

Title: Question 4:

“Outline a current environmental, political, or social issue that requires redesign. Explain how you will solve this issue over the duration of your future design career. Underline the tools and approaches you will use and discuss how and why”.

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A current environmental issue that requires redesign is Fast fashion and textile waste. A Breakdown of how these issues can be found online (*Fast Fashion And Textile Waste, 2023*). The online article explains how the demand for fashion is rapidly increasing and how the fashion industry is held accountable for 10% of global carbon emissions and because of this it's becoming one of the biggest environmental problems of our time, it also states that Fashion itself is producing more greenhouse gas emissions than the shipping sectors and aviation combined and this needs to be ridiculed. The statistics of textile waste alone are at least 92 million tonnes each year and it's expected to go up to roughly 134 million tonnes a year in 2030 which mostly will contain environmentally damaging substances which therefore will just increase our global carbon emissions and damage the environment unless we do something about it.

In my future career of design, I will aim to spread the awareness of this initial problem but in doing so, I will aim to create or explore materials that can lower carbon emissions when left to rot. I will explore all areas including biodegradable materials or better disposable methods such as re-use or recycle.

Firstly, to understand the importance of this environmental issue, I looked further into what other organisations were doing and wanted to gain an understanding of how hard this issue would be to tackle. This issue is a wicked problem that has many ways of dealing with it but none are being done, in my future career I wish to stress these methods of eradication as well as interest the public by giving something back or making it worthwhile.



Many people donate used clothing. But clothes and other textiles that are too old or worn can still have an afterlife in other products.

Credit: Supakorn Limteerayos/Shutterstock

Fig.1. *Used clothes.*

As it shows you in Fig.1. *Used Clothes*. Many people donate used clothes or other textiles. Now the issue with this that I'd like to tackle in my future career is most of this is going to waste and left to rot, causing a large amount of carbon emissions. Given this is a big environmental problem and it can't be fixed in a day, I had to dig deeper and see what other people in the world were doing about it and brainstormed ideas that could help spread the awareness. I also investigated other issues the world faces and wanted to see if I could tie them together to bring a positive outcome.

Based on our current global crisis with inflation, I know people are having a hard time to afford things which left me wondering is this a tool I could use and how could this help me tackle fast fashion and textile waste. I did some further studies on what people were doing for extra money and the results I gained sparked many ideas. It states on (*how to profit from inflation, Investopedia*) "Inflation can make investing challenging if you're not prepared for it, but several investments tend to fare well during these periods of rising inflation". This tells me that people are struggling for money and are essentially resorting to investing, which can also be looked at as gambling.

Based on the previous statement, the idea this gave me that I'd like to pursue in my future career is to set up a non-profit charity/organisation that pays people a low amount of money to recycle their clothes & textile waste in the correct manner. Giving the information that people are pretty much doing anything for money I know that this would encourage people to do it, even if it isn't something they'd do. So, as I progress through my career in design, I will observe the inflation issue and will be able to gauge what comes of it and how it effects the world alongside fast fashion and textile waste.



Fig.2. Plane.

Whilst searching for ways to help reduce carbon emission I came across an online article (*Reducing global greenhouse emissions*, [wwf.org.uk](http://www.wwf.org.uk)) that explains how the government has promised to do what they can to tackle global warming by limiting greenhouse gas emissions. To do this they will phase out fossil fuels such as oil, gas and coal and move towards using renewable energy. This made me question a lot of things but also made me wonder why if they can help tackle this problem then why can't they help reduce fast fashion and textile waste? After seeing the amount of waste that is produced each year and what it's going to evolve into, I believe this needs a solution and it needs to happen now.

In my future career I wish to reach out to local organisations as well as the government and spread the awareness as well as figure out a way that we can dispose of the waste safely or even reuse it. Ultimately everything can be re-used to a certain degree if failing that it should be disposed in the correct manner. Based on this I looked further into this topic and wanted to know how people dispose of their textile waste and what it can be turned into. It states on (*Textile Recycling 101: How to recycle and repurpose your worn-out clothes*) That if your textile waste isn't worn out then you are able to donate them in textile waste recycling bins, which will then be re-used for DIY projects or even uplifting into new clothing. It also states that most textiles are recyclable but the council for textile recycling found out that around 85% of it still ends up in landfills, meaning only 15% of textile waste each year is being re-used.

After looking further into this environmental issue, I wanted to look further into what people are doing about it or plan on doing about it so I can expand my ideas or even reach out to these people and see if I can help. I came across an online article (*Upcycled-Fashion-Brands, Conciouslifeandstyle.com*) That show cases several companies that use wasted textiles and uplifts them into fashionable clothes by reusing them and turning them into something wonderful.

One of the companies on this page that uplifts clothes are called Goat vintage and this company is a BIPOC women- owned label that upcycles old textile waste into new clothes. Their mission is for large retailers to turn to them and resell their products to support their sustainability goals of zero waste production.

After some thought, it came to me that in my future career I would like to reach out to companies like Goat vintage and help them with their goal by either setting up a marketplace where they can sell there clothing but at the same time as spreading the awareness.

I believe turning old things into new is one of the many ways, but most impactful way of tackling this problem as statistics state on (*Environmental-Impact, Truecostmovie.com*) That the world consumes around 80 billion new pieces of clothing every year and its only going to increase from here. Based on these statistics if organisations were to come together and help boost the sales of companies like Goat vintage, this could allow textile to waste each year to drop, and sustainability to rise leading the world to a more environmentally friendly place. This would allow for carbon emissions to drop and the idea of reusing or uplifting clothes to rise.

As stated previously, the fashion industry is held accountable for 10% of global carbon emissions. I know 10% isn't a whole load compared to the rest of global carbon emissions being produced but in the long run, helping reduce those number can have a large impact on the carbon emissions being produced overall, especially from textile and fashion waste. In my future career, if I was to ridicule the 10% from fashion and textile waste, I wouldn't stop there.

First, I want to investigate where produces the most carbon emissions (greenhouse-gasses), even though this scales away from textile and fashion waste and how this is an environmental issue but it's a lot bigger than just that one sector. As we know fashion and textile is held accountable for the 10%, but what about the rest?

Per capita greenhouse gas emissions by sector, United States, 2020

Per capita greenhouse gas emissions are measured in tonnes of carbon dioxide-equivalents per person per year.

Our World
in Data

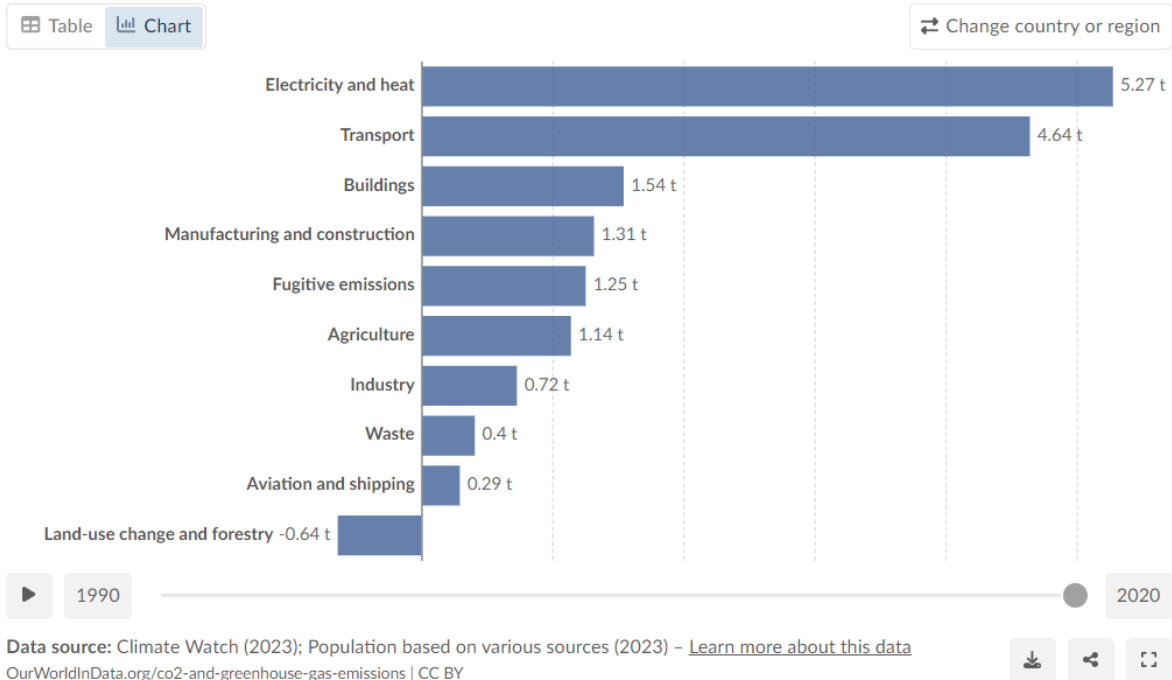


Fig.3. 2020 Chart.

As it shows you on (*Where do greenhouse gasses come from? 2020*) The leading causes for greenhouse gasses in 2020 was Electricity and heat and each person was held responsible for producing 5.27 tons a year. Given that there is an estimation of 8.14 billion people in the world by this year (2023) that would mean that roughly 42 billion tons are being produced if that's the case.

It states on (*Sustainability.Stanford.edu, 2023*) That the worlds emissions of carbon dioxide will bypass 40 billion tons this year. Which includes 37 billion tons from just fossil fuels. In my future career I wish to not only focus on fashion and textile waste but to focus on other problems such as fossil fuels and other sources that produce carbon emissions.

But to do this I must tackle one problem at a time, which will also spread the awareness. Given that fast fashion and textile waste are held responsible for 10% of carbon emissions produced, and fossil fuels are basically held responsible for the bigger part, I asked myself how I would approach tackling a situation that doesn't just involve getting organisations together to uplift textiles and reuse old clothes and turn them into new. Fossil fuels are a much bigger thing and to change that I would have to change the world. I know helping the 10% of carbon emissions being produced is easier to ridicule but in my future career I wish to resolve it all. But I know I must focus on one at a time and spread to awareness.

These Environmental issues are having a large impact on the world around us and are in shire need of redesign. But to redesign something that the whole world is accountable for wouldn't just take a short amount of time, it would require changing people's minds, showing them what it is doing to the world and making them aware of how bad its impacting us in order for them to change what they do and how they do it. In order to do this, I would firstly want to set up a survey that asks the public a numerous number of questions so I can collect data on what people are aware of and how serious they take it. This would allow me to find strengths and weaknesses within peoples thought

process behind it and allow me to focus on their weaknesses but also have leverage on their strengths.

Based on my knowledge I'm aware that many people don't understand how much of an impact fast fashion and textile waste has on the planet and also how much carbon emission it produces annually. So as my leverage I will spread this awareness and make it known so that people are aware. There will be several tools I will use in order to achieve this, such as: online advertisements, posters, footage or photos of the damage its causing or even information posts at local skips.

I will also advice organisations like Goat Vintage to advertise this during their sales as it shows customers that clothes can be reused and turned into something fashionable. It also spreads the awareness and shines a positive light on the current environmental issue.

In a world of inflation, people have grown accustomed to second hand shops as it saves them money, I will reach out to local charities and organisations that deal with second hand textiles and ask them to encourage people to donate their old clothes rather than taking them to landfills and letting them go to waste. There is many ways this can be achieved, one of my plans is to set up a organisation that offers to collect peoples old clothes and textile waste and re sell them or even give them out to the people in need as well as spreading the environmental issue of carbon emissions. In the long run the need for clothes is high, and especially for those who can't afford them. I will use this to my advantage and push people to give their old clothes to those in need or even take them to a charity shop to be resold. I will also encourage people to redesign their clothes into new ones by setting up charitable fashion & textile classes that teach the people how to uplift their clothes. This will allow the people to engage in a charitable event which will ultimately raise money for the environmental issue and also learn new skills that hopefully they continue to use throughout their lives.

Given that the environmental issue with carbon emissions is only increasing, and to an estimated 134 million tonnes a year in 2030. This issue needs to be redesigned now, and people need to act on it. In order to complete this, it will take a large amount of recognition. Theres only a few ways we can spread the awareness but its always a lot to expect people to take in the information and act on it. As humans, some tend to not realise the damage until its to late as it doesn't affect them. How can I change this and how can I urge the seriousness of this issue whilst getting people to listen? The tools I wish to use for this is an advertisement campaign that show cases the affects on the world carbon emissions is doing whilst stressing the need to reuse clothes or at least to give them away to people in need. Based on my knowledge charities are always a hit or miss as not everyone is so giving. Things like money is easy to give away although people can be greedy it's a lot less effort than going home, filling up bags of old clothes and taking them down to your local charity store. How can this issue be changed?

I'm aware that most cities or surrounding areas are in possession of a waste disposal site or landfill where people can freely drop of any unwanted items or garbage. My future career will consist of teaming up with places like this and advertising posters around there areas of the issues being caused by carbon emissions, and also offer a free charitable service that comes to pick up any items from these waste disposal sites and sorts them into reusable and non-reusable items. They will then be cleaned and re designed, This also allows rooms for other items rather than just fast fashion and textile waste meaning that even furniture, plastic ext.... can be re used and sold or given too a good home.

Within this organisation, I aim to use the profit towards advertisements and spreading the awareness. I will also offer local charities that take the uplifted clothes in a percentage of this, for the

price of advertising these environmental issues. This way we are giving back to the public, cutting down on textile waste and other waste as well as spreading the environmental issue and making people aware of what it is doing to the world and how we can help.

In conclusion, My future career will involve redesigning this environmental issue by doing something for the public as well as spreading the awareness.

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Fig.1. *Used Clothes*

Available at: <https://www.nist.gov/news-events/news/2022/05/your-clothes-can-have-afterlife>

Fig.2. *plane*

Available at: <https://www.wwf.org.uk/what-we-do/projects/international-work-climate-change>

Fig.3. *2020 Chart*.

Available at: <https://ourworldindata.org/emissions-by-sector>