

# IMPACT REPORT 2023

APPARELXCHANGE CIC  
2023



# THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST IN OUR IMPACT REPORT

This report tells you about the social, environmental and economic impacts of our work during 2023.

## WHO ARE WE?

ApparelXchange is a circular social enterprise based in Glasgow, and was set up by Izzie Eriksen, a mother of two, in 2018, in response to the amount of young peoples clothing waste being generated in Glasgow. We are dedicated to the reuse, repair and recycling of kids and teenagers clothing and footwear; demonstrating that preloved items can benefit both the planet and your pocket; and showing that sustainable fashion is an option for everyone.

Our vision is to create a sustainable clothing system for young people, integrated in every community.



## WHAT WE DO

We gather donations of outgrown and unwanted childrenswear for ages 4 to 18. Our team review and refresh items, repair when required, and then we resell at low prices in store and online.

By purchasing from us, our customers are helping to reduce the volume of clothing that reaches landfill.

In addition, the income we make through these sales enables us to fulfil our social mission, supplying reduced cost clothing packages to young people in families experiencing financial challenges.

# CLOTHING PACKAGES

We provide bespoke free clothing and footwear packages, suitable for different purposes across school, leisure and sporting activities.

We have an online referral system and work with strategic partners to reach families and young people most in need.

During 2023, we provided

- 670 clothing packages containing
- 5189 garments or pairs of footwear worth
- £17,080

We worked with 19 partner organisations to distribute the packages to the people who needed them.



## FEEDBACK FROM PARTNERS AND END USERS

We evaluated our clothing package service, receiving 31 responses. 100% of respondents were happy with the fulfilment time, 71% with the quality, and 48% with the fit.

We will improve our services by opening our warehouse so that families can attend self selection days, trying clothes on.

Some of our partners included Maryhill Integration Network, Glasgow Life, Glasgow Helps, The Alliance, HSCP, and The Red Cross

## OUR FUNDERS

While our free packages rely on donations of clothing, there are still costs to cover in delivering this service.

We received very generous funding from;

- The JAM Trust, Tesco, The Cooperative Bank, LUSH, Glasgow Life, Glasgow Helps, The Avanta Foundation and own Crowdfunder.

A massive thank you for all your support.

# COMMUNITY EDUCATION

We provide workshops, awareness raising sessions and repair and sewing skills to school pupils and the wider community.

During 2023 we provided :

- 318 pupils and staff in Primary, Secondary schools in Glasgow with information about the clothing supply chain, impacts and actions we can take;
- 316 people attended community workshops in our retail space, online and in workplaces.



## FEEDBACK FROM ATTENDEES

While we didn't formally evaluate this aspect of our work, we learnt a great deal from the process about what people are looking for from our education programme, what they want to know about, and how to engage big businesses.

We have already started planning more workshops and events for 2024, with a focus on engaging teenagers at high school.





# VOLUNTEERING

We provide volunteering opportunities in our warehouse, shop and for special technical projects which develop our organisation.

We recruited our Volunteer Coordinator in November, a part time role. They have enhanced our policies, processes and systems to provide excellent opportunities for our volunteers.



45 individuals from our communities and corporate partners volunteered with us.

## NEXT STEPS

With our Volunteer Coordinator, recruited in November we have an exciting year ahead of us, and are focusing on three areas: recruitment and relationships; training and retention; and process improvements.

**"VOLUNTEERS ARE AN INTEGRAL PART OF OUR WORK AND SOCIAL MISSION."**

AXC Volunteer Coordinator



# ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

As an organisation with a mission focussed on positive change to benefit the environment, we have monitored our operational environmental impacts since we were founded.

During 2023

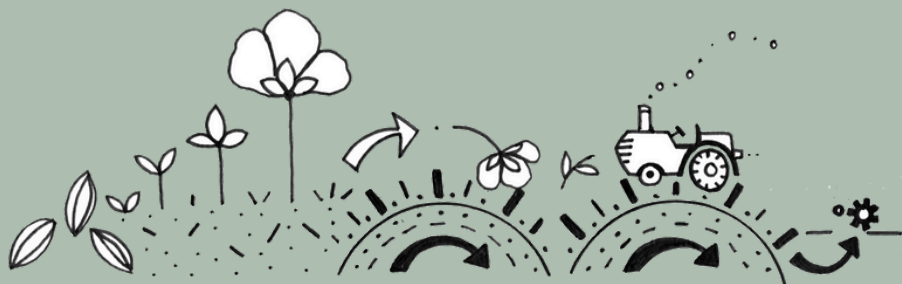
- Our operational emissions for scopes 1-3 were 4.94 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e. This includes all of our supply-chain emissions.
- This was a reduction of 15% from 2022, achieved through the removal of the company vehicle.
- Most of our emissions come from electricity use. We expect these emissions to reduce as the energy grid decarbonises.
- With the opening of the shop in Nithsdale Street there is now consumption of gas to heat the retail space.
- The impact from our operating model, from the sale of reused clothing, was estimated at 69.49 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e for the year. This assumes that reused clothing is avoiding emission from new purchases and disposal elsewhere.
- Therefore, the positive impact of our work is estimated to be more than 12 times that of our operational emissions.



## ACTION PLAN FOR WHAT NEXT

An improvement plan to achieve even higher environmental impacts is in place and will continue to be a focus for the Board and our staff.

This plan focuses on new markets for end of life textiles, and working with our landlord to make heating improvements to our retail space.



# ORGANISATION UPDATE

Its been an busy year; here are some of our operational highlights during 2013:

- Establishing our shop and community engagement work
- Developing the clothing packages services and partnerships
- Growing our online shop, eBay and Vinted recommerce stores
- Sharing our Clothing system vision and securing £50k of funding through the Social Innovation Challenge
- Growing and developing the team with Eva, Amy & Claire joining in our retail, warehouse and volunteer programme.
- Growing our partnerships in particular with Scottish Sports Futures and working with 18 collection partners

## OUR TEAM

Nothing would be possible without this amazing group of people;



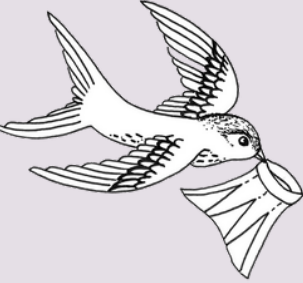
## OUR FUNDERS

Nothing would be possible without our funders. Thank you for your support:

- First Port, The PostCode Lottery, Awards for All and The National Lottery



# WHO TO CONTACT



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For seasonal opening hours  
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