time in Iberia Parish, just south of Lafayette in New Iberia. She keeps livestock in the next parish over. Her one-acre lot holds a small brick house, a teenaged foster dog named Deuce, a Jesus mural chalked on the driveway by a Woofer (visiting organic farm worker), and a carport sheltering nursery trees waiting to be planted. An oil company donated the trees.

“I'm first and foremost a plant person,” Jennie says. “I want mixed species in every growing space. I say

I have a demonstration farm, but I'm just demonstrating that you could actually have every plant you can imagine instead of a dead turf lawn."

Those plants include Acadian Brown cotton. "Cotton does so well in very hot summers," Jennie explains. "Here, most people stop gardening in June. You can grow okra and cotton and that's about it. Cotton is a natural fit, rotating in as the summertime crop. My cooler weather plants and crops die off, and cotton takes their place. It gives us a lot of vegetation to keep those healthy systems cycling. I'm rotating mung beans, too."

Fellow Acadiana Fibershed member Larry Allain agrees. "What Jenny said is absolutely correct," he adds. "One of the gaps in our garden towns are crops that tolerate summer heat. Louisiana brown cotton fits that niche."

Larry Allain and his son, Andre, are creating a 12-acre, regenerative oasis on an old race-horse farm, tucked away down a long driveway with a stand of pine trees serving as a friendly wall. Larry is an ethnobotanist, retired from a career as a prairie ecologist, "trying to grow and recreate what my Cajun ancestors grew," he says. Andre lives in a tiny home he built himself and is enthusiastic about tropical plants, growing tea, and pigs and sheep.

Their farm's permaculture design incorporates forest and native grassland, in various successive stages. No chemicals are used but manure and compost are. Larry and Andre have rabbits for meat and manure; two pigs for natural tilling, compost and meat; and chickens for natural tilling. Once the farm is fenced, they want to add sheep "as a management tool for the native coastal prairie we are restoring on

7.5 acres," Larry says. "Grazing is an essential component in these grassland ecosystems."

Randon and Jena Dufrene met while working as land managers. They work full time and live in Lafayette with their three kids, aged six, four and two. Randon and Jena tend an acre behind her parents' house, west of Lafayette in a subdivision with big lots.

"We planted a small garden, mostly tomatoes and cucumbers with fruit trees," Randon says. "We are growing cotton inside the vegetable garden which is always expanding. We have about 50 x 86 feet of growing space thus far, with plenty of room to fill in that back acre. We're growing all sorts of vegetables, from tomatoes, cucumbers, corn, beans, garlic, onions, peppers, potatoes, strawberries, sorrel, gourd, and even cut flowers. We grow the cotton together with cover crops featuring

Purple Hull peas, indigo, rye, clover, buckwheat and radish. All sorts of those fun things! As a family we love farming so much, trying new things each year, and finding seeds I can integrate with my cotton. It's an absolute fun family crowd pleaser. I'm just trying to show my kids, you know, we can do this."

Why cotton? "It's available," Randon says. "You can grow cotton in your backyard and produce things with it. That was a big realization. My wife is a knitter and the traditional gift was cotton for the second anniversary, so I put two plants in the front yard, five years ago. And those two are now a field of cotton plants, because we need more cotton to hopefully produce more textiles. And in the process we're learning about regenerative agriculture."

Randon explains that in the past, where cotton now grows, his father-in-law grew cucumbers and

tomatoes and used herbicides, pesticides and other commercial fertilizer products. He explained that this was simply the old way of backyard gardening in the area.

"So now we come in like, 'I don't want all that mess on my cotton,'" Randon laughs. "And so now you can't have that on your tomatoes and your cucumbers, right? Let's figure out a better way to do this. We were searching for answers. And we see the possibility with the Acadiana Fibershed to provide those not just for our family, but share that valuable information with others."

Larry agrees. "Regenerative knowledge exists in a rare subset of people," he says. "Farmers have to know how to rotationally graze, for example. It takes lots of knowledge and experience. You can't learn from a brochure. It changes daily; you respond to rainfall and heat. But you begin to intuit. You can pick

it up with principles. **It's no less important to learn about what aspects of regeneration work in your climate and your context, and for everything you're trying to do.** Because all that varies. So with cotton, it's about how we grow it in a sustainable fashion. Cotton is a very heavy feeder, it uses a lot of nitrogen."

"And it's tough," Sharon adds. She describes cotton growing on river banks that had been seriously inundated and sharply eroded.

"That was Vermillionville," she says. "I remember going out there, I don't remember what year it was, in which hurricane or what it was, but the Vermillion flooded and the only thing that was left standing were our Acadian brown cotton plants. And they continued to bloom and yield cotton very well suited for our climate."

"Grazing is an essential component in these grassland ecosystems."





“I love farming so much, trying new things each year, seeds I can integrate with my cotton. It’s fun! I’m just trying to show my kids, you know, we can do this.”

Randon says, “That knowledge... Ms. Elaine, one of our seed-tradition bearers, she once told me, ‘Randon, in life you’ve got about 30 chances to grow cotton. You get 30 chances, 30 seasons to get it right.’ She put it in perspective. One season, like last year, we had tons of rain. If you left your cotton on the plant that year, the seeds were germinating in the fiber, which created a problem when it came to gin, because you had more trash inside the fiber. So you have to be on the lookout for the forecasts and things, because you have just 30 seasons. Can’t do it without knowledge.”

The Acadiana Fibershed has accomplished a great deal in a short time, including research and product development and agriculture policy changes.

Jennie has developed a fiber-yield-centric seed viability test. At the end of each growing season, all of the participating Acadian Brown cotton farmers turn in finished cotton bolls, she explains. “We take a weight on the unprocessed cotton bolls. Then we gin that and weigh both the seed and the fiber, to get a ratio of fiber to seed off of each person’s crop. Generally 25% of the total weight is fiber. So we do have a lot of seed that comes out of each crop. We had one farmer that turned in a crop with a 27% fiber-to-seed ratio.”

After the seed comes out of the cotton gin, members process it, then process it one more time to pick out the seeds with smooth seed coats, “the ones that don’t have a lot of fiber sticking to their seed coat,” Jennie says. “That’s the seed that we’ve been redistributing this year. It’s really about dollars and cents, because we pay the farmers

for the raw, unprocessed cotton bolls. The more fiber that Acadian Brown cotton – as a fibershed – is able to get out of that crop, the less crop waste there is. We really are trying to dial in efficiency, to get more cotton fiber back for the same inputs and the labor cost.”

Randon recently got a batch of yarn back from a mill at Gaston College, “a beautiful yarn that we’re going to use to produce an article of clothing,” he says. “We’ll be purchasing the yarn that we produced in order to create fabric, so that we may put together an article of clothing to display as an example, because it can be done.”

Sharon points out that Larry and Andre are only growing Acadian Brown cotton today because of efforts the Acadiana Fibershed made to change the statewide policy of the Louisiana Boll Weevil Extermination Commission. (The boll weevil is a beetle whose larvae live entirely within the cotton boll, destroying both the seeds and cotton fibers.)

“In order to grow with us, to obtain our seed,” Sharon says, “you have to register with the Boll Weevil Commission. And up until a few years ago, that waiver included the right of the Department of Agriculture to come out and spray malathion (an insecticide) if they found boll weevils in your cotton. Well, our organic and regenerative farmers left us. That just simply was not going to happen. So we essentially lobbied the Department of Agriculture and Forestry and the head of that department agreed to no longer spray. We felt that was a huge victory for us. And Larry and Andre came back to us because the policy changed, and other young farmers are following suit.”

The Acadiana Fibershed has also established successful partnerships, including with the Material Institute in New Orleans, Gulf South for a Green New Deal (Gulf South 4 GND), and Sprout NOLA, an urban farming organization in New Orleans.

“Our next big push has to be the Farm Bill,” Sharon says. “Small farmers have had absolutely no representation, ever. It’s \$480 billion that we’re talking about, and there isn’t a single person from Louisiana that’s on that Agricultural Committee. And Louisiana contributes a lot! I think that’s going to be one unifying part of this movement, to really try to grab our politicians from parish level all the way to national or federal, and really focus on small farmers and regenerative agriculture and how we can make a change in terms of climate. We’re all in it together. And there is power in that.”

“The network of Fibershed is you do what you can where you are, and realize you are not alone,” Randon says. “Other people are out there doing the work too. That is how we make change.”

To learn more, visit their website: acadianbrowncotton.com and follow them on Instagram: [@acadianbrowncotton](https://www.instagram.com/acadianbrowncotton) and Facebook: [Acadian Brown Cotton](https://www.facebook.com/AcadianBrownCotton)





Rust Belt Fibershed

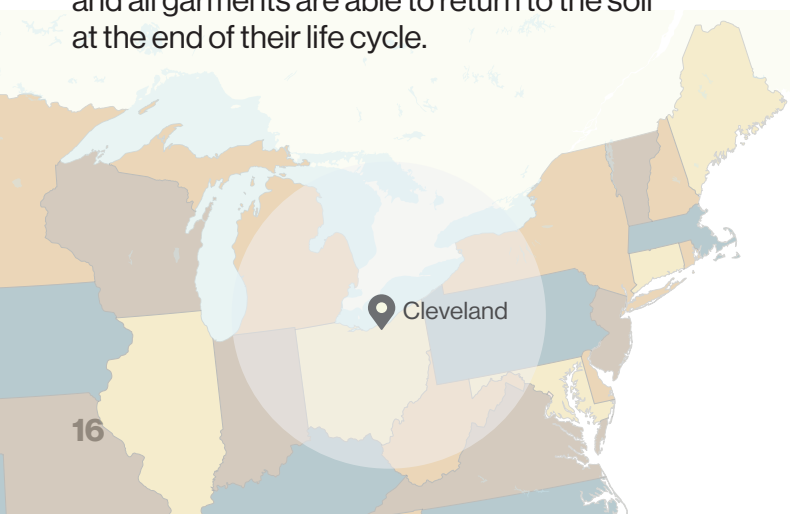
Cleveland, Ohio (250 mi radius)

One Year, One Outfit Project

Photos by Cincinnati-based photographer, Corinne Wiseman

The Rust Belt Fibershed's One Year, One Outfit project collectively responds to a culture of extraction and fast fashion with an act of creation through slow fashion.

This year, over thirty artists from the Rust Belt Fibershed region (within 250 miles of Cleveland) have created 23 outfits by following a soil-to-soil supply chain: fiber and dyes are foraged or grown, harvested, and made into a garment within the 250 mile radius, and all garments are able to return to the soil at the end of their life cycle.



Outfits are created in partnership with ecology, farmers, fiber guilds, community gardens, local art studios, and the collective power and inspiration of the cohort. The project is built around skill and tool sharing and a shared passion to solve problems by looking at all our region has to offer as a gift. The project aims to create a paradigm shift that better relates to the Earth and our communities with care and is organized by the Rust Belt Fibershed as an invitation for us to question the origin of our clothes and explore local, slow fashion.

Participants of the first One Year, One Outfit project worked as individuals or collaborative teams, in order to design, source, and create one outfit (defined as 3 distinct garments or accessories) within a cohort of other makers.

The goals for this project are to provide a structure for imaginative, slow fashion to thrive; celebrate the incredible amount of local talent and production in the regional fibershed; connect folks to each other through monthly cohort meetings where they share projects, progress, hang-ups, connections, etc.; create a collection of stories and a body of work that will provide a glimpse of our unique region; and steward our valuable material and human gifts.



“One of the biggest (re)learnings I’ve had thus far is that time as I know it is not time as time is. In trying to schedule time to work on a skin, I have found that the process can’t be dictated by how long I want it to take, or how long a book suggests it may take. The sun, the air, the tanning materials, my energy, my focus, the toughness of the hide, the gentleness of the life the animal led: these variables decide how long it will take. More than once, I figured I’d be done with a skin, only to find the next day that it needs more work, more processing, more time. The process decides how time lands—time does not decide the process. That’s been incredibly reaffirming for me.

“I’m curious about how many folks in the cohort are supported in sharable or repeatable ways.

“I wonder how many of us are responsible for our outfits or pieces, as well as for childcare and paying bills and supporting elderly family and household chores.

“I wonder how many of us are tending flocks of sheep alone as well as spinning all the yarn (metaphorically or literally!).

“I want to know how communally we live, what burdens we can help each other carry, how to better support this community come next year’s OYOO.

“If I can teach someone how to clean a skin, does that allow time for someone else to teach me how to spin wool?

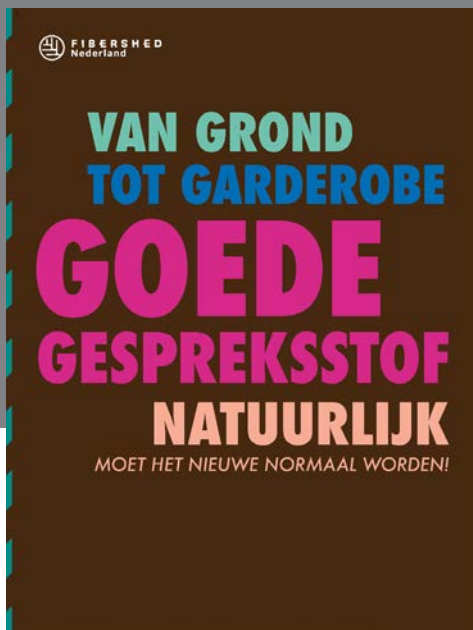
“If I can help someone weed their flax plot, does that afford them time to learn how to knit?

“Working on a craft that is so clearly rooted in community makes me yearn to see how we’ll grow into what the Rust Belt Fibershed asks us to create.”

— Heather Hansen,
Member of the Rust Belt Fibershed
One Year, One Outfit, Cohort 2



To learn more,
visit their website:
rustbeltfibershed.com/
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Fibershed Nederland

The Netherlands



Goede Gespreksstof, Van grond tot garderobe

A versatile and creative book for young people, with inspiring and valuable stories from frontrunners and experts in the Dutch regional textile value network.

How do you talk to young people about the impact of clothing?

With this question Fibershed Netherlands started the book project "Goede Gespreksstof", Dutch for *Let's talk about this, from land to wardrobe*. The book is a conversation starter for parents and other educators to engage teenagers (10+ years) with the world of clothing: how it is now, how it once was, and how things can be done differently.

Role Models sharing their stories

For this book, Stijntje Jaspers talked to inspiring entrepreneurs, designers and experts in the field of textiles and clothing. The result is a richly illustrated book in which young people become acquainted

with pioneers in the field of sustainable textiles and clothing.

Through the book, they learn in a fun way how the role of clothing has changed from a skilfully crafted product to a disposable fashion. And what impact this has on the health of and wellbeing of the environment, people and communities. On the basis of personal and professional experiences, the reader gains a clear insight into the choices they can make themselves as wearer, student and future professional.

Which topics are covered?

The book discusses various aspects of the clothing system:

The clothing system: How does it actually work, what role does the economy play in this and what is the role of the major players?

People (social impact): By whom, where and how are clothes made? What professions are involved in creating our clothes? What is the role of farmers, researchers, designers, craftsmen and other professionals and what was it like in the past? How can we work

together in a textile and clothing system that contributes to social inclusion and equitable labor?

Materials (environmental impact): What are our clothes made of? Which raw materials are used for our clothing, where do they all come from? How was it in the past, what is the impact of synthetic materials? Can we use materials that are climate beneficial, contributing to nature restoration, healthy soil and biodiversity, rather than harming it?

Market approach for book

While the book is aimed at teenagers, communication to distribute the book is mainly aimed at parents and other educators. To reach this audience, Fibershed Netherlands collaborates with their local professional network, educational institutes and social organizations that are already working with this audience on a daily basis. The aim is to distribute 1500 books in the first edition!

Book launch: October 2023

Counting on a successful crowdfunding campaign,

Fibershed Netherlands will launch the publication this fall, in time to give Goede Gespreksstof as a gift during the holiday season.

Funding

This project has been initiated by Martine Nieuwenhuis and Stijntje Jaspers, founding team of Fibershed Netherlands. The start-up cost for this book project has been funded by the microgrant of Fibershed.org, for which Fibershed Netherlands also raised funds through the Threading Resilience Campaign in September 2022.

The project counts on the support of the [Prins Bernhard Cultuurfonds](#) and a number of private donors to cover part of the editorial costs.

Costs for printing and distribution will be raised through a crowdfunding on [VoordeKunst.nl](#), a platform for crowdfunding in the creative sector: [voordekunst.nl/projecten/15394-goede-gespreksstof](#)

This campaign is currently open! Please make your donations until July 12th, 2023.

Editorial team:
Concept: Martine Nieuwenhuis and Stijntje Jaspers | Fibershed NL Foundation

Author and Art-direction:
Stijntje Jaspers

Text editing: Oene Klumper | Het is tijd voor helderheid

Design: Jacqueline Elich | de Beeldvink

Production and communication:
Martine Nieuwenhuis

A big thank you to all that supported the editorial team!

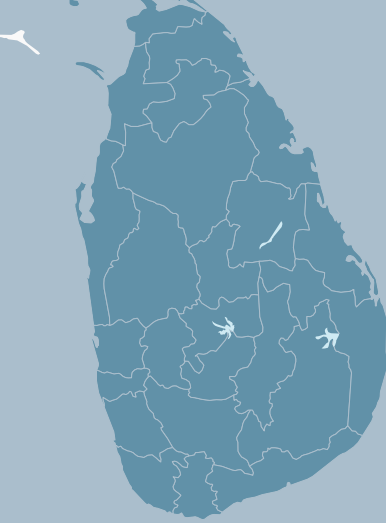
Andrea van Acker, Frida Berntsen, Iris Veentjer, Jennifer de Bruyckère, Josephine Vlaanderen, Rianne de Witte, Suzanne Dikker.

To learn more, visit their website: [fibershed.nl](#), and follow them on Instagram: [@fibershed.nl](#) and Facebook: [Fibershed.nl](#)



Fibershed Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka



Written by *Thilina Premjayanth*,
Leader of Fibershed Sri Lanka

About Us

Fibershed Sri Lanka is a non-profit organization working to develop regional natural fiber systems that generate lasting prosperity for our local economies, global climate and the health and diversity of our ecosystem.



As a thoughtful leadership and network organization, Fibershed Sri Lanka will focus on blending and bridging

Fibershed Sri Lanka intends to support, empower, transform, and grow the local communities that already existed in the good old days in Sri Lanka. This is necessary for the transition to a sustainable future for Sri Lankan textiles and fashion. It mainly focuses on improving, advocating, and promoting local fibers, local dyes, and local labor systems.

Bridging from rural to urban and local to international: Improving the lifestyle of local farming communities by promoting their fiber products (textiles and fashion accessories) and adapting them to new market opportunities, from rural to urban and local to international.

This can be a good opportunity to integrate global needs to Sri Lankan market with emphasizing

“Fibershed Sri Lanka is aiming to address the gaps identified in the previous section to gradually support, empower, transform, and grow the local communities that already existed in Polonnaruwa district in Sri Lanka who have been working in the textiles and fashion accessory business.”

more variations in regenerative organic alternatives to the polluting fibres.

This will result in a Fiber-Farm system, starting with international collaborations between local farmers and global customers, by jointly executing fibre projects in Sri Lanka.

Improving the lifestyle of local farming and craftsmanship

Blending Regenerative Agriculture supports farmers by sharing knowledge about new regenerative farming techniques and stimulate them in using their traditional Sri Lankan farming systems to get the best mix.

Objectives of the project are Improving the lifestyle of local farming and craftsmanship communities by promoting their natural fiber products (textiles and

fashion-accessories) and adapting them to new market opportunities, from rural to urban and local to international.

Creation of Fibershed-Family (Fibershed approved farm and village) in the Polonnaruwa district:

An exclusive community that will work closely with Fibershed Sri Lanka (FSL). FSL will be the bridge between this community and designers; to improve the

quality of the products and quality consistency to meet the market standards/demand to create gradual growth.

We will start in Polonnaruwa district in North Central Province of Sri Lanka. This is, on one hand, a tourist zone because it is the birthplace of the second most ancient kingdom in Sri Lanka with the monumental ruins of the fabulous garden-city created by King Parakramabahu I in the 12th century, and on the other hand, there are still many Micro





“In this project, Fibershed Sri Lanka will attempt to take the initial steps to set-up a MSME government cooperative within the Fibershed Family. It has number of benefits to the local communities and will stand as a collateral for obtaining credit facilities from banks in the future. All to create a more sustainable and social natural fiber supply chain in Sri Lanka.”

Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) such as painters, craftsmen, souvenir shops, etc. that provide services for visitors in Polonnaruwa.

An important demographic feature in the villages of Polonnaruwa is that while men work in the fishing industry, women produce fashion-accessories made of natural fibers with natural dyes. For example, bags made of cane, hats made of reeds, fashion-accessories made of variety of natural fibers from the forest including water-hyacinth. The entire supply chain of fiber products can still be seen in the villages where some women produce the raw material while others work in production and sales.

How is the community strengthened, or the awareness is increased?

First, Fibershed Sri Lanka (FSL) will identify the most needed community group (village) in Polonnaruwa district who are still working with the natural fiber products (textiles and fashion

accessories) and looking for a business transformation and passionate to transform the industry in a new dimension with Fibershed Sri Lanka.

Then we share the Fibershed vision with the selected community and mobilize a few women farmers as project leaders in the community to work as a part of the Fibershed project team and in support of family. These women will be the ambassadors of the Fibershed vision.

Establishing a Fibershed Family; a group of people who has the same intention and goals and showing a pure passion to work with Fibershed Sri Lanka. Next, we categorize the farmers and community members who work with various types of natural fiber products and designs. We will also provide series of trainings to the specific category aiming at improving the product quality and quality consistency.



To learn more, visit their website: fibershed.lk, and follow them on Instagram: [@fibershed.sl](https://www.instagram.com/fibershed.sl)



Fibershed Belgium

Belgium — Flanders, Brussels and Wallonia

Written by Ngairé Takano, leader of Fibershed Belgium

It all began with me learning how to drive an old ute, though this was no ordinary lesson. I was due to embark on a lesson working with sheep. In the direction John the farmer and I were heading, a large wooden shed stood in the distance surrounded by dust, a couple more utes and a handful of sheep dogs. Approaching closer I could hear the hum of shearing machines, stopping and starting. Anxiety kicked in; “can I do this?” I did not wish to hurt the sheep, wool and micron counts, crimps, sorting the wool – it was information overload. Yet I could feel the energy, a new season starting — “be calm”.

I was 16 years old at the time; very nervous to be up so close to sheep though keen to experience my first of many shifts as a rouseabout

“To really connect we need to see our sheep, plants, sheep dogs, wildlife as an extension of our communities— not as a resource, instead as part of us—and they all require the love and respect needed. Together we can nurture and unite communities.”



Carded and hand spun woollen yarn and felted ball



Ecarder with bolt

mass production. Floods began to increase and the quantities of what could be produced shifted. Summers were getting hotter and longer, while the pressure continued to increase to deliver the best price point required by industry.

From talking with mainstream farmers and those who farmed organic/biodynamic/ or with reduced pesticides, there was a stark difference between the two systems. The toll of farming was increasing, animals had a job, a purpose and more.

My Grandfather's advice still resonates with me – our environment and animals – they feel, they see, they remember, they need love and respect. We need to embrace this. This sentiment has subsequently grown even stronger these past two years with my own journey working with sheep, farmers and land. The wellbeing of sheep is key; though take a few steps back and you need to look at the land, the feed, the weather, the seasonal changes and pre-lambing and lambing season.

in New South Wales, Australia. John`s farm had a few thousand sheep, in conversion to biodynamic farming. Though these sheep were not just merinos in large numbers; they were respected, cared for and the land that sustained them was nurtured.

A few weeks later I was working on another farm, lambing time, docking their tails and worming them. The work was not easy; it was harsh though real. This farm also had a few thousand head of sheep,

though these sheep provided wool and mowed the hectare or two.

The impacts of the land, weather, and sadly, in some cases the lack of care for the sheep has changed over the last decades. During the 1990s, there was an increase of eye and skin cancers in animals, diminishment of land and soil health, and livestock were seen as just a resource. Overfarming the land has led to erosion of soil, while the overuse of chemicals has led to poor soil health and

My path took a different turn in 2003. I was living in the UK and began working as a textile sourcer with brands, students and designers — wanting to source artisanal, organic, naturally dyed and ethical yarns and textiles. Traceability and transparency in the supply chain was the focus for many, followed by the next life for the materials used; Building relationships with suppliers was also a focus. But sadly, there was also the focus by many on cheap

fabric, even for the high end fashion designers (4 euro per metre for cotton yet they would sell clothing with a 400% mark up). Sharing their credentials as a leading sustainable designer was regularly published, yet reality was a stark difference. Those throughout the supply chains were treated poorly, material use was dubious and still to date many of these brands are still known to be sustainable, yet jump from one trend to another. In 2015 I decided to stop working in the fashion industry. The stories being sold held a lack of honesty and traceability, yet no one was questioning these brands or designers.

Sheep continue to still amaze me even today. **My journey led me to connect with Fibershed some 10 years ago in the UK. The timing was not right, yet I was reunited 10 years later when I started the affiliate Fibershed Belgium.**

A recent sourcing project for a start-up designer in Italy led me back to wool. She wanted local wool, which took me on a journey of wool sources, production sites for scouring, spinning, carding, and weaving. I found that across the UK and EU, wool was suffering – low price value, stockpiling of wool, processing and production

facilities had disappeared. Those mills who had survived were taking over a year to process wool. Farmers were losing interest in their sheep – wool was not light and fluffy, it was a raw heavy burden.

Then I had a chance meeting also in 2021 with a farmer in Brussels, Belgium. I was talking to his geese couple and telling them how beautiful they looked (like you do) whilst also noticing he had a small flock of 5 sheep. I inquired what happened to the wool and he told me he took it to the recycling centre, or it was often burnt since it had no value and it was a burden



A selection of wool samples from an Italian old breed.



Samples coming back from University



more than anything. I had promised myself that I would not return to working within the fashion or textile industry, yet I knew I had to do something.

This hit me square in the chest and my first impression was to set up a fully functioning mill, though I also

realistically had to evaluate what the bottlenecks were.

Months passed, investigations were undertaken. The first discovered bottleneck: scouring. Scouring was and continues to be my focus. I realised I had to make a change and challenge the present

process otherwise, why replicate the same old steps? Excess water use, heated water and the waste during the picking, sorting, scouring and carding has to change. So, this has led me to create 5 different methods of scouring. 2 of these have been validated and are suitable for scale up of over

100kg, 2 others are still undergoing testing with universities and the last method still needs some development though works well.

Why create the 5 different methods you may ask? Each process has a slightly different deliverable, yet also work together. Softening coarse wool, sourcing clean multi use lanolin, and delivering a bio waste material that is suitable for reuse. The results also depend on how dirty the wool is, the part of the wool you are washing, and the intended end use. Further development does need to be undertaken and I plan to do this over the coming year with a research institute in Belgium.

Generally speaking, the process is not complicated, and does not need a vast amount of machinery.

What it does need is different processes and incorporating everyone in the whole process. With wool, there is an interplay between farmers, the shearers, the land, the sheepdogs, the weather, the pickers, the sorters and what the wool will be used for. If you have poor land, it equals poor food (for the sheep), then poor sheep, and poor fleeces that are not worthwhile for textile or yarn use.

Europe has such diverse breeds of sheep and the wool has multisector uses: interiors on cars, packaging, clothing, carpets, insulation, knitting along with many other uses.

Problems: Most bags of wool I have processed has been a mix of all sorts – multiple breeds, colours, ewes, rams, short clips, locks, and fleeces that are as holy as

Jarlsberg cheese. Though do not forget the amount of plant matter and other waste in the wool. The low value of wool doesn't help, if anything it hinders: shearing process is quick – get the fleeces off in any manner. Many farmers here in Belgium end up shearing their own sheep. There are good shearers though more are required.

Solving the problems: Belgium needs a central location for sorting wool, for classification and picking. Measuring the wool at shearing can help understand micron count and quality. This will lead to fairer pricing for farmers, versus the current 0 – 30 cents per kilo. We also need more mills who are processing wool circularly. Present day methods are hundreds of years old; the regulars and innovators need to be supportive in innovating future processes.

In the near future, Fibershed Belgium will offer: drop spindle workshops, felting and carding activities, while working with other waste streams from linen, hemp, and natural dyeing.

Sheep are underestimated in how clever they are, their wool has multiple uses. We humans can do and connect more: our sheep, plants, sheep dogs, wildlife as an extension of our communities – not just a resource. They are part of us and the overall process. Love and respect are needed. We can together build a united force.

There is a strong future for wool and other natural fibres. It can be stronger and achievable by uniting, collaborating, supporting each other and each point of contact we

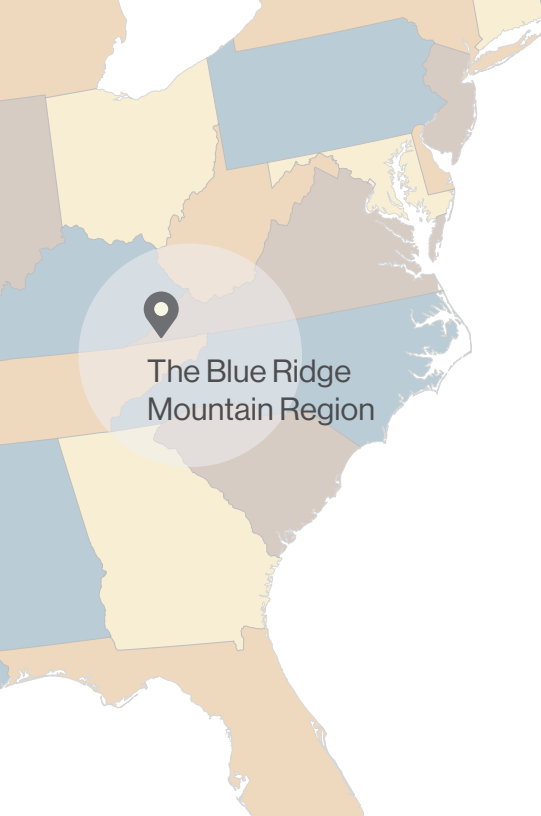
connect with – whether it is human or environment.

To the 350+ unique breeds of sheep in Europe, to those mills, farmers, shearers, rouseabouts, pickers, sorters, classifiers, spinners, weavers, designers – we are all together working for the future of wool. Thank you.

**Fashion has a conscience,
fabric has a soul.
Wool can nurture our future.**

Email: ngaire@gnathia.com





The Blue Ridge Mountain Region

Blue Ridge Mountain Fibershed

Asheville, NC (100 mile radius, encompassing the mountains of Western North Carolina and parts of Appalachian East Tennessee, upstate South Carolina and North Georgia)

The Blue Ridge Mountain Fibershed Loves Natural Dyes

Every month, fiber artists and environmental enthusiasts gather at [Local Cloth](#) in Asheville, NC for a meeting of the Natural Dye Interest group and experiment at the intersection of fiber and the natural world. This group has been meeting for eight years and studies all types of dye that comes from animals, plants, or minerals.

Each time there's a new topic, with one of the group members leading the way. During the last year the group has explored dyeing weeds, lichen, cochineal, brazilwood, African Blackwood, and garden favorites like carrots!

An affiliate of Fibershed, Local Cloth is a nonprofit started in 2012 that works to nurture and strengthen the fiber economy in the Blue Ridge Mountains region. With a studio located in Asheville's River Arts District, Local Cloth provides education, inclusive programming, services which add value to local products, and advocates for the region's farmers, artists, makers, and designers. Eight different interest groups meet there regularly, and there's also a retail shop where artists and farmers work can be admired and purchased.

For Local Cloth's Natural Dye Interest group, the process of dyeing fiber and fabric with plants goes beyond wonder and craft; it is also about supporting the use of sustainable alternatives to environmentally un-friendly coloring agents. Compared to chemical dyes, natural dyes are biodegradable, non-toxic, and non-allergenic, making them safer for ecosystems as well as the people involved in the dye process, and for consumers who wear the finished products.

Natural dyes also offer the chance to reconnect with the world around us. Joyce Tromba, Local Cloth Board Vice-Chair, Instructor, and anchor of the Natural Dye Interest Group, adds that "having a connection with something that was living — perhaps something you grew in your garden — affords a much deeper appreciation of the color."

Meetings often harken members back to the days of their high school chemistry lab. In January, members tried two methods for boiling Lobaria pulmonaria, a common lichen. Members came prepared with pre-mordanted fiber samples and took turns testing out their hypotheses. "Because of chemistry," Tromba shared with the group, "no piece of fabric dipped in Lobaria pulmonaria is going to look the same." Typically members log all of the results and

keep copious notes in a three-ring binder that contains fabric samples, descriptions of the respective dye solutions, techniques, and other factors that may have influenced the color.

One of Joyce's favorite plants to dye with is indigo. In fact, Joyce studied indigo while living in Africa. As a plant, the leaves of the Indigofera tinctoria plant, from which indigo is extracted, have wonderful regenerative properties, including serving as a natural fertilizer for the plants around it. Some communities even use the stems of indigo for biofuel once dye has been harvested. Beyond its function as a dye-agent, indigo is edible with anti-inflammatory qualities, including steeping leaves for tea and incorporating powder into spices and sauces. Like the example of indigo, natural dye reduces or even eliminates waste as all parts of a plant are used in some way or another.

Local Cloth's Natural Dye Interest Group repeats this magical, methodical process every month, incorporating their findings as they explore new plants and techniques, and sharing their results with the fibershed. Although small and slow, the work of this group represents a mighty movement, reflecting Local Cloth's commitment to sustainable practices that support both the environment and the fiber economy.



Read more about Local Cloth's Natural Dye Interest Group in this March 2023 Asheville Made magazine article written by Lauren Stepp: ashevillemade.com/lungwort-in-the-cauldron-and-other-sustainable-concepts

“Having a connection with something that was living — perhaps something you grew in your garden — affords a much deeper appreciation of the color.”





Weavers from Warren Wilson College, holding the blankets they created for the Blue Ridge Blankets Project. Miles Klein (left) and Matilda Law (right). In the dye garden at Warren Wilson College, in Swannanoa, NC. Photo by Caroline Williford

Blue Ridge Blankets on Tour

In September of 2022, Local Cloth unveiled the first sample blankets from its newest endeavor: The Blue Ridge Blankets Project, an effort to create locally-sourced and crafted blankets in the Blue Ridge Mountain Fibershed. These blankets, showcasing 19 different designs, were the result of a very busy first year of the project, working with fiber farmers, processors, dyers and weavers across the region.

With their sample blankets in hand, and hundreds of pounds of fiber off to the mill for the first official run of blankets, and months to wait, what next? To continue their effort

of building community, the group decided to take the blankets on tour.

The tour began in October 2022 with displays at the Craft Fair of the Southern Highlands and the Southeastern Animal Fiber Fair. In January 2023, they were invited to create an exhibit at the I-26 West North Carolina Welcome Center that would be on display through June, and they placed two blankets in a special exhibit at the Ramsey Center for Regional Studies at Mars Hill University, which paired historical photographs of early 20th century craftspeople in Western North Carolina with a selection of modern art and crafts of Appalachia. In February, they created an extensive display of the remaining blankets at the Grovewood Gallery at the

Historic Grovewood Village, during the National Arts and Crafts Conference. Members of Local Cloth brought their spinning wheels to the gallery over the event weekend, to demonstrate spinning and answer questions for visitors about the blankets. They downsized the Grovewood display in May, keeping samples of the blankets on site that would be available for purchase come autumn. Other tour events included a presentation about the blankets to the Western North Carolina Fibers/Handweavers Guild and tabling at various fiber festivals in the region.

At each tour stop, the community was invited to view the blankets and vote on their favorite designs. The voting was wildly popular, reaching



over 600 people, and yielding over 1800 votes. Five designs emerged as the top favorites by winter and these designs went into production in the spring. The number of new connections and the extent of community growth went beyond expectation and all together the tour was a great success.

As of summer 2023, the sample blankets have returned home to an exhibit at the Local Cloth studio in the River Arts District of Asheville. Excitement continues to build as the blankets move into the final stages of dyeing and weaving in summer 2023. The blankets will finally be available for sale by late 2023, if not before!

The mission of the Blue Ridge Blankets project is to revitalize the fiber economy in western North Carolina by connecting fiber farmers, processors, dyers and weavers together, to produce locally sourced and crafted blankets. This project is supported by a grant from The Community Foundation of Western North Carolina.



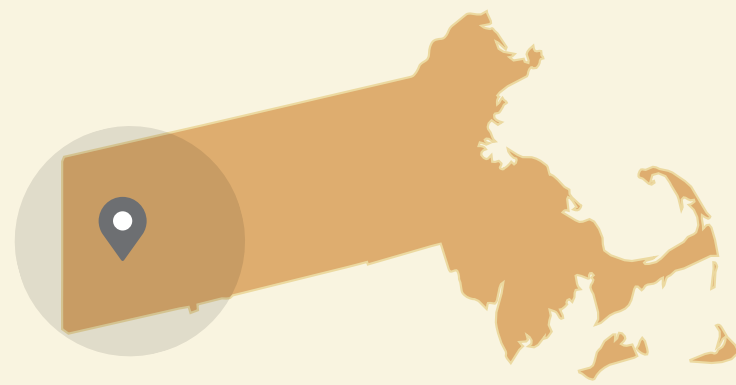
To learn more about the project and to view all 19 blankets, visit the Local Cloth website:

[localcloth.org/
Blue-Ridge-Blankets1](https://localcloth.org/Blue-Ridge-Blankets1)



Western Massachusetts Fibershed

Connecticut River Valley & Berkshires (100 mi radius)



Creating Wool Pellets Out of Waste Wool

Written by Peggy Hart

A couple of years ago, a Fibershed group started meeting online to discuss uses of “waste” wool. Waste wool is generated at several points: shearing, when shearers leave the dirtiest wool on the floor, and skirting, when wool that is too short, too matted, or full of vegetable and other matter to be used in garment quality yarn, is removed. Waste wool also results when farmers raise meat sheep with no intention of saving the wool, using farming practices that render the wool unusable.

One of the ideas that came out of the waste wool study was the idea of pelletizing wool and using it as a soil amendment. After all, it is full of nutrients in the form of nitrogen, phosphate and potassium (Our pellets just tested at 9% nitrogen, 1% phosphorus, and 4% potassium). Wool also holds four times its weight in water, helping to hold moisture in the soil.

For several reasons, pelletizing wool is more advantageous than merely spreading waste wool as mulch. It can take years for raw wool to decompose. Before pelletizing, the wool passes through a shredder, which breaks

down the long fibers. Then in pelletizing, the wool is heated, killing any weed seeds. The resulting pellets are compressed and ready to mix into soil.

Western Mass Fibershed applied for and gratefully acknowledges receipt of grants from Fibershed, the New England Grassroots Environment Fund, and Massachusetts Society for the Promotion of Agriculture to develop a wool pellet business plan and fund the purchase of a pelletizer and shredder. We processed 100 lbs of wool waste into pellets, and are currently in the process of analyzing and testing them at various sites: University of Massachusetts Permaculture garden, Rich Earth Institute, and Lyonsville farm. Our pelletizer group is working to draft two models of business plans: the first being production and marketing and the second, providing a pelletizing service for sheep farms.

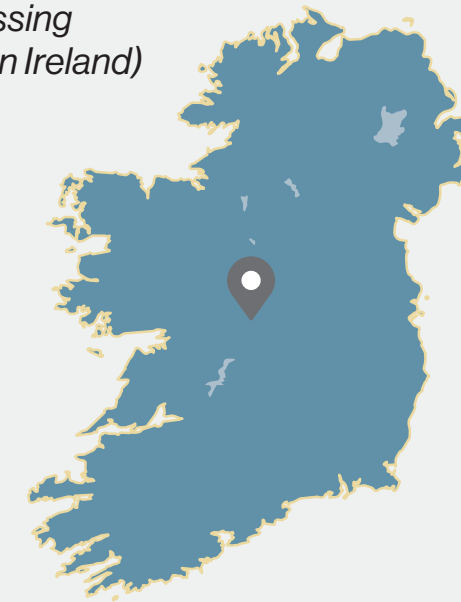
To learn, visit their website: www.westernmassfibershed.org and follow them on Facebook: [Western Mass Fibershed](https://www.facebook.com/WesternMassFibershed) and Instagram: [@westernmassfibershed](https://www.instagram.com/westernmassfibershed)



Top: Wool after shredding, above: Pelletizing at Buskirk Manufacturing

Fibreshed Ireland

The island of Ireland (encompassing Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland)



Co-creating a regenerative verification for Irish textiles

Written by Malú Colorín, co-leader of Fibreshed Ireland

In December 2022, we received a micro-grant from Fibershed to start a Knowledge Transfer Group of fibre and dye farmers and growers who are interested in or already implementing regenerative land management practices. With this grant, we planned 6 interactive workshop-style sessions on different topics related to “regeneration”. As a result of these sessions, we will collaboratively develop a verification system for regenerative Irish textiles, inspired by Fibershed’s Climate Beneficial™ programme.

Our starting point is to look at regeneration as a holistic concept; not just encompassing the environmental aspect, but also cultural and economic concepts. At the time of writing this article, 4/6 sessions have been completed.

Preliminary definition, needs, desires & challenges

During this interactive session, led by natural dyer and Fibreshed Ireland co-founder Malú Colorín,

participants were asked to brainstorm responses to several prompts related to regeneration, biodiversity, financial resilience, and their ideal farm. Their responses were then organised by broad themes to gain a better understanding of what they value most.

The concept of regeneration was described as birthing new ways of working and changing business models to be productive and profitable without harming the environment. It also involved connecting broken relationships and cycles of life, living within planetary boundaries, and generating continuous life cycles that give back to the soil.

Cultural regeneration included embracing cultural and generational diversity, preserving traditions, fostering connections and promoting food and textile autonomy that considers Ireland’s specific practices and resources.

A biodiverse Ireland was described as needing more wild areas, well-connected habitats, clean water bodies, trees, diverse native species, small-scale farms, wildlife,

The farmers and growers involved in this group are:

- **Sandra King, Irish Fibre Crafters** — sheep smallholder and fibre crafter
- **Helen Keys & Charlie Mallon, Mallon Linen** — flax farmer & processors
- **Seamus Bradley** — sheep farmer and shearer
- **Benjamin & Anastasia von Ammon, Alpaca Walk West Cork** — alpaca and sheep farmers
- **Tristan Lienhard, co-director of natural dye house AppleOak FibreWorks** — AppleOak FibreWorks is working with Irish Seed Savers to increase the availability of Irish dye plant seeds
- **Linda Costello** — sheep farmer and spinner
- **Jessica Leonard, Teacup Farm** — biologist, educator, alpaca farmer and fibre processor
- **Pieter Ploeg & Nakyta Grimm, Terranu** — mixed farmers who will soon incorporate sheep

Regeneration means...

CHANGING MINDSETS:

- Birthing new ways of working, new business models and new approaches
- Being productive and profitable, but not at the cost of the environment
- Connect broken relationships & cycles of life
- Living within planetary boundaries
- Generating a continuous life cycle that gives back to the soil

TAKING ACTION:

- Improving biodiversity
- Reducing pollution and dependency on fossil fuels
- Building soil health
- Improving air and water quality
- Designing the landscape for water retention
- Supporting life
- Working with Nature, not against her
- Connecting broken relationships & cycles of life

UPLIFTING VALUES:

- Respect
- Work
- Leaving the place better than you found it
- Helping Nature
- Building up instead of exploiting
- Giving back more than you take

agroforestry, and effective use of food waste. The participants emphasised the need to reduce monocultures, invasive species, pesticides and industrial farming.

Financial resilience and economic stability were seen as achievable through local cooperation and autonomy, diverse income streams, structural and policy changes, and embracing the circular economy. Participants highlighted the importance of self-sufficiency, abundance, and diversity in income sources, along with policy changes that support low-cost living and stable local markets.

A thriving farm was characterised by self-sufficiency, enjoyment of the land's produce, diverse income streams, thriving wildlife and biodiversity, advanced equipment and healthy soil. The desire for a learning centre for regenerative farming was also mentioned.

To achieve their vision, participants identified needs such as equipment, community cooperation, clear strategies, policy support, staff, time, finances, knowledge, and access to relevant resources. They also proposed additional ideas such as streamlining paperwork, creating shared machinery pools, a very high-quality brand for regeneratively produced fibre and knowledge transfer among different generations.

Biodiversity

Jessica Leonard –biologist, educator, farmer, carbon farm planner and Fibreshed Ireland board member– gave a presentation on the topic of Biodiversity in Agroecological Systems Above and Below Ground.

The importance of creating healthy hedgerows, reducing light pollution, creating wildlife corridors, adding water bodies, and minimising agrochemical use was discussed. Participants shared their experiences with multi-species swards and observed improvements in livestock health. They also discussed the ways in which they currently measure biodiversity in their farms and expressed openness to third-party assessments and the use of apps or technology for self-assessment.

Feed the soil, not the plants

Soil scientist Dr. Aga Piwowarczyk was invited to give a fascinating presentation on the importance of feeding the soil, rather than the plants. The presentation was followed by a lively Q&A session among attendants. This session helped to demystify the subject of

soil and it opened the possibility of farmers conducting their own citizen science soil tests under guidance from an expert.

Next steps

This was a group discussion led by fibre artist, scientist, carbon farm planner and Fibreshed Ireland co-founder Kit Christina Keawwantha. This was an opportunity to take stock of what has been discussed so far and outline next steps for the group.

Collecting, cataloguing, and testing fibre and dye samples:

The group discussed the benefits of collecting fibre samples from members and explored methods used by Fibreshed and others. They also highlighted the need for more knowledge on grading fleeces and discussed avenues to fill this gap.



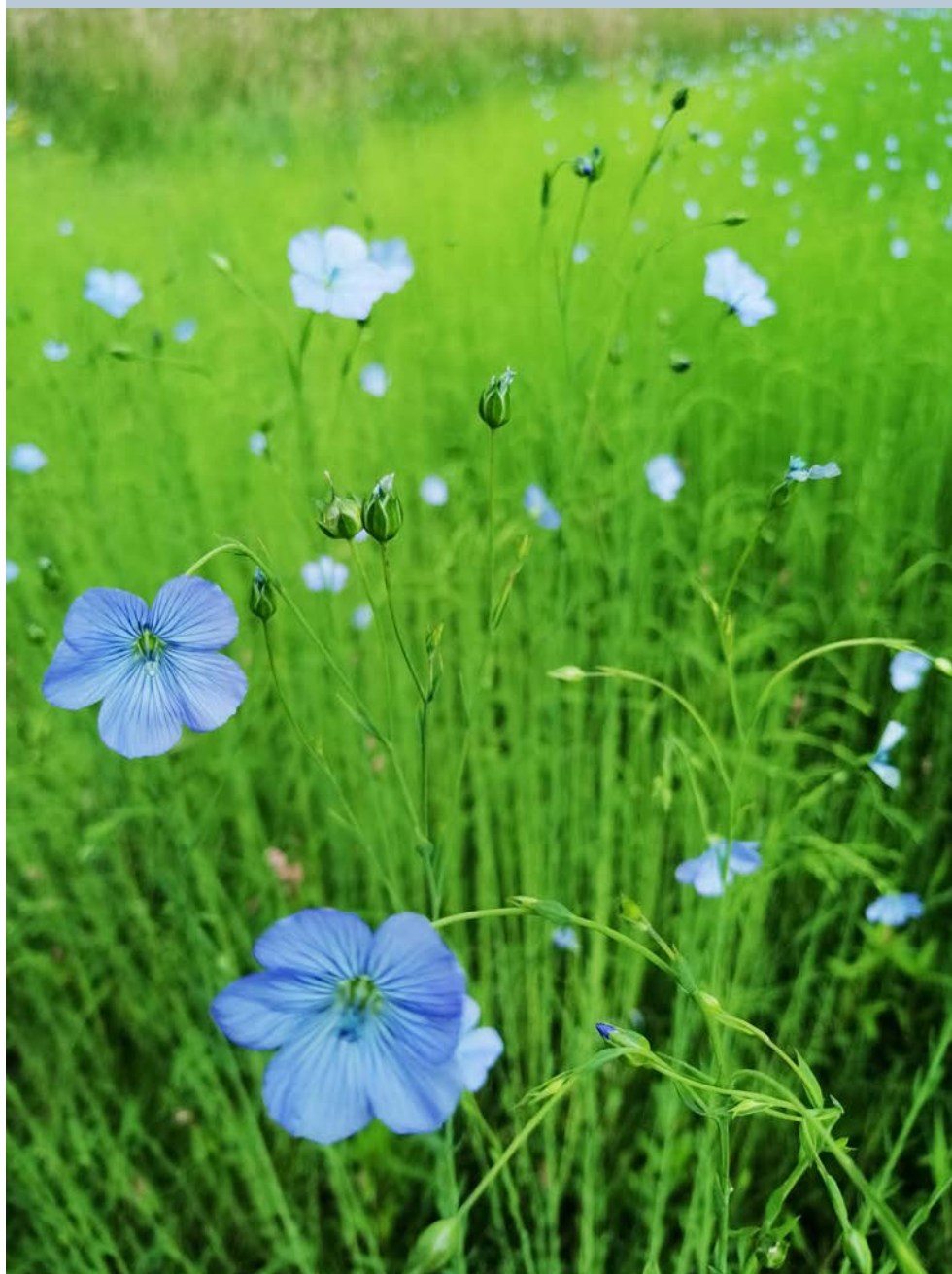
Assessing regenerative practices and measuring impacts:

The meeting provided an overview of regenerative practices, sourced from the Carbon Cycle Institute Carbon Farm Planning course and The Bride project. Accessing premium markets through “regenerative” fibre was discussed, along with the need to measure and communicate growers’ efforts. To address members’ requests for guidance, a basic guide to regenerative practices and a standardised soil sampling protocol will be compiled and shared.

Marketing, sharing, and promotion:

Recognising the novelty of “regenerative fibre” in Ireland, the sharing of farmer stories, farming practices, and fibre/dye information was seen as the best way to communicate transparency to consumers.

As a continuation of the Regenerative Farmers’ Knowledge Transfer Group, we are planning a Community Supported Yarn scheme using fibre from the growers of the group. We will also be participating in the Earth Rising eco art festival with an interactive crafting experience that invites participants to collaboratively create a tapestry using fibre and dyes grown by our group. Attendants will be invited to participate in the co-creation of this tapestry by learning how to process fibre into yarn, dye with plants or weave. While doing so, they will also be learning about Fibershed’s “Soil-to-Soil” model for local textile production.



To follow this project, visit: fibreshedireland.ie/regenerative-growers-group

To learn more, visit their website: fibreshedireland.ie and follow them on Facebook: [Fibreshed Ireland](#) and Instagram: [@fibreshed ireland](#)



Great Basin Fibershed

The state of Nevada



Customize Your Closet: A Series of Community Engagement Events with Great Basin Fibershed

Written by Sara Garey-Sage, Co-Leader of Great Basin Fibershed

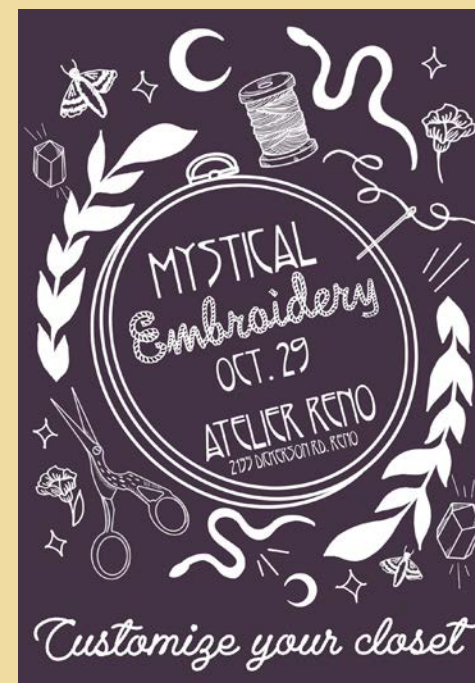
The 2023 Fibershed micro-grant cycle generously funded an event series focused on customizing your closet and emphasizing that the most sustainable option is the one you already own. From October 2022 to June 2023, we held several events focused on embroidery, mending, swapping, and dyeing.

Our goals for this event series were:

1. Connect with our community, especially younger members (18-40), through fun fiber-focused events that did not require a huge time, financial, or knowledge commitment
2. Keep costs accessible for a variety of community members
3. Identify what our community already knew, what they wanted to learn, and what they were passionate about
4. Raise awareness of the Fibershed mission and our existing regional fiber economy

Mystical Embroidery

This event coincided with Halloween so we chose to lean into the seasonal vibes. Participants were offered two designs (a moon or a moth) and given supplies to embroider both designs on pieces of wool fabric. When finished, they could attach this wool patch to a hat, bag, jacket, or anything else. This event was popular, particularly with people in their mid-twenties as it was an affordable, but fun way to spend a Saturday morning.



Left to right—Mystical Poster: the promotional poster and social media graphic for our Mystical Embroidery event, designed by a local artist! Moon Sample: one of the designs designed and sampled by Sarah Lillegard for the Mystical Embroidery workshop. Moth Embroidery: After a brief intro on the basics of embroidery, participants jumped into starting their designs!



Denim Mending Happy Hour

We loosely modeled this event after the mending happy hour held at the Fibershed Learning Center in Point Reyes. We held it at Atelier in Reno and had regional sewist, Sarah Lillegard, on hand to help guide mending techniques and answer questions. This event garnered a lot of interest - we hosted a second one and by request, are planning to make it a quarterly event at Atelier in Reno.



Left to right—Expert sewist and mending guide, Sarah Lillegard, showing us how to best mend denim; Kelly mending: Many people brought their jeans to reinforce the inner thigh, a popular area for wear and tear on denim; A cheerful visible mend in progress.

Sweater Swap

We chose to do a sweater swap to reach a wider audience, to allow for inclusivity in size and gender identity, and because knits are more often made with some or all natural fibers. Further, we created a postcard handout that shared sweater care tips to ensure a long-lasting sweater and take some of the fear of caring for natural fibers away. However, despite community feedback and interest leading up to this event (and seeing other successful clothing swaps in our area throughout the year), the sweater swap was our least popular event. We believe it was primarily due to timing - after a long winter, people were not interested in sweaters. We saved the sweaters and will try again in the Fall.

Indigo Community Pot

Rather than a technical workshop, this community pot was designed to allow people to experience the magic of indigo dye through a prepared bath, connect through the experience, and generate interest in more in-depth natural dyeing. We scheduled this event in June to both allow for an outdoor gathering and to lead up to other natural dyeing workshops from our partner institution, Atelier in Reno. This event was also designed to be family friendly.

“Creating a community is essential in creating change.”

WHY WOOL & OTHER NATURAL FIBERS?

Wool and other natural fibers often get a bad rap as being scratchy, fussy, expensive, and possibly even dry-clean only. While these fibers do require some special care, they are incredibly resilient and have a host of benefits - they are breathable, will breakdown naturally over time (unlike plastic based synthetics), honor traditional fiber production methods, and are easier to produce in a small-scale regional fiber economy. Fibershed advocates for natural fibers for all of these reasons. Plus, they just feel and look good!

GET IN TOUCH!

if you have questions about Fibershed, want to stay up-to-date with current endeavors, or have project ideas, give us a follow or drop us a line.

Email: greatbasinfibershed@gmail.com

Instagram: [@greatbasinfibershed](https://www.instagram.com/greatbasinfibershed)



What We Learned:

1. Social media & newsletters are great tools to build upon in person connections. Our social media following grew significantly between October and June. This was a great supplemental way to spread Fibershed messaging and connect with artisans, producers, and more in our region.
2. We created a fruitful relationship with an existing community workshop space, Atelier in Reno, and their instructors. This led to the opportunity to assist in other fiber workshops in our region, thereby widening our reach, and giving Great Basin Fibershed a home base.
3. Community outreach is key! Events that we promoted frequently (through social media, other digital tools, and personal invites) were far more successful than events we thought would market themselves. Further, we realized through trial and error as well as conversation with other affiliates—creating a community is essential in creating change.
4. Workshops are an effective (and fun!) way to connect with a new audience, especially when the workshop is paired with meaningful messaging and clear goals. Going forward, we will build in time and funds for at least one workshop or community gathering a year as part of our ongoing and future projects!

Next Steps:

Now that we are better connected with our community and have a platform to spread our message to members of the public, we are shifting our focus back to the foundational work of understanding and bolstering Nevada's existing fiber economy. In 2021, we began exploring the potential for a hemp fiber economy. In 2024, we will be focusing on wool to identify and map our regional wool producers, locate where their wool is going and how it is being used, raise awareness of the existing Nevada wool industry, explore potential new uses for Nevada wool, and set the stage for a more in-depth wool feasibility study in years to come!

To learn more, visit their website: greatbasinfibershed.org
and follow them on Instagram: [@greatbasinfibershed](https://www.instagram.com/greatbasinfibershed)



Fibershed DACH

Switzerland, Germany, Austria

Growing Our Community

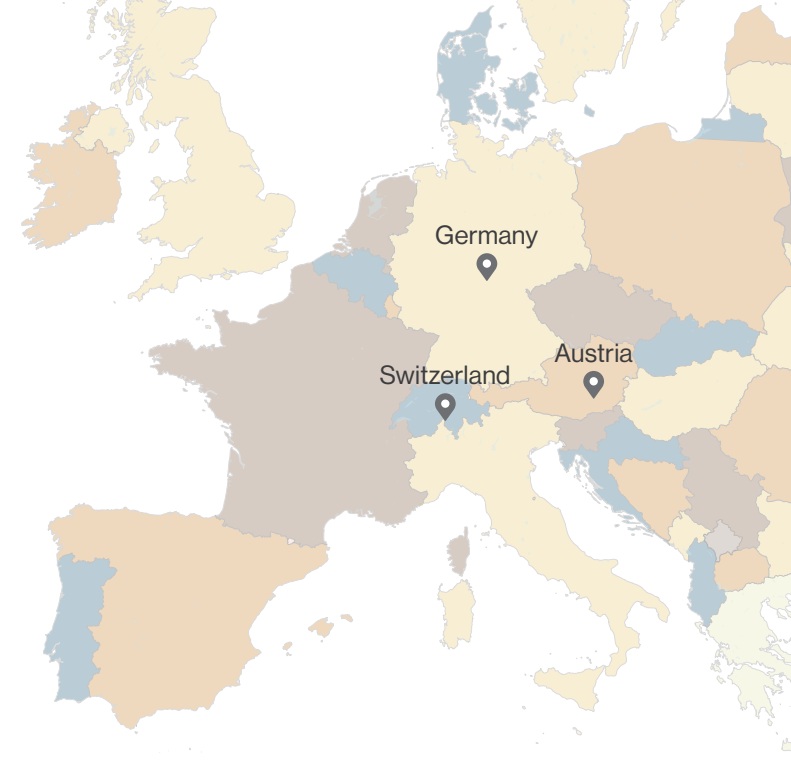
Kirsten: “I am looking for a wool washer that processes small amounts of wool without chemicals. Any tips?”

Astrid: “Hello Kirsten, what you’re looking for is exactly what I would like to offer, but I’m just at the beginning.”

Kirsten: “Cool! I have just had a conversation about industrial wool washing laws that require certain chemicals to kill parasites which is not the way I want to go...”

And 36 comments later, Kathrin who is our wool group coordinator has set up an online meeting to discuss the information we have and determine next steps.

This exchange happened within the first week of opening the community space membership program this spring. But let’s back up. Last fall we wrote in our Fibershed micro-grant application: „We receive requests from people who would like to be part of and contribute to the movement; from craftspeople who would like to be part of a network, for a sense of camaraderie and knowledge sharing; from shepherds who want to know what they can do with their wool;



and from consumers, who are looking for textiles made from local fibers.” To invite all these people into the Fibershed movement and to connect them to each other, we proposed a list of activities, including social media and blog posts, a newsletter, focus groups, online and local events, and some sort of membership program to break down barriers between groups of experts that have traditionally remained among themselves.

Since our Fibershed region is large — spanning the three countries: Germany, Austria and Switzerland—a central hub, such as a learning center, a textile co-working space or a product exhibition place is not feasible. So we looked at easily available online tools and quickly landed on Slack to get our community space started. We have set up channels for wool, bast (linen, hemp and nettle), leather and silk, as well as agriculture and natural dyeing. Others, like channels for design students or brands who produce according to Fibershed principles, may follow.

We hope that the community space grows and interconnects in ways that are too vast for us to oversee or imagine today - growing and connecting like mycelium in diverse and fertile soil, popping up here and there into the larger society and economy with beautiful fiber products, sustainable textile businesses and thriving family farms.



To learn more, visit their website:
fibershed-dach.org
and follow them on Instagram:
[@fibershed.dach](https://www.instagram.com/fibershed.dach)



Fibershed Québec

Québec, Canada

Fibershed Québec: Valuing Local Textile Fibers at the Heart of the Fashion Industry

Inspired by the regional textile economic model initiated by Rebecca Burgess in California, Fibershed Québec officially came to life in Montreal in May 2022, spearheaded by [Marie-Eve Faust](#), then director of the École supérieure de mode at ESG UQAM (Université du Québec à Montréal).

An Intersectoral Approach Centered Around a Local Fiber

Fibershed Québec aims to create bridges between academia, research, and commerce to revive the once-thriving local textile production. Our initial focus to revive the “fabric of the land”, a textile traditionally woven with linen for the warp and wool for the weft. To begin, we mapped out local stakeholders, including farmers, breeders, artisans, manufacturers, designers, researchers, and socio-economic decision-makers who could contribute to achieving this objective. This first step led us to create a directory of fashion subcontracting in Québec, carried out by [La grappe Métropolitaine de Mode \(Mmode\)](#) led by **Mathieu St-Arnaud Lavoie**.

Our assessment of the local workforce has allowed us to identify our needs, such as for equipment for weaving or transforming linen fiber into yarn. The directory also revealed our strengths. For example, we are well-equipped for felting

and knitting. Furthermore, we produce a significant amount of wool - a local fiber with numerous technical virtues that is currently undervalued.

In the second year, we decided to focus on wool by organizing an event in May 2023 that brought together around fifty local stakeholders from this sector. Our objective, centered around circularity, knowledge sharing, and the exchange of expertise, aimed to foster collaboration amongst participants. In order to give visibility to each involved stakeholder, we began creating a series of profiles that we shared on social media (Instagram, LinkedIn, Facebook) to facilitate potential collaborations that might have otherwise remained unknown.

We met with members of Fibershed Québec to build relationships focused on intersectionality and

to showcase the connections that unite the land, territory, textiles, and its stakeholders. The first profile features **présente Lylliane Le Quellec** (fig.1), an engineer who is curious and passionate about textiles. Her desire to learn and share has grown since her retirement. As a self-taught practitioner, she learned spinning alongside Susan Heller about a decade ago. Today, she raises her own Southdown Babydoll sheep. Elliott, Perle, and their offspring produce incredibly soft wool, which Lylliane spins, dyes, and knits with an unwavering desire to pass on this traditional craft. Her contribution to Fibershed Québec lies in generously sharing her knowledge with schools and other visitors who come to meet her at her farm. Thank you, Lylliane, for your creativity and contagious enthusiasm! You are truly an inspiration!

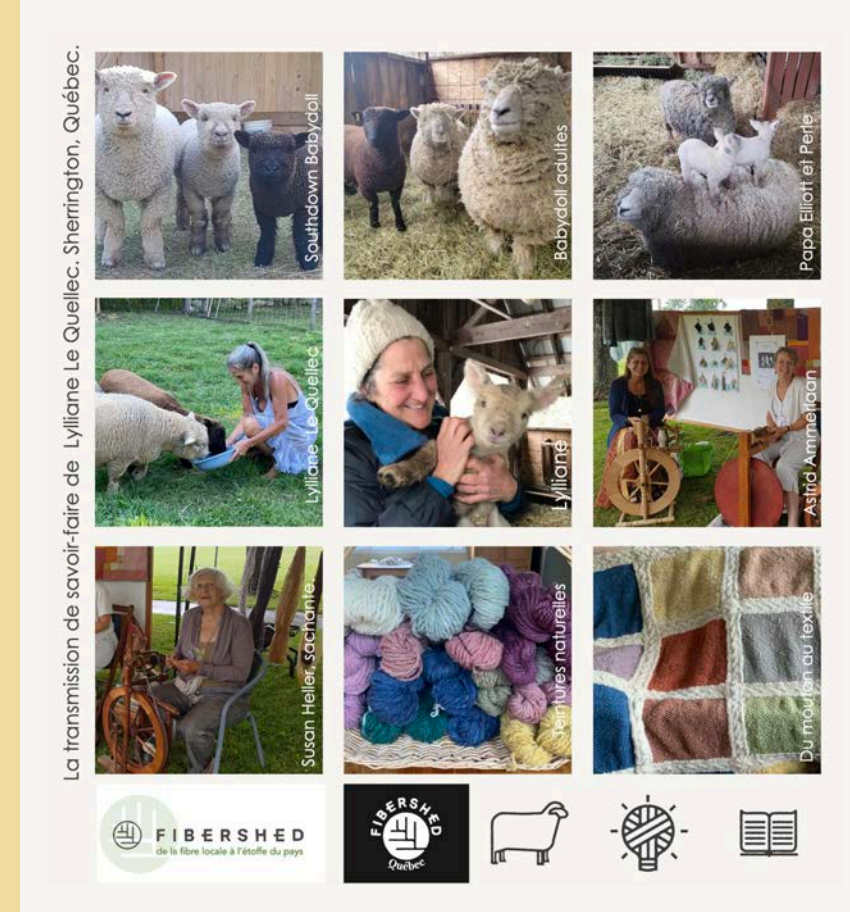


Figure 1: Portrait of Lylliane Le Quellec, Shepherdess, Spinner, Knitter, Dyer, and Educator



Figure 2: Natural dyes made from food waste by Vanessa Mardrossian

Our second profile showcases a tapestry of collaboration: dyed yarns by **Vanessa Mardrossian** (Textile Eco-literacy Researcher and Educator, UQAM and Concordia), sourced from Border Leicester sheep raised at Ferme Ammerlaan. Located in Saint-Valentin, Quebec, Astrid Ammerlaan cares for around thirty sheep. In the photo, you can see the Quebec wool that Lylliane Le Quellec has washed, carded, and spun. The woven wool sheets are from Italy.

A Sustainable Approach to Clothing and Agriculture in Quebec/Canada

The research team, led by professors **Marie-Eve Faust**, **Richard Fontaine**, and **Jocelyn Bellemare** from ESG UQAM, is dedicated to reducing the environmental and social impact of the clothing and textile industry in Quebec/Canada through a life cycle approach. The team adopts an interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary approach to leverage the regional expertise of the fashion, textile, and apparel industry, as well as that of agricultural producers. Their goal is to reassess current practices and develop innovative solutions to foster a more sustainable and responsible industry across the entire textile value chain. With a specific focus on the flax and wool supply chains, they aim to promote local sourcing and circular economic principles, while also supporting regenerative agriculture in line with Canada’s greenhouse gas emissions targets. By working collaboratively, the group aims to develop innovative solutions to transform the agricultural sector,



and sustainable strategies co-developed with stakeholders from the agricultural and textile/apparel sectors. This project aligns with the objectives of the research support initiative for sustainable agriculture, which seeks to support research aimed at initiating or accelerating the development of solutions necessary to ensure the sustainability, resilience, and profitability of the agricultural sector in a carbon-neutral economy.

In 2023, Fibershed Québec organized brainstorming sessions that brought together key stakeholders from the fashion industry. These meetings helped gain a better understanding of the challenges faced by each sector and implement concrete actions to address them. The revaluation of raw materials, both in flax and wool, is at the core of these discussions. By promoting the use of local fibers, Fibershed Québec encourages the establishment of a circular economy and waste reduction. We strongly believe in the local economic potential, as it can enhance the resilience of the agricultural sector by identifying new opportunities and generating additional income through a circular economy. It can also contribute to the decarbonization of Québec's economy, as the carbon footprint of clothing is mainly associated with textile production in countries with heavily carbon-intensive energy sources. Lastly, this project can contribute to the economy of Québec society by meeting one of its most essential needs: clothing.

The socio-economic impact of Fibershed Québec is undeniable. By showcasing local textile fibers, the organization supports local farmers and breeders, creating new job opportunities and stimulating the local economy. Moreover, by reducing our reliance on imported textiles, we also decrease our carbon footprint and foster a more sustainable fashion industry.

In conclusion, through its dedication to local textile fibers, Fibershed Québec promotes responsible production, the preservation of our cultural heritage, and a true revitalization of the Québec textile industry. The Fibershed model exemplifies that fashion can be simultaneously beautiful, sustainable, locally sourced, ethical, and regenerative. Through collaboration and collective intelligence, we can weave together a viable and meaningful economy.



which has discontinued flax cultivation and overlooked the potential value of sheep fleeces as recoverable resources.

From Discarded Fleeces to Fertile Fields: The Innovative Journey of Granu-Laines

After discovering that nearly 30% of their fleeces were being discarded following quality control and facing challenges related to drought in their forage crops, France and Louis from [Bergerie l'Agneau d'Or](#) conducted thorough research on the horticultural properties of wool.

Their findings highlighted wool's remarkable ability to retain soil moisture and provide essential nutrients like nitrogen and potassium to plants. Currently, their production of [Granu-Laines](#) yields approximately one ton of fertilizer

per week, primarily packaged in small one-kilogram units. However, their long-term vision is to meet the growing demand by supplying larger quantities to local market gardeners committed to organic practices.

The Fibershed Québec team has a mission to bring together various stakeholders in the fashion industry and promote knowledge exchange between regions. To achieve this, small Fibershed Hubs will be established in a few regions by 2024, allowing artisans, farmers, and entrepreneurs to share their expertise and learn from successful experiences of others.

Rethinking the Industry

The aim of this project is to rehabilitate the flax and wool supply chains in Québec/Canada using innovative, cost-effective,

To learn more, visit their website: fibershed.uqam.ca



Maine Fibershed

The state of Maine (member of the Northern New England Fibershed group)

Maine Fibershed: The First Three Months

In January 2023, the Maine Fibershed became an official stand-alone affiliate and a member of the Northern New England Fibershed group.

Setting Short- and Long-Term Goals as a Startup

Our biggest concern was taking on so much that the brand would lose credibility. We decided slow, steady, and determined were in order.

Our mission: **Be a trusted resource for the Maine Fibershed community.**



Maine Fibershed's Farmer's Market Booth



Our priorities for 2023:

- build a directory that follows the Soil-to-Soil Fibershed model, beginning with farmers
- survey our base so that we proceed with their needs in mind
- build a base-line infrastructure that works for future evolutions
- find a Fiscal Sponsor so we can obtain grants to support our initiatives
- test the waters at the local Farmer's Market

A Directory Based on Relationships

Maine is BIG, with very few roads that run across the state. Have you ever heard the joke about asking for directions to anywhere in Maine? The answer: You can't get there from here. (Insert Maine accent if you know it.) What were we thinking?

Our first 3 months have focused on outreach to farms from southern to mid-Coast(ish) Maine, which is about 200 miles of coastline and 30 miles inland. As the word has traveled, we talk to all who are interested.

With enormous determination, Maine Fibershed now has contact with 70 farms. Our face-to-face meetings let us do 1-on-1 education ("What's a Fibershed?") while learning how farmers would like to work with us.

Additionally, Melissa has been granted a Shave 'Em to Save 'Em provider title. This will let Maine Fibershed fold the needs of local Livestock Conservancy members into our directory.

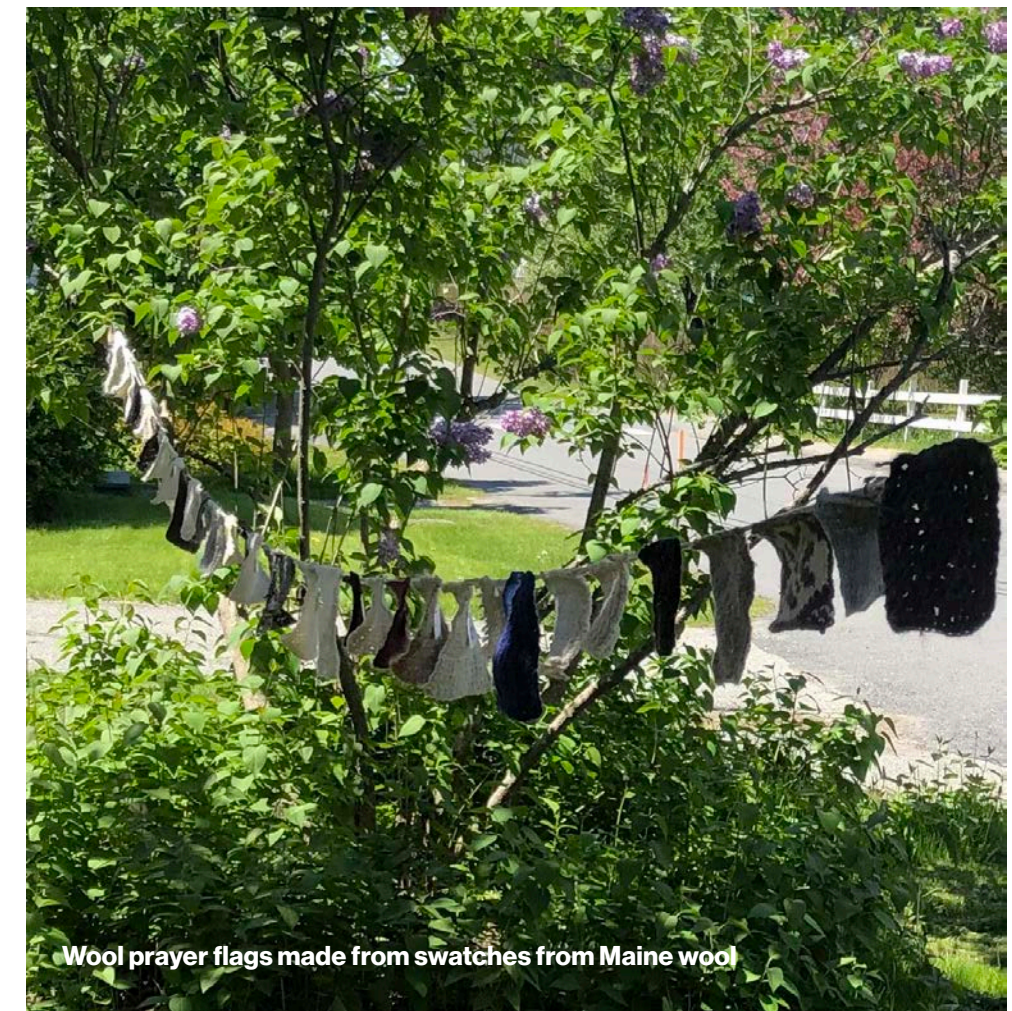
With farmers as our foundation, we are ready to expand our outreach to others in the Soil-to-Soil network.

An efficient and mutually beneficial strategy for reaching dyers, craft schools, designers and makers is next. We look for points of aggregation: Maine has a long fiber and textile history. We are the new kids on the block and always remember that our Fiber Elders hold the wisdom, and the new generation holds the future. With fingers crossed, we'd love to help be a conduit.

The Survey

We have created a very simple survey to help us understand the broader issues from the perspective of farmers. The survey will soon be launched with support of Erin Carter, Assistant Professor of Marketing at the University of Maine and Anne Trenbolm, Promotions Coordinator of the Maine Department of Agriculture.

We are happy to share the survey and the results. If you're interested, please pop an email to MaineFibershed@gmail.com with Fibershed Survey in the subject line.



Wool prayer flags made from swatches from Maine wool

Infrastructure

This has been slow and steady. Is patience really a virtue?

The Maine Fibershed Facebook page is live. Visit us! Like us! But a Facebook presence isn't enough to build relationships with potential Fiscal Sponsors or potential collaborators in the university, fiber arts, environmental, soil health, conservation, packaging and other industries that we will soon target.

A big shout-out to the Vermont Fibershed for being a tremendous supporter in helping us find our way. We are using the same web developer that VT used, who understands the "Maine Vibe," which is similar to VT in its earthy, flannel, long-cold-winter/one-

day-of-summer brand, except we have lighthouses and lobster. And seagulls. Did I mention lobster? Yes, I'll deliver.

If the Internet Goddesses are appeased, the Maine Fibershed Web Site will launch before the Maine Fiber Frolic Festival in June.

We are building relationships and having so many meetings. to find a Fiscal Sponsor so that we can take advantage of innumerable grant opportunities in Maine and New England. We believe this is critical to meet our goals of helping to support farmers, Native American schools and artists, and fiber programs in local schools. We shall prevail!

Our goal is to have an organization that can provide support services to regional Maine Fibershed groups as they launch over the coming years.

Test the Waters at the Local Farmer's Market

Now for some fun! If you're in Maine, come see us at the Rockland Farmer's Market. With farmers as our foundation, Maine Fibershed joins Melissa's wool textile design business.

We printed postcards, had an email sign-up sheet, and asked the public what workshops they'd like to attend and/or teach in the Fall. The response has been extraordinary.

We created a one-page hand-out with the Fibershed Soil-to-Soil graphic to answer the question: What's a Fibershed?

Melissa created a notebook of the farmers whose wool we are currently representing so that people can see the farmers and the sheep, bunnies or goats. Melissa's Wensleydale scarves, ear warmers



Jacob Sheep on Catawampus Farm

and bags include a photo of the sheep and the name of the farm.

Stand out somehow: Bringing farmers closer to consumers helps them realize the value of the textile.

We reached out to our farmers and asked them to make 4"x4" swatches of their wool, which have been turned into a garland that surrounds the gypsy caravan. It's our Maine Fibershed Prayer Flag. Swatches have the name of the

sheep breed or bast fiber and the name of the farm. People can feel their way around the booth and get an education along the way.

We created cardboard looms to teach children how to weave and have skeins of local wool and knitting needles for anyone who wants to learn to knit. Children help Melissa feed clouds of roving into the spinning wheel – and take home the yarn that they produce. Throughout, we tell people the name of the farm and if we know it, the name of the animal from which it came.

It is community. Each week we finish the market by saying how much we love this.

Thank you, Fibershed, for bringing us into your community.



Famous Franklin Wensleydale Sheep from Integrity Farm

Email:
mainefibershed@gmail.com



Nordenfjeldske Fibershed

Norway

Updates from Nordenfjeldske Fibershed

New funding granted to transform waste wool

In January, Nordenfjeldske Fibershed focused on preparing a Nordplus grant application. We would be collaborating with the Norwegian mill Selbu Spinneri and the University of South Eastern Norway. We outlined the foundation for our project – FELTWOOL, the goal is to exchange knowledge, build a network, and form business collaboration among the participants whose ambition is to add value to unwanted wool. We invited partners from Estonia, Lithuania, Finland and Sweden with an emphasis on the value chain of wool from the farm to the industrial felting of products. In the Baltic and Nordic countries, a varying volume of the wool produced is a waste problem. The insights from the different regions will be gathered and disseminated for those who work with textiles, such as artists, artisans, commercial organizations and universities/schools. On the 23 of May, we received notice that our grant has been approved and the 2 year project will start this autumn.

Member Highlights

After Nordenfjeldske Fibershed launched its website in April, we have received a lot of interest and have gathered a broad and exciting directory of producers. Meet three of the members:

Sydinteriør (South Interior)

SYD Interior produces furniture textiles made of wool from the sheep breed Norwegian Spælsau, dyed with plant colors, for unique building, interior- and design solutions. Spælsau is an old Norwegian sheep breed that also was used by the Vikings for all their wool products. Known as Old Norwegian Spæl Sheep.

The wool from Norwegian Spælsau has today very little value in Norway and large parts of this resource are unfortunately not utilized. The textiles SYD produced contain no synthetic fibers and for that reason do not emit microplastics. The textiles can be recycled in their entirety. In addition, the yarn that is woven into textiles, is dyed with plants from Norwegian flora and old Norwegian cultivated plants grown organically. In this way the dyeing is carried out without toxic chemicals that harm health or the environment.



The background for the development of the textile was the desire to contribute with an environmentally friendly interior product that does not harm the environment or indoor climate in an industry that today accounts for much of the world's environmental pollution. The desire was also for a Norwegian value chain so that there was no long transportation between raw materials and production, to utilize unused resources, and to produce products that are regenerative. The textile SYD is created by mixing





traditions and craftsmanship with production and creating a new and contemporary product.

All SYD's textiles are tested for pilling, fire, durability and lightfastness in line with the industry's standards. SYD is now working further with development and research in order to be able to expand its collection. SYD Interior is run by the owner and founder Karen Boye, located in Arendal, Norway. The website will soon be translated into English. sydinterior.no. IG: @syd.interior

Tingvoll Ull (Tingvoll Wool)

Tingvoll Wool is a newly established business in the middle of Norway. Their goal is to make a Norwegian value chain for products made of naturally colored wool from local sheep. Our products will be 100 % natural, which is a circular economy in practice. Zero waste!

This spring Tingvoll Wool bought wool from farmers and washed it before Selbu Spinneri made yarn from it. They have also spent quite some time trying to befriend their new and huge 3D-knitting machine that arrived from Japan just before Christmas. The machine is a bit

complicated, but slowly they are learning. At the moment, they have grey, white, and brown yarn from local farmers, ready to go into production and becoming their first 3D-knitted jumper. There are just some small adjustments left with programming, before they can start knitting their first jumper. That will be very exciting!

Tingvoll Wool has also worked a bit on how to brand its products with its logo, and decided that it will be a tag made of leather. This week's work will mostly focus on pricing the products – which can be challenging. To know more about Tingvoll Wool, you can visit their website: tingvoll-ull.no or instagram: @tingvollull



Gardsfargeriet (The Farm Dye Shop)

Gardsfargeriet is run by Gitte Midtbø, a yarn and plant lover located in Sogn og Fjordane in the Western part of Norway. The company has specialized in plant dyeing of yarn that comes from local Norwegian producers. The aim is to use as few chemicals as possible, and to take care of and promote Norwegian wool and fibers. Every skein that is dyed is carefully cared for, starting from when it's first prepared for dyeing, as it travels through the dye pots, and all the way to the final stages of washing and preparing for sale. Gardsfargeriet uses local dye plants in addition to growing her



own plants like Indigo and Woad to get the most beautiful natural blue shades. A lot of work is put into the farming and harvesting natural plant dyes. Gitte loves dyeing multiple colors on yarn, something she achieves by combining different plants into new and exciting colors. This dyeing process always creates a thrill when seeing the colors come alive in the dye pots. In between dyeing yarns and finding new dyeing recipes, she also designs knitting patterns that resonate with the specific yarn and color. Throughout the year Gitte participates on talk panels and yarn markets. To learn more about Gardsfargeriet, visit gardsfargeriet.no and instagram: @Gardsfargeriet.

Nordenfjeldske Fibershed Sørlandet

Our Southern Norway Coordinator, Carrie Pretorius, is building a local information and training center for natural fibers. Carrie has also been meeting with local and potential

members in her area. Her new shop will provide a location for members to display their products and conduct courses related to natural fibers and dyeing processes.

In May, Carrie started growing linen fibers in her garden and will blog the process from seeds to finished product.

To learn more, visit their website: www.fibershed.no, and follow them on Facebook: [Fibershed.no](https://www.facebook.com/Fibershed.no) and Instagram: [@nordenfjeldskefibershed](https://www.instagram.com/nordenfjeldskefibershed)



High Desert Fibershed – California

Tri-states — NE California, SE Oregon, NW Nevada
(250 mile radius)

Written by Bonnie Chase,
Leader of the High Desert
Fibershed

The High Desert Fibershed Learning Center at Warner Mountain Weavers has started off the season with a two-day Natural Dye Retreat in May which was well attended, everyone had such a good time and learned so much.

We have ongoing classes all year round and are planning a Woolgathering in the fall. Including Beginning Spinning and the many ways of Working with Color in Spinning, Rug Hooking with natural dyed local Navajo Churro rug yarn and a Tapestry Weaving class.

For more information on classes and workshops sign up for our newsletter:

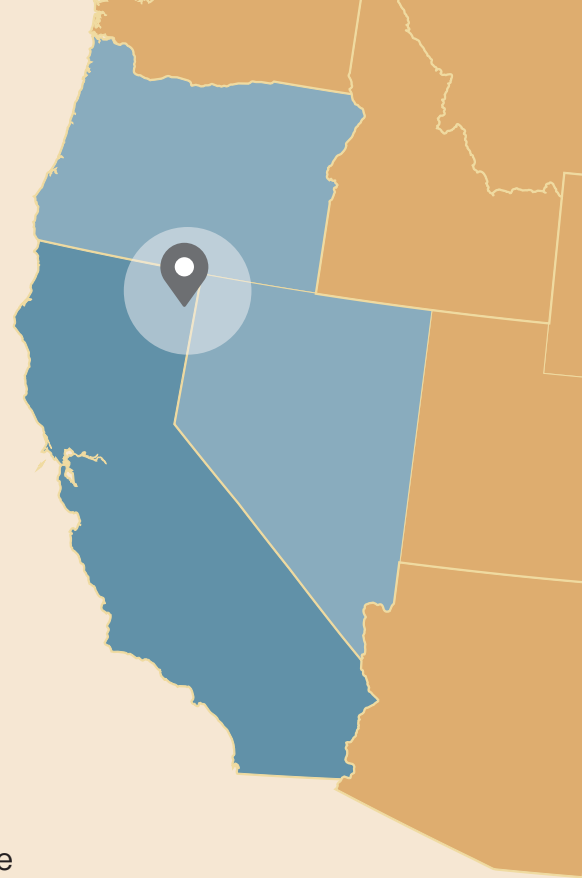
warnermtnweavers.com/contact-us

Store hours:

Thursday, Friday and Saturday
9am-3pm or by appointment

Address:

459 South Main Street
Cedarville, CA 96104



Indigo and Rust: Botanical Printing Techniques

Instructors: Louisa Hunter,
Jeanne Kaiser and Lani Estill

We spent two days of eco-printing, combining indigo, rust and botanical printing. They were recreated into a masterpiece of wearable art using indigo, rusty pipes, and plants. The basics were covered on day one and the second day was spent creating one or two more pieces using botanical prints on Lani's Lana / Fibershed Climate Beneficial Wool fabric. Students made eco-printed fabric that can be made into a pillow, wall-hanging, handbag, or a scarf.

Plants make beautiful prints and you will be astonished at the results you can achieve from the local flora and fauna.

Exploring Northern California Fungi for Natural Dyes

Instructor: Elissa Callen

We started the workshop outside at Warner Mountain Weavers backyard dye kitchen, but had to suddenly move indoors as a thunderstorm poured down on us. We finished up inside the shop cozy and dry. A good time was had by all.

Elissa Callen is an artist working with local plants and fungi to make natural pigments, inks, and dyes that she further uses as the staple materials in her art practice. She holds a degree in fine art, has a professional background in horticulture, and nearly ten years of experience researching and practicing sustainably using natural materials for color. She is passionate about California ecology and believes in using her



work with natural materials as a means of increasing community interest in environmentalism and connectedness to the native landscape.



To learn more, visit their website:

warnermtnweavers.com

and follow them on Instagram:

[@deepcreek yarns](https://www.instagram.com/deepcreek yarns)

and Facebook:

[Warner Mountain Weavers](https://www.facebook.com/Warner Mountain Weavers)



Western Slope Colorado Fibershed

The area of Colorado west of the Continental Divide

“We are finding ways as a group to connect our makers with growers and processors, and within that we have found an abundance of resources to share.”

– Kate Linehan, natural dyer and Co-Leader of the Western Slope Colorado Fibershed

Micro-grant recipient 2022:

“Fibermobile”

Our goals for the Fibermobile in renovating a horse trailer:

- Mobile educational resource
- Curated Western Slope Fibershed shop
- Fibershed awareness community events
- Connect farmers and makers



locally raised wool, hand spun, dyed and knit by a local farmer, Hannah Stratton DeHerrera



Email: wsfibershed@gmail.com

Hues of Change:

How Fibershed Affiliates Are Building Local Knowledge of Natural Pigments

Originally published on the Fibershed Blog in February 2023



Our textiles have the ability to tell a story about the origins of their material components and the hands that harvested, milled, or otherwise crafted them. When adding color to a fiber, designers and artisans may choose to use synthetic or natural dyes. Natural dyes provide rich evidence of a garment’s story while offering biodegradable non-toxic alternatives to petroleum-derived and often harmful synthetic dyes. As one Fibershed affiliate says, “Each region has its own identity, which can be seen in the expression of pigment on our textiles.” When we regionalize how our clothing is made, we are enriched by a deeper and more

meaningful story of color — one tied to the land from which our clothes are borrowed.

Fibershed affiliates are at the forefront of discovering new (or rediscovering old) ways of natural dyeing that work in harmony with nature. In the Chesapeake watershed, [Chesapeake Fibershed is capturing bioregion-specific knowledge and research](#) on plant cultivation, history, and usage from local experts. [The Nederland Fibershed is developing scaleable techniques](#) that can be made available to the Dutch textile industry while nurturing and safeguarding biodiversity and healthy soil. Fibershed Affiliate [Southeastern New England is](#)

[studying the impacts of wastewater fertilizers on soils \(the initial data looks promising!\)](#) for growing natural dye plants, and developing the necessary infrastructure to expand the model. Together, these affiliates seek solutions that increase environmental resilience, counteract the harmful effects of synthetic dyes, and contribute to a growing movement of place-based textile cultures.

Continue reading to learn more about three Fibershed affiliates advancing natural dyes and strengthening the fibershed network. We asked them questions about their work and what it means to their communities. These are their responses in their own words.

Chesapeake Fibershed: Plant and Mineral Source Book for Vibrant and Sustainable Textile Dyes

Covers 120 mile radius from Washington, DC



Tell us about your project:

Chesapeake Fibershed's natural dye project focuses on color from locally cultivated, native, and historically utilized dye plants. We envision this as an ongoing project which will include work with mineral pigments from our region and widening the knowledge of plant dyes each year. We are working with models of sustainability to develop relationships with the growth and exploration of colorants on natural fiber. All of our findings will be captured in a book that will also be available online. Our

research will include essays on plant cultivation, history, medicinal usage, and interviews with local dyers, gardeners, and educators.

What do you hope to accomplish with your book?

We hope our source book will prompt meaningful community conversations and share our research more broadly. We hope it will foster new innovations and lead us toward establishing the infrastructure necessary to produce and support a robust natural dye community.



Continue following Chesapeake Fibershed's work at their website, chesapeakefibershed.com, and learn more about the source book initiative on their project page, [A Natural Dyer's Journal in the Kitchen](#). You can also follow their work on social media: [@chesapeakefibershed](#) on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#).

“Each region has its own identity, which can be seen in the expression of pigment on our textiles.”

What's the most important lesson you've learned?

At this moment, we see many people exploring natural and local dyes from our bioregion. It seems essential to bring our voices together to share our knowledge and inspiration by initiating a dyer's circle that will develop further conversations.

We are not trying to write another dye book but rather to open the dialog with how a dyer might work with the plants in their own space. There are many resources readily available. We want people to be looking in their own backyard or neighborhood space, just as Rebecca did when researching her book [Harvesting Color](#). Each region has its own identity, which can be seen in the expression of pigment on our textiles.

Fibershed Nederland: Herb-to-Color, Biodiversity and Natural Dyes Project

Covers The Netherlands

Tell us about your project:

Fibershed Nederland is advancing a project called 'Kruid-tot-Kleur' (herb-to-color), which focuses on developing scalable techniques for growing, harvesting, processing and preserving natural dyes and pigments. The demand for natural biodegradable materials is increasing, and with it, the need for natural dyes. But in the Netherlands, those who really want to use natural dyes must produce them on a small scale or purchase natural dyes from abroad.

We know from history that plants, trees, roots, bark and other biodegradable organic materials can be used as natural dyes, but (textile) artists and fashion designers in the Netherlands hardly have access to them. No natural dyes are produced locally, and there is very little knowledge about their application among artists, designers, and other stakeholders in the creative industry.

Through the 'Kruid-tot-Kleur' project, these techniques are being made available to the creative industry in the Netherlands, and provided with the correct recipes for the sustainable and colourfast dyeing of yarns, textiles and clothing.

Our project is being developed around native crops that contribute to biodiversity and soil enrichment, specifically in areas that suffered from monoculture in the past.

“I believe in the magic of our nature and its resources. Over time much of the knowledge about natural dyes and their use has been lost. During this project, we focus on our local raw materials to develop local natural pigments. I use the knowledge and recipes I received from my Syrian grandmother and apply this in a new innovative way.”

— Roua ALHalabi, Lead Color Researcher



What do you hope to accomplish with your project?

Developing local natural dyes, making them suitable and available for scale application within the Dutch creative sector, clothing & textile industry, while stimulating and safeguarding biodiversity and healthy soil.

What's the most important lesson you've learned?

This project is such an inspiration for all involved! Even though all participating partners have never worked together before and are each coming from different sectors and professional backgrounds, the collaboration on this project seems so natural.

Kruid-tot Kleur involves local farmers, a processing partner from the food industry, a sheltered workshop with experience in drying and preserving food, a textile artist and researcher, and a fashion designer with a manufacturing

facility that is associated with the healthcare sector.

This project has brought us all new connections that form the foundation for new, exciting partnerships laying the foundation

for our local value network. That in itself is a great result, but the most inspiring thing about this project is aligning with our diverse stakeholders on a common goal and shared values.



Continue following Nederland Fibershed's work at their website, fibershed.nl, and learn more about the [Herb-to-Color project here](#). You can also follow their work on social media: @fibershed.nl on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#).

Hues of Change

Southeastern New England Fibershed: Scaling Natural Dye Farming Systems Using Wastewater

Covers Massachusetts and Rhode Island

Tell us about your project:

Southeastern New England Fibershed is experimenting with wastewater's impact on natural dye plants' growth and color. Last year, [we worked with the nation's leading innovative/alternative septic test center in the U.S. \(MASSTC\) to develop a test site](#). On this test site, we grew natural dye plants in various conditions all spring and summer. These conditions included wastewater hydroponics, plots that wicked or were dosed on a timer with wastewater (blackwater), an indigo bed only fed urine, and a waste wool gardening project that grew plants so well even when it didn't receive water during a drought.

We were in awe of how massive the blooms were and how prolifically they grew all summer. Last summer was a fun test run for what we are doing now, which will be a lot more data-driven.

For year two, our team will look a lot closer at data surrounding nutrients in the soil. While last year was all about seeing if wastewater would impact color and/or growth (it did!), this year is a lot more focused on urine fertilization of plants and the ability to scale it as a fertilizer. We'll be looking at urine's impacts on both the plants as well as the soil and effluent that comes out through the soil. We'll also be using a pasteurizer for the urine, and our hope is that MASSTC also can become a "urine depot."

"How will thoughtful and beautiful design change people's minds about this wastewater fertilizer? I can't wait to see the change over the course of this year."

Our dream would be to get more students involved and to think outside the box about how we can make this a reality. How will thoughtful and beautiful design change people's minds about this wastewater fertilizer? We can't wait to see the change over the course of this year.

What do you hope to accomplish with your project?

For the second year of this research, we are working with a small team to create fertilizer from wastewater, specifically urine. The program will help us develop the infrastructure and services necessary to collect, transport, process, and apply urine-derived fertilizers and humanure-based soil amendments. It's incredibly interesting to work with scientists and soil experts to look at the impact of wastewater on soil as well as watch how incredible it is as a fertilizer.

We have watched the project grow into something that could have lasting (positive) future impacts on natural dye (and all agricultural) farmers worldwide.

What's the most important lesson you've learned?

Education! Any talk about the bathroom repulses people, but we have major wastewater problems worldwide because of poop and pee. There, we said it.



One of the major efforts we aim to achieve with all of this is to get people to consider that waste isn't waste. When processed correctly, urine and humanure are incredible fertilizers. We can turn this "waste" into an opportunity that could result in huge savings for farmers, less intensive mining of minerals, and less runoff from round-up ready fertilizers into ponds, streams, and oceans.

When we brought people to the test site last summer, they could not believe how large and aggressively the plants had grown. They are shocked when they find out it's thanks to pee and poop. All of this is heavily controlled at this test site, so the big push is how we can make it safe and scale it legally. That will require not only the public's support but the local government's as well.



Continue following Southeastern New England Fibershed's work at their website, senefibershed.org, and learn more about [wastewater's impacts on natural dye plants on their blog](#). You can also follow their work on social media: @senewenglandfibershed on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#).

These projects inspire and energize us, reflecting local communities' deep history, knowledge, and actions toward developing regional fiber systems. Together this work demonstrates how grassroots actions can galvanize into system-changing movements. These projects are just a glimpse of the incredible work happening on the ground across the Fibershed Affiliate Program. Get involved in your bioregion by visiting the [Affiliate Directory](#).

Images courtesy of Chesapeake Fibershed, Fibershed Nederland, Southeastern New England Fibershed, and Hope Millham Photography.

Micro-Grant Program

Every year we disseminate seed funding to Fibershed Affiliate organizations through our Micro-Grant Program in order to grow and uplift diverse community-based, bioregional fiber and dye initiatives around the world. Each Fibershed Affiliate micro-grant project generates necessary and impactful outcomes in their home communities in order to actualize regional, soil-to-soil textile systems.

Micro-grant projects range from:

- ▶ Mapping local fiber and dye supply chains,
- ▶ Developing fibershed yarns, cloth and other textile prototypes,
- ▶ Educational events, workshops and conferences linking their regional soil-to-soil community,
- ▶ Building carbon farm networks to encourage Climate Beneficial™ agriculture practices and market incentives,
- ▶ Trialing seeds of plant-based fibers throughout microclimates within their regions,
- ▶ And many more!

Many of the projects highlighted in the previous pages are partially or fully funded by this program, and we continuously hear **how necessary these micro-grants are** to building the foundation Affiliates need to illustrate the possibility of the fibershed model in their regions, lay the groundwork for re-building local supply chains, and connect with community members, organizational partners, and government entities.



Threading Resilience Fundraising Campaign:

Help us raise \$60,000!

As the fibershed movement spreads to regions across the world, so does the need to grow grassroots capacity in key ways amongst our affiliates that will rebuild whole textile systems throughout the US and beyond. In order to support this growing movement, we must financially support more of these incredible initiatives.

That's where you come in.

We're asking for donations to the Threading Resilience fundraiser from August 1 to August 31. Every dollar donated will be matched by Fibershed up to \$50,000. Micro-grants will be distributed to Affiliates in mid-October, and we'll be thrilled to share some of their projects with you. Last year we were able to fund 26 projects around the world, thanks to the generosity of our community.

To make a donation, please visit: fibershed.org/donate-threading-resilience

Through our Affiliate Program, our vision to strengthen an international system of diverse textiles communities that directly enhance regional economies for the purpose of generating permanent and lasting systems of localized fiber production, is actualized. Fibershed is supporting 63 and growing affiliate fibersheds around the world to catalyze regenerative soil-to-soil textile systems in their own regions, while supporting material culture behavioral shifts, advocating for policy change, building supply chains that mitigate the effects of climate change, and supporting the dwindling small and mid-scale textile manufacturing around the world.

Fibershed Affiliates

For more information on each fibershed, visit our Affiliate Directory on our website (fibershed.org/affiliate-directory).

United States

Acadiana Fibershed

Lafayette, Louisiana (22 parishes in southwest Louisiana)

Blue Ridge Mountains Fibershed

Asheville, North Carolina (100 mile radius encompassing the mountains of Western North Carolina and parts of Appalachian East Tennessee, upstate South Carolina and North Georgia)

Central Appalachia Fibershed

Morgantown, West Virginia (150 mile radius which includes all of West Virginia, and the surrounding counties from PA, MD, VA, KY, OH)

Central Oregon Fibershed

Central Oregon (Klamath Falls, Bend, Redmond, Terrebonne, Madras, Prineville)

Chesapeake Fibershed

Washington, DC (120 mile radius following the Chesapeake Watershed)

Connecticut Fibershed

Canterbury, Connecticut (200 mile radius)

Fiberhoused Collective Fibershed

Western North Carolina

Great Basin Fibershed

The state of Nevada

Greater Cumberland Fibershed

The states of Tennessee and Kentucky

Fibershed Hawaii

The islands of Hawaii

Heartland Threads Fibershed

13 counties in SW Wisconsin and 3 counties in NW Illinois

High Desert Fibershed – California

Tri-states — NE California, SE Oregon, NW Nevada (250 mile radius)

High Desert – Utah

Salt Lake City, Utah (250 mile radius)

Inland Empire of Southern California Fibershed

Redlands, California (75 mile radius)

Kaw Point Fibershed

Kansas City, Missouri (150 mile radius, Eastern Kansas and

Western Missouri, surrounding the confluence of the Kansas and Missouri Rivers in Kansas City

Maine Fibershed

The state of Maine

Miami Valley Fibershed

Dayron, Ohio (Southern Ohio)

Montana Fibershed

The state of Montana

Mountains & Plains Fibershed

Longmont, Colorado (150 mile radius)

New York Textile Lab Fibershed

New York (300 mile radius from New York City)

New Jersey Fibershed

The state of New Jersey

Northern New England Fibershed

The states of New Hampshire, Maine, and Vermont

Ozark Fibershed

The Ozark Mountain region of Northern Arkansas, Southern Missouri, Northeast Oklahoma, and Southeast Kansas

Pacific Northwest Fibershed

Portland, Oregon (300 mile radius)

Pennsylvania Fibershed

The state of Pennsylvania (including anything within 50 miles of the border)

Piedmont Fibershed

Durham, North Carolina (200 mile radius)

Rust Belt Fibershed

Cleveland, Ohio (250 mile radius)

Southeastern New England Fibershed

Providence, Rhode Island and New Bedford, Massachusetts (100 mile radius)

Southeast Ohio Fibershed

Southeast Ohio (South of I-70, east of US-23, and bordered by the Ohio River on the east and south)

Southern California Fibershed

San Luis Obispo to San Diego

Southern Indiana Fibershed

Southern Indiana & surrounding areas (north western Kentucky, south eastern Missouri, Illinois)

Texas Fibershed

The state of Texas

Three Rivers Fibershed

Minneapolis, Minnesota (175 mile radius)

Vashon Fibershed

Vashon Island, Washington (Island and Puget Sound counties)

Western Massachusetts Fibershed

Connecticut River Valley and Berkshires (100 mile radius)

Western Slope Colorado

Colorado, West of the Continental Divide

Woven Michigan Fiber Collective

State of Michigan

International**Fibershed Belgium**

Belgium

Fibershed Brasil

Brasil

Fibershed DACH

Switzerland, Germany, Austria

Dansk Fibershed

Denmark

Fibershed España

The Spanish regions of Castile la Mancha and Eztramadura

Fibershed Finland

Finland

Fibershed Ireland

The island of Ireland (encompassing Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland)

Fibershed Italy

Italy

Kootenay Fibershed

Kootenays, Canada (West and East)

Fibershed Nederland

The Netherlands

Nordenfjeldske Fibershed

Norway

North West England Fibershed

Covering Merseyside, Cheshire, Greater Manchester, Lancashire, West Yorkshire, and Cumbria

Peaks & Plains Fibershed

Shropshire, Staffordshire, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire, Herefordshire, Worcestershire, West Midlands, Warwickshire, Leicestershire, Rutland, Northamptonshire, Cambridgeshire, Norfolk, Suffolk regions in England

Pembina Fibershed

Manitoba, Canada (200 mile radius of the Pembina River Valley)

Prairie Fibershed

Province of Saskatchewan

Prakriti Fibershed

Tamil Nadu, India (15km radius of Erode)

Puerto Rico Fibershed

Puerto Rico archipelago

Fibershed Québec

Québec, Canada

Salt Spring Island Fibershed

Salt Spring Island, Canada

Fibershed Scotland

Scotland

South East England Fibershed

Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Surrey, East and West Sussex, Hampshire, Kent, Medway and London

South West England Fibershed

Bristol, United Kingdom

Fibershed Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka

Sunshine Coast Fibershed

Sunshine Coast, BC, Canada (100 miles of coastline from Port Mellon to Lund, BC)

Upper Canada Fibershed

Toronto, Canada (250 km radius)

Vancouver Fibershed

Vancouver, BC, Canada (300km radius from downtown core)

Vancouver Island Fibershed

Vancouver Island, Canada (150 mile radius)

Wales Fibershed

Wales



Prairie Fibershed



Nordenfjeldske Fibershed



FIBERSHED

Local Fiber, Local Dye, Local Labor