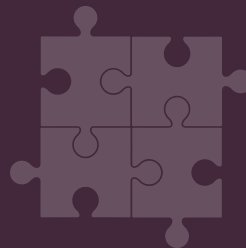


ALEX BEGG

WEAVERS OF LUXURY ACCESSORIES SINCE 1866

# ANNUAL SUSTAINABILITY REPORT 2020





# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Lorraine A - Kevin A - Laura A - Michelle A - Hayley B - Luke B - Lyle B - Iain B - Barbara B - Toni B - Caitlyn B - Shirley Ann B - Holly B - Arlene B - Pamela B - Gillian B - Nicola B - Jessica B - May C - Peter C - Michael C - Salvador C - Cameron C - Paul C - Dean C - Jade C - Rosie C - John C - Coral D - Lynne D - Ailis D - Bronwynn D - Lorna D - Lindsey D - Myra D - James D - Sarah F - Valerie F - Elaine F - Beth F - Alice G - Harriet G - Robert G - Carole H - Michaela H - Emma H - Kirsty J - John J - Catherine J - Claire J - Margaret J - Olivia J - Stacey K - Scott K - Ian L - Ross L - Jenny L - Henry L - Yvonne L - James L - Mi-  
**OUR TEAM** sha M - Sarah M - Michelle M - Daria M - Ashley M - Hu- bert M - Lorraine M - John M - Leanne M - Eileen M - Songul M - Lisa M - Brian M - Claire M - Helen M - Elaine M - Lesley M - Sandra M - Jean M - Hugh M - Hannab M - Marianne M - Colin M - Iain M - Andrew M - Valentina M - Nenad M - Mandy M - Joseph M - Monika O - Rachel P - Emily W - Mary P - Sergei P - Elizabeth R - Ian R - Ann R - Lars-Gunnar S - Aneta S - Mary S - Hugh S - Marija S - Lynn S - Elaine S - Scott T - Shaun T - Nicholas T - Keith T - Claes v - Lindsay W - Nicole W - Anne W - Gemma W - Luciana W - Jill W - Joseph W - Ian W - Anna W - Stuart W - Victoria W - Jeffrey X - Lawrence Y - Sharon Y

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# FOREWORD FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE



“We are issuing this report in unprecedented and very uncertain times” began our sustainability report for 2019. No-one foresaw that the situation would last for a full year and in 2020 our business centred around people even more than before.

The safety of our staff became a priority early on in the year and extensive measures were put in place across the mill to ensure that work could recommence and continue safely. Meanwhile, our employees who were especially vulnerable were kept at home and office staff learned new techniques for communicating and being productive while working mostly from home. We took steps to innovate and despite the challenges we saw many benefits from cross-functional teams set up to address some of our key business issues. All of this has put a considerable load and even strain on all of our employees, particularly those responsible for managing and

supporting teams and huge credit is due for the way that we rose to the challenges.

Mental Health was prominent for us and we invested in supporting colleagues through the challenging time. Indeed all our relationships became even more important: we supported our consumers through our communication around “Comfort Blanket” and we stayed in touch with our key customers and suppliers through greater adoption of technology—the investment made in previous years through commitment to face-to-face meetings paid off when these were no longer possible. We made sure to contribute to our communities where we could producing pairs of scrubs, sewn together in our factory for the NHS in the early days of the pandemic.

Finally, it’s exciting to be able to welcome 37 new people to our team through the purchase of the Scott & Charters knitting facility in Hawick. This is a great sign of our commitment to the future of the business even in times which remain difficult.






IAN LAIRD

Chief Executive Officer, April 2021



# A COVID Report

Analysis of the effects of COVID lockdowns will no doubt continue for some time, including analysis of the effects on the environment. Here we have tried to look at some of the main gains and losses for our own work, using our normal structure for sustainability reporting.

	COVID CHALLENGES	COVID OPPORTUNITIES
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Systems disrupted by uncertainty and continually changing circumstances</li> <li>A focus on survival for some companies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reviewing the strain put on systems leads to improvements</li> <li>A chaotic environment emphasises the need for underlying systems</li> <li>The need for good communication is obvious</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The risk to health from COVID</li> <li>Other health conditions not addressed due to COVID priorities</li> <li>The mental health challenges of lockdown and social isolation</li> <li>The challenges of working from home without face-to-face contact.</li> <li>The challenges of using new technology (Zoom)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The opportunities for reflection in a slower-paced year</li> <li>The opportunities to discover new ways of working and communicating</li> <li>Video-conferencing has become widely accepted as a standard communication medium</li> <li>Greater appreciation for how fast change can happen</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An increase in the use of plastic for health purposes</li> <li>Less efficient use of heating</li> <li>Efficiency improvements delayed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A reduction in carbon footprint due to reduced production</li> <li>A reduction in carbon footprint due to reduced travel, including commuting to work</li> <li>Increased awareness of environmental impact</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The difficulty of maintaining partnerships in absence of face-to-face contact</li> <li>Difficult to develop new partnerships</li> <li>Difficult to verify actual situations by visits</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Easier to arrange meetings, more online meetings</li> <li>Strengthening of existing relationships through facing common challenges</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Significant changes to some commercial relationships</li> <li>Loss of business</li> <li>Disruption of some supply-chain projects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opportunity to reevaluate supply-chain projects</li> <li>Greater alignment on the need to work together</li> </ul>

## KEY DATA

			2020	2019	2018
GRI302-10	Total Energy Use	MWh	1998	2443	2600
GRI302-19	Renewable Energy % Of Total Energy Use	%	15%	15%	15%
GRI305-10	Total Ghg Emissions As Co2e (Scope 1 & 2)	Tonnes	443	544	597
GRI306-20	Total Waste	Tonnes	55	77	65
GRI306-204	Percentage Waste Recycled/Reused Of Total Waste	%	62%	57%	n/a
GRI303-30	Total Water Withdrawal	M3	11,869	14774	13770
GRI404-10	Average Number Of Training Hours Per Employee	Average	4.9	9.0	5.1
GRI403-22	Number Of Lost Time Injuries	Number	1	1	0
GRI403-30	Sick Leave, %	%	1.3%	2.2%	2.3%

# Lindéngruppen

– *A purpose-driven owner*



Our owner, Lindéngruppen, is a second-generation family business focused on long-term development of industrial companies. The purpose of the Group is to own successful companies that lead the transition to a sustainable world. The Group is unified by a belief that by being rooted in strong values and long-term thinking, we are able to build resilient and prosperous companies while also making a difference and taking an active part in solving some of the major challenges facing our world.

Together we work actively to optimise benefits in terms of environmental and societal impact, and to minimise negative impact. Each company is required to have a clear understanding of the issues that are most material and that how these can be influenced and over time transformed. Going forward, an important part of optimising benefits is to understand and drive the ability of our customers and our endusers to become more sustainable.

## Global Trends

In their most recent sustainability report, Lindéngruppen analysed some of the global trends which are important shapers of the environment in which we are operating and which will also shape the future. We share this analysis below. As a very small company, it can appear that we have little impact.

We share the Lindéngruppen findings, as well as setting this report in the context of the SDGs, as a reminder that achieving a more sustainable future often comes through the accumulation of many apparently small actions.

### Global trends

	MEGATREND	CHALLENGES/RISKS	OPPORTUNITIES	IMPLICATIONS
<b>DEMOGRAPHICS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The global population is approaching 8 billion with further growth predicted.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meeting the increasing global demand for products.</li> <li>Meeting these demands in a sustainable way – both in operations and product development.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A growing markets for our products.</li> <li>To provide the market more sustainable products.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Our companies are strategic suppliers of many finished products that are needed in modern society. Our sustainability performance is a market differentiator.</li> </ul>
<b>PLANETARY BOUNDARIES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Excessive resource use is having serious consequences on our climate, fragile planetary systems, ecosystems and access to resources.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Our industrial operations have impacts on air, land, water and biodiversity.</li> <li>Climate change, in the form of short-term transitional consequences and long-term physical consequences pose risks for all our operations.</li> <li>Managing harmful chemicals is a challenge for several of our businesses.</li> <li>Dependence on finite and non-renewable materials risk supply issues.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reducing our environmental impacts can reduce financial costs and risk.</li> <li>Increased energy efficiency and reduced carbon impact will enhance resilience and create competitive businesses and value chains.</li> <li>The use of more renewable materials in our products will help secure our future raw material supply chains.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We must proactively mitigate the environmental impacts of our production and product development processes. By doing so, we will reduce financial costs, secure our raw material supply, mitigate risk, as well as minimise environmental impact and protect biodiversity.</li> </ul>
<b>DECENT WORK FOR ALL</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As we still see issues of human rights and modern slavery in many places around the world, we actively work with our supply chains to secure decent work for all. In particular for women and children. Within our own businesses, we will focus on health and safety, as well as support diversity and inclusion, to achieve workplaces where all of our people can thrive.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The industrial operations – particularly in emerging markets – of our businesses pose risks related to health and safety, and human and labour rights, including children's rights.</li> <li>We rely on many suppliers in emerging markets with potentially inadequate worker standards.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Better working standards help to attract, develop and retain talent.</li> <li>Investing in decent work for all can reduce the risk of non-compliance with legislation and damage to our brands.</li> <li>Developing the capacity of our suppliers can help secure our value chain by avoiding issues such as corruption and child labour.</li> <li>Increasing diversity and inclusion in all our operations could increase creativity and innovation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As an industrial group, we must safeguard the working standards of all the workers in our value chain – including in our own operations and those of our suppliers.</li> </ul>
<b>TRANSPARENCY</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Driven by digitalisation, the world is becoming increasingly open and accessible. Consumer expectations on company transparency is increasing. The demand for transparency is visible both for the environmental impact of products and how people are treated.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Failure to disclose information may make our companies less competitive.</li> <li>Lack of transparency can lead to decreased consumer trust.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transparent and sustainable companies will stand out and be rewarded.</li> <li>Younger generations are demanding more and better information, and make decisions based on their values.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We see great potential to increase transparency in our processes and operations, which requires constant improvement on our most important sustainability issues.</li> </ul>

Available on the Lindéngruppen website, [www.lindengruppen.com](http://www.lindengruppen.com).

# Company Information

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Moorbrook Textiles Ltd. trades as Alex Begg and produces scarves and home furnishings for luxury brand customers around the globe. It also manufactures product under its own brand, Begg x Co.

The company is wholly owned by Lindéngruppen AB and has its headquarters at 17 Viewfield Road, Ayr, Scotland KA8 8HJ. The Board, the highest governing body, is comprised of representatives of Lindéngruppen, members of the management team based in Ayr and an independent Chair. It meets 4 times a year and most of the decisions regarding day-to-day running of the business are made by the Ayr management team.

At the end of the year the company purchased the trading assets of Scott and Charters, a knitting company based in Hawick in the Scottish Borders. Data for S&C has not been included in this report as the purchase was completed very close to the end of the year. An integrated report will be published next year. Sales for the year were £17.7m (2019 — £17.7m), capitalisation was £5.9m (2019 — £6.1m). The number of employees at the end of the reporting period was 122 FTE.

The main raw materials used by the company are specialist high-quality dyed yarns, sourced from spinners in the UK and Italy. The yarns produced by Tier 1 suppliers are mostly comprised of animal fibres – cashmere, sheep’s wool and angora, with smaller amounts of silk. The company occasionally weaves yarns containing cotton and linen.

Traceability and quality are extremely important issues for us and much of our work with the supply chain is aimed at improving performance in these areas. During the year, sales of cashmere knitwear manufactured by other companies (mostly Scott & Charters) also grew.

The company is a member of the Sustainable Fibre Alliance, UK Fashion & Textiles Scotland, Sedex and has subscribed to the Campaign for Wool. We have mapped our work against the UN Sustainable Development Goals and have identified those which have particular relevance to our operations and strategic plans.

Additionally, we have made reference to the following on specific issues:

- the GRI Standards for reporting ([www.globalreporting.org](http://www.globalreporting.org))
- the Restricted Substance List issued by the “Zero Discharge of Hazardous Chemicals” organisation
- the Living Wage Foundation
- the “5 Freedoms” of animal welfare and the recently formulated and associated “5 Provisions”
- the UN Sustainable Development Goals (<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/>)
- the Animal Welfare, Fibre Processing and Sustainable Grasslands Standards of the Sustainable Fibre Alliance

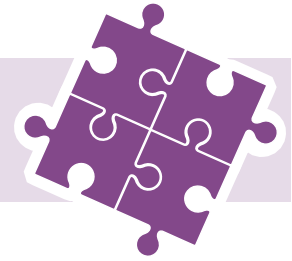
In 2017, the company was certified to the international standards ISO 9001:2015 (for quality management) and ISO 14001 (for environmental management). In 2020 we had successful recertification audits. In November 2020 our energy management system, certified to ISO 50001:2018, had a successful surveillance audit. Our chemical management system was also subject to a successful customer audit early in the year.

The company reports annually on its sustainability performance, the last report having been issued in April 2020. This current report covers the calendar year 2020 and has been prepared in accordance with the GRI Standards: Core option (published 2016). It has not been externally assured. During 2020 we reviewed the World Economic Forum white paper on “Measuring Stakeholder Capitalism” as the possible basis for future reports.

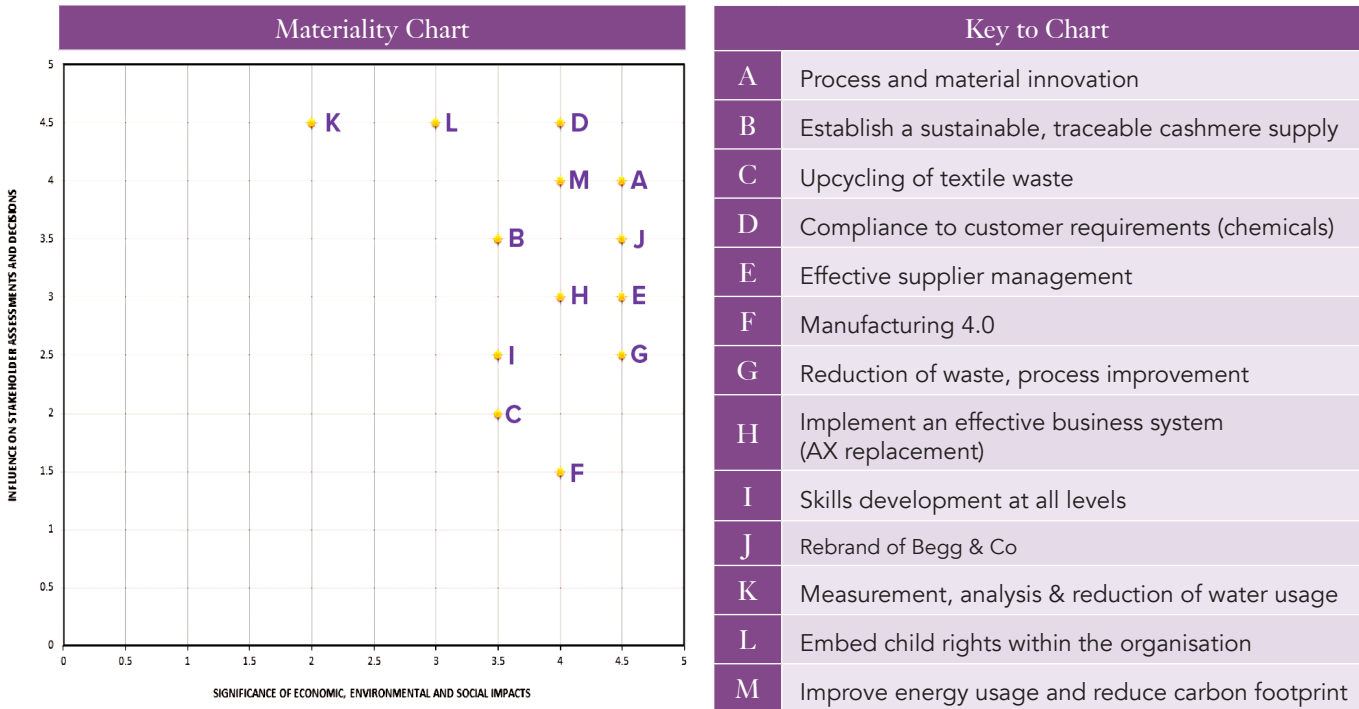
The company uses the Precautionary Principle in managing its operations by taking a rigorous approach to managing risk. In particular, in the area of chemical compliance, the company actively works with its suppliers to exceed the industry standards laid down by ZDHC, defined in its Policy on Hazardous Chemicals.

Our key stakeholders concerning operations, environmental management and Health & Safety are defined in our policies on these subjects.

**Note:** The GRI Standards are “the first global standards for sustainability reporting. They feature a modular, Company information interrelated structure, and represent the global best practice for reporting on a range of economic, environmental and social impacts”. We have prepared this report in accordance with these standards.



## Materiality Analysis 2020



A materiality analysis shows the issues which are the most important to a business and to the main stakeholders. The grid has 2 axes, importance on the y-axis and impact on the x-axis. Our materiality is reviewed every year.

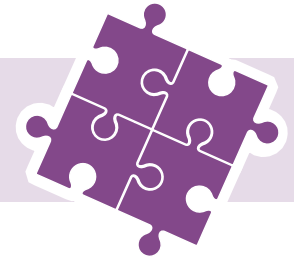
The Lindéngruppen Sustainability Framework was introduced in 2017 and reviewed in 2019. It is a scoring system for group companies to assess their progress in key areas of sustainability work. The graph above shows our progress over the last 4 years in each of the 5 areas assessed.

## Performance against Lindéngruppen Sustainability Framework





# GOVERNANCE, STRATEGY & COMMUNICATIONS



The COVID lockdown provided opportunities for reflection: the 10 principles below provide a basis for our work on sustainability—the motivation, the approach, the culture and the methodology.

Foundations of Sustainability	
1	Our planet Earth is awe-inspiring and wonderful. Life in its myriad of forms is especially beautiful and precious because it is also very fragile. At its best, human society provides for the physical needs of everyone and for human flourishing in all its aspects.
2	Humans have a responsibility to look after the planet and to arrange our societies for the good of all.
3	<p>There are currently significant threats to life on earth arising from human activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• climate change through increased greenhouse gas levels</li> <li>• pollution of air, water and land by waste</li> <li>• physical degradation of the environment, including habitat destruction</li> <li>• the abuse and exploitation of people through poverty and injustice</li> </ul> <p>These threats are exacerbated by increased consumption, population growth and the effects of some technologies.</p>
4	All human activity causes some impact on the environment.
5	Making positive changes to our environmental impacts almost always involves some compromises (i.e. both gains and losses). It is very difficult to have a “fully sustainable” material; we require sustainable systems.
6	Science is an essential basis for making decisions about how to live sustainably, but it is also limited – it can only make partial and uncertain predictions.
7	<p>Progress in dealing with environmental threats will come from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• individual actions</li> <li>• corporate/group actions</li> <li>• government actions</li> <li>• systematic/technological developments</li> </ul> <p>The most effective change will come when these are aligned.</p>
8	<p>Successful work on sustainability depends on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• education &amp; learning</li> <li>• creativity and innovation</li> <li>• partnerships and collaboration</li> <li>• taking action</li> <li>• measuring progress</li> </ul>
9	Honesty, truthfulness, transparency and realism are essential to effective communications regarding sustainability.
10	<p>The goals of our work on sustainability are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• human flourishing</li> <li>• the welfare of animals</li> <li>• a circular economy which does not deplete the earth's resources nor damage its infrastructure</li> </ul>

At the foot of each 2-page spread in this year's report, we are showing the Sustainable Development goals which are relevant to the work described on the pages.



**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**



## PEOPLE



### Top Priority

Alex Begg has always placed a high priority on its people, but in 2020 this came into focus very clearly. We have taken many measures to ensure that our staff remain safe and have a minimal chance of being infected with COVID. These include working from home where possible, physical distancing measures, extra shifts to minimise numbers in the mill, hand sanitising, face masks and special measures in the canteen. Staff with special vulnerabilities have been given particular consideration.

### X-Functional Working

During the initial Spring 2020 lockdown, we took the opportunity to involve all staff in cross-functional improvement teams. These addressed some of the business issues which face us. The teams met regularly over Zoom for a few weeks, created new relationships, released all sorts of creativity and provided some interesting solutions to the challenges.

### Comfort Blanket

Launched on the Begg x Co website during the lockdown of Spring 2020, The "Comfort Blanket" was widely acclaimed.

*"As a brand & business with a loyal and ever-growing community, we have felt a responsibility to reach out and help others during this difficult time. To help you during this time, we have created 'Our Comfort Blanket', a space*

*for us to share features covering everything from music to books, meditation to nature, to art and wellbeing tips.*

*This is a space for us and you. We encourage you to reach out to us and tell us what you are doing to stay healthy and hopeful so that we can share with our wider BeggxCo community."*

[www.beggxco.com/comfort-blanket](http://www.beggxco.com/comfort-blanket)

### Business & Children's Rights

This is a priority across all Lindéngruppen businesses and we were able to make significant progress in 2020, working with the Global Child Forum.

We developed a series of short videos explaining our work and circulated these to employees. We were also able to attend a series of webinars held by GCF, including one where Lindéngruppen's work was the focus.



We plan to develop this work further, especially through a partnership with MCR Pathways, which provides adult mentors to young people in the care system.

## Welcome To Our New Colleagues The Scott & Charters Team



Carol A - Angela B - Leslie C - Tracey C - David C - Leah C - Shane C - Steven E - David G - Donna G  
Amy H - Aileen J - Cameron K - James K - Sharon K - Sheila L - Doreen M - Wendy M - Elizabeth M  
Jacqueline M - Beverly M - Caroline M - Myra M - Graeme R - Irene R - Andrew R - Brian R - Harvey R - Gary S  
Rosina S - Amanda S - Richard S - Tracy S - Nichola S - Linzi T - Sandra T - Leslie T - Linda W - Myra W



Since 2017, we have been working to establish a supply chain for ethical, sustainable and traceable cashmere from Mongolia. This is the CapraCare™ project.

## A Summary of 2020

### COVID-19 played havoc with the Mongolian cashmere industry in 2020.

As neighbours to China, where the outbreak began, Mongolia took early action to close its borders. However, this restricted access for foreign cashmere traders and coupled with the uncertainty and expected drop in demand, the prices tumbled.

Through our Mongolian agent, we were able to purchase a small amount of brown cashmere fibre. It was tracked through the processes as part of the SFA's trial on cashmere traceability, using paper-based transaction certificates.

It arrived in Europe late in the year and then had to be hurriedly shipped to our Yorkshire spinner in order to avoid being caught up in BREXIT administration issues.

A year with reduced activity also gave us an opportunity to plan the way ahead for CapraCare. Late in the year we published a 3-year strategic plan and started work on getting our traceability scheme externally verified by ICEA, the Italian certification body.

We have also been able to continue to contribute substantially to the work of the SFA and to be involved with the United Nations Development Programme's work on sustainable Mongolian cashmere.

### Cashmere Traceability

When we started CapraCare, little work was being done on cashmere traceability.

That is changing rapidly. In 2021, the SFA will continue its initial trial in Mongolia and start a trial with Chinese cashmere. Meanwhile the Aid by Trade Foundation has published the Good Cashmere Standard applicable in China.



# PARTNERSHIPS



Partnerships are always key to our sustainability work. Some of that is reported elsewhere, but on this page we have focussed on a couple of our longer-standing partners (MAP & SFA) and 3 of our new ones.

It's worth remembering what we get from partnerships— different expertise and perspectives; multiplication of sustainability effort; work that we could never hope to achieve by ourselves. This is why SDG 17— Partnership for the Goals - is foundational to some many aspects of our work.

## Maker & Producer

Our partner selling waste materials to the public had to close retail operations early in the year. MAP quickly set a website and has continued to sell. In just the last

4 months of 2020, MAP bought 700kg of fabric waste, saving it from going to our normal waste.

## The Sustainable Fibre Alliance

The Sustainable Fibre Alliance has been increasing the scope of its operations and in 2020 firmly established its work in China. It was a turbulent year for the cashmere market and therefore of course for Mongolian herders, who live "on the edge" and are very vulnerable in many ways.

2020 showed us that technology can reach to even remote parts of the Gobi desert (Bayankhongor) and we were able to reconnect with a part of the supply chain that we last visited in 2018. We were also able to contribute to SFA's work on a Resilience Plan.

## IINOUIIO

### It's not over until it's over!

We have been regularly in touch with Dr John Parkinson, head of this interesting organisation, over the last year. IINOUIIO is setting up a textile waste processing plant in Yorkshire in 2021 and we plan to recycle some of our waste there. More news next year!

## Ulster University

We first made contact with Dean Liggett when he was working at Glasgow Caledonian University.

He has since returned to his native Northern Ireland, but our collaboration has continued. Last year's student project was interrupted, although you can see some products on the following pages, but we have been sending more materials and are expecting great things from the class of 2020-21.

## Sentier d'Action Europe

During 2020 we established links with Sentier d'Action Europe, "SUJE", a small French charity which has been working in Arkhangai for several years. It has excellent local connections and experience, but also focusses its work on children, which fits in very well with our wider sustainability strategy (see page 7). The charity's work in Mongolia was of course very limited in 2020, but we plan to do some projects together in 2021.

In the Mongolian countryside, many children become boarders when they start secondary school. It's the only way they can access education. However accommodation, leisure facilities and access to medical care are often very limited and these are areas where SUJE is doing development work.





# ENVIRONMENT



## Waste Management

Our reduced activity in 2020 resulted in reduced amounts of waste being produced. It also saw continuing activity on improving our performance in this area.

We made considerable progress with improving the accuracy of our waste reporting last year and the “paperless factory” project has resulted in a huge reduction in the amount of paper on the shopfloor. It also seems that staff working from home, remote from printers, has had an effect.

As in other areas, we laid some foundations for future work, the possibility of shredding waste and re-spinning it into yarn being one of the most interesting.

There is a detailed report on our textile waste management on pages 14 & 15 and photos of what creatives were able to produce with it.

## Energy Management

2020 was a difficult year for us in energy management. COVID-19 changed everyone’s priorities and our decision to minimise the number of staff in the building wherever possible, creating extra shifts in the evening and at night, inevitably made us less efficient in our energy usage.

However, the work we had done previously gave us good data and understanding of the changes and we had a successful ISO 50001 audit at the end of the year.

Our internal audits through the year also showed a good level of awareness of energy management among staff and (even better) good practice in switching things off when not needed.

Energy management is going to be an important topic in 2021 - plans include integrating Scott & Charters, measuring our SCOPE 3 carbon emissions, picking up our work on energy saving opportunities and starting to plan for carbon neutrality.

## Water Management

Water management is a new topic for us, only appearing in our materiality analysis in 2020. We have assigned responsibility for water management to the team which looks after our energy, to ensure that it receives regular attention.

Of course, water is not in short supply in the West of Scotland, but we have carried out an initial mapping of our supply chain. This shows that our supply chain requires scouring of raw fibres (wool and cashmere) in a few areas which have much more significant water stress than we do. We were also able, with the help of our friends at Vitale Barberis Canonico, to get an idea of how much water others use in processing their woollen fabric.

Next year we will be increasing the detail on our supply chain map and looking at ways to reduce our own consumption.

## Process Management

Improving our processes is fundamental to our manufacturing strategy and it has all sorts of knockon environmental benefits. Efficient, well managed processes will use less energy and water and will produce less waste.

Despite the difficulties of 2020, we saw significant activity through our cross-functional teams (see p8) and other continuous improvement activity. At our ISO 9001 recertification audit in October, the auditor commented on how impressed he was with the level of improvement activity in the company and how much progress he has seen in the 3 years since his first visit. He noted it as one of our particular strengths.

Plans for 2021 include the development of SMED activity and training on structured problem-solving. As the “easier” improvements are completed, further gains are only won by a focussed and disciplined approach to the work.



# TEXTILE WASTE



There's a lot of talk about the circular economy and it is something we have been working on for some time. In this year's report, we have put together a fairly detailed report on our work on production excesses and waste.

Our experience shows that dealing with waste can be really tough—it requires commitment, vision, imagination, attention to detail and perhaps most difficult of all, appropriate partners. Even in a relatively simple manufacturing process like ours, there are 10 types of waste, as we have illustrated here.



## YARN

**Waste Arises From:** excesses purchased, supplier minimum buy quantities.

**Reduction Efforts:** purchasing yarn with recycled content, using excesses in special projects, selling excesses.



## WARPING WASTE

**Waste Arises From:** Warping process.

**Reduction Efforts:** Low volume, low priority. Mixed shades and composition, provided for artistic purposes.



## KNOTTING WASTE

**Waste Arises From:** Knotting process.

**Reduction Efforts:** Low volume, low priority. Mixed shades and composition, interesting shapes, provided for artistic purposes.



## LOOMTAPE

**Waste Arises From:** Weaving process.

**Reduction Efforts:** High volume. Contains a lot of polyester, mixed shades and compositions. Experiments have been done with padding and a lot supplied to artists. Experiments under way to shred / re-spin.



## GREASY WASTE

**Waste Arises From:** Weaving process.

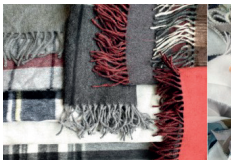
**Reduction Efforts:** Some supplied to artists. As the material is unfinished, it is unattractive for craft customers.



## SLITTER TAPE

**Waste Arises From:** Woven pieces being slit lengthwise.

**Reduction Efforts:** 100% sold to Maker and Producer.



## SMALL PIECES

**Waste Arises From:** Offcuts.

**Reduction Efforts:** 100% sold to Maker and Producer.



## FLOCK

**Waste Arises From:** Extraction of "dust".

**Reduction Efforts:** Very low quality material. No efforts made yet.



## BRANDED WASTE

**Reduction Efforts:** Currently securely shredded and destroyed. Focus on prevention and looking for better disposal methods.



## EXCESS STOCK

**Reduction Efforts:** Reduction Efforts: matching production to demand; sold through mill shop.



The Begg x Co Wispy bag - using excess materials to create environmentally friendly packaging for our products.





# TEXTILE WASTE



A Sloane, Belfast



S McNally / O Mulvenna, Belfast

A FEATURE OF OUR SUSTAINABILITY WORK OVER THE LAST YEARS HAS BEEN COLLABORATION WITH STUDENTS, ARTISTS AND CRAFTERS TO CREATE BEAUTIFUL AND USEFUL THINGS FROM OUR EXCESS AND WASTE MATERIALS.

The images on these pages feature work produced by Scottish artists; students from the University of Ulster and Jane Wright, a Belgian artist studying at the Royal College of Art in London. We have an ongoing collaboration with Jane and are working on uses for loom tape.

The ideas and objects which our artists produce are always exciting & inspiring. Importantly, they act as signposts to the potential of materials which would otherwise end up being incinerated. Our sincere thanks to all involved.

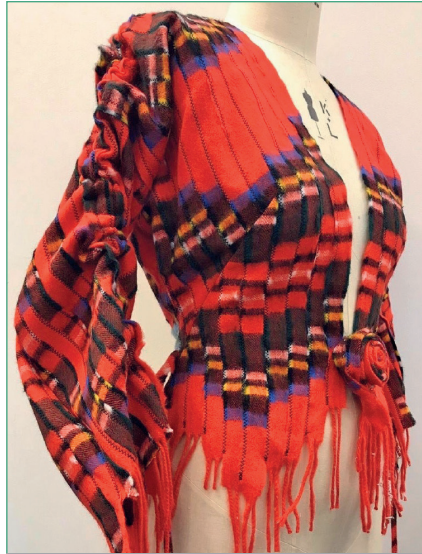


Jane Wright, Royal College of Art, London





J Hogg, Glasgow



S Galbraith, Belfast



T Irwin, Belfast

# INUTILE UTILE PER ARTE

*"Useless Things Made Useful Through Art"*

- Town motto of Ossett, Yorkshire



A Harvey, Belfast



N Reyes Sanchez, Belfast



S Whiteford, Glasgow

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A L E X B E G G

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WEAVERS OF LUXURY ACCESSORIES SINCE 1866

[WWW.ALEX-BEGG.CO.UK](http://WWW.ALEX-BEGG.CO.UK)

As a sign of our commitment to the circular economy, we have had this report printed on paper manufactured using waste from textile processing (15%) and recycled paper (40%).