



(Bi)Annual Report

February 2022 - April 2024

Executive summary



Fibreshed Ireland is a community-supported not-for-profit social enterprise building networks to craft a regenerative Irish textile system based on local fibre, local dyes & local labour. We do this by sparking collaborations with verified provenance, supporting farmers in implementing beneficial practices, and catalysing communities to facilitate regional fibre processing facilities. Our vision for Ireland is one of biodiverse ecosystems and thriving livelihoods, woven by culturally vibrant Irish fibres.



As an organisation that works accross all links of the textile value chain, our members include fibre & dye growers, fibre processors & manufacturers, crafters, designers, brands, retailers, researchers, educators, consumers and general supporters of our vision.



We work to provide our members with networking opportunities, better access to regenerative Irish-grown fibres & dyes and opportunities for fibre processing. We also engage in research, advocacy and policy change.



CO-DIRECTORS



Malú Colorín
co-founder / natural dyer



Jessica Leonard
agroecology educator & nature-friendly farmer

ADVISORY TEAM MEMBERS



Kit Keawwantha
co-founder / felter & spinner



Liadain Aiken
knitwear designer



Sandra King
wool expert



Jennifer Lienhard
natural dyer



Ciara Doyle
knit & crochet pattern designer

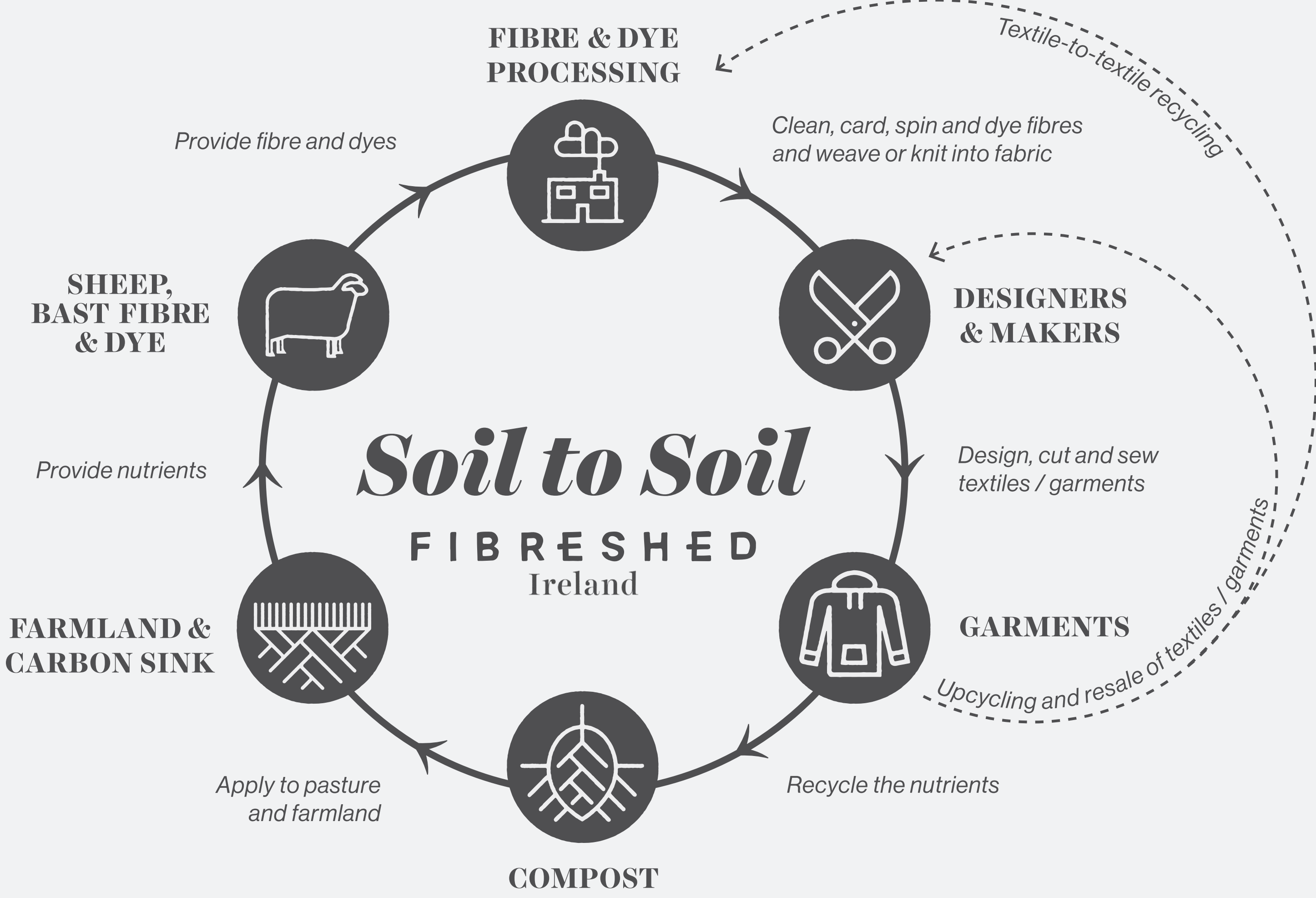
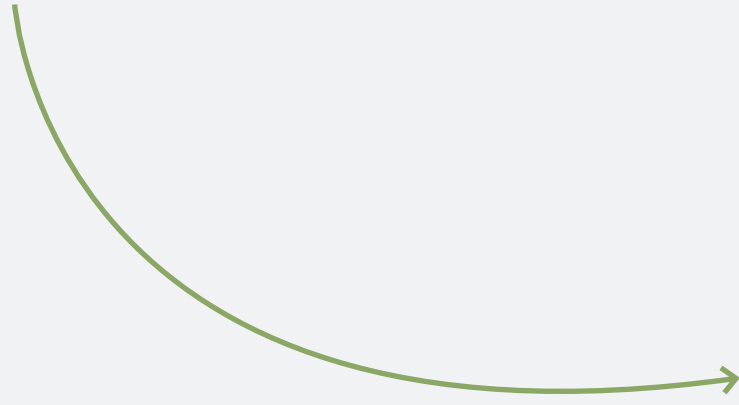
We're a community-supported not-for-profit social enterprise building networks to craft a regenerative Irish textile system based on local fibre, local dyes & local labour.

Fibreshed Ireland started in March 2022 as a registered independent affiliate of the global [Fibershed](#) movement. Each affiliate works locally to develop regional fibre systems that help regenerate local ecologies, communities and economies. We are one of "65+ fibersheds working in their specific bioregions to connect the pieces of intricate land-based textile systems... to produce clothing and other textiles rich with life and stories of the land and communities." (Lexi Fujii, Fibershed Affiliate Network Coordinator)



Our philosophy is based on Fibershed's soil-to-soil model of textile production, which offers true circularity by harnessing Nature's inherent ability to cycle and recycle nutrients, returning organic material to its source—the soil—to start again.

There is no waste because all products and byproducts of the circle can help feed the soil: the ultimate recycler.



Fibershed's Soil-to-soil model for textile production graphic, adapted by Fibershed Ireland.

OUR VISION:

Biodiverse ecosystems and thriving livelihoods,
woven by culturally vibrant Irish fibres.



OUR MISSION:

We build supportive networks to craft a regenerative Irish textile system based on local fibre, local dyes & local labour.

We do this by sparking collaborations with verified provenance, supporting farmers in implementing beneficial practices, and catalysing communities to facilitate regional fibre processing facilities.



THE FOUR MAIN PILLARS OF OUR OPERATIONS:



1 — Networking

Mapping Ireland's fibre networks to facilitate collaborative partnerships and verified provenance.



2 — Regenerative fibre & dye farming

Expanding opportunities for regenerative farming to support farmers in transitioning to more resilient, biodiverse agricultural practices which sequester carbon and ameliorate climate change.



3 — Fibre processing

Catalysing regional fibre manufacturing to build equitable, local circular bio-economies and resilient rural enterprise.



4 — Education, research and advocacy

To shift policy, industry practice and public awareness towards reducing textile waste and pollution. Improving appreciation and utilisation of our indigenous raw materials through education and upskilling of local communities.

WE LOOK AT THE TEXTILE VALUE CHAIN HOLISTICALLY, FROM THE GROUND UP. OUR MEMBERS ARE:



Fibre & Dye Growers

Wool, Flax, Alpaca, Hemp, Natural dyes, Leather...



Processors & Manufacturers

Mills, Natural tanners, Natural dyers, Hand processing...



Crafters, Designers & Brands

Knitters, Weavers, Fashion & Textile designers, Leather workers, Natural dyers, Brands...



Retailers

Local businesses, Supporters of local & sustainable products...



Universities, Educators, Policy Makers & Aligned Partners

Research, Education, Policy change, Collaborations...



Consumers & Supporters

WHAT WE'VE DONE SO FAR:



2022 - CURRENTLY

Interactive map of Ireland's fibre networks (ongoing)

- **87 entries so far**
- Needs optimising (searchability, responsiveness, categories) since the aim is for it to become a powerful resource for anyone searching for Irish fibre-related products, services, practitioners or experts

WHAT WE'VE DONE SO FAR:

2022 - CURRENTLY



#fridayfashionshift: ongoing social media campaign encouraging people to consider the impact of their clothing choices

- **219 posts using the hashtag on Instagram**
- Do we want to revive/keep it going?

WHAT WE'VE DONE SO FAR:

NOVEMBER 2022



Photo © Aoife Long

‘Designing a local and regenerative framework for Irish textiles’ symposium

Fumbally Stables, Dublin

18 November 2022

50 attendees, 14 speakers & 2 volunteers

Panels:

- Natural dye production at a scale
- The revival of Irish-grown linen
- Revindicating Irish wool
- Irish Alpaca Yarns – Sustainable Luxury
- The slow fashion scene in Ireland

Partly funded by the DCCI



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Council Ireland**

WHAT WE'VE DONE SO FAR:



Photo © Aoife Long

2022 - CURRENTLY

Membership programme

Helps fund our operations in exchange for certain benefits.

- **127 members to date**
- Members have access to symposium recordings, tutorial recordings and the presentation by Christiane Seufferlein.
- More ways to uplift members: distinction on the interactive map, newsletter features, Instagram takeovers, short video features
- Need for more member interaction: monthly virtual meetups and an interactive hub like Mighty Networks
- Need for "welcome pack"

WHAT WE'VE DONE SO FAR:

JANUARY 2023 - CURRENTLY

Photo © Seamus Bradley



Photo © Mallon Linen



Reciprocal Textiles Programme

A growing group of fibre and dye farmers interested in or already implementing regenerative land management practices. The aim of this member-led group is to transfer knowledge around 8 key topics:

- **Biodiversity**
- **Habitat restoration**
- **Water catchment restoration**
- **Natural ways to increase productivity in the farm**
- **Local farming wisdom**
- **Cultural heritage**
- **Community networks**
- **Producer/consumer relationships**

As a result of these sessions, we are collaboratively developing a verification system for Irish textiles grown following agroecological principles, inspired by Fibershed's Climate Beneficial™ programme in the USA.

Funded by the 2022 & 2023
Fibershed Micro-Grant series,
made possible by the Threading
Resilience fundraiser.





Photo © Laoise Carey

‘Nothing New’ campaign

Free online workshops to mend and re-dye your own clothes, instead of buying anything new for Fashion Revolution month.

- **Live attendance of 65 people**
- Still available online for Fibreshed Ireland members on the Members’ Hub

WHAT WE'VE DONE SO FAR:

APRIL 2023

Certificate of Incorporation



Register Number: 738260

I hereby certify that

FIBRESHED IRELAND COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

is this day incorporated under the
Companies Act 2014, and that the
company is a

CLG - Company Limited by Guarantee

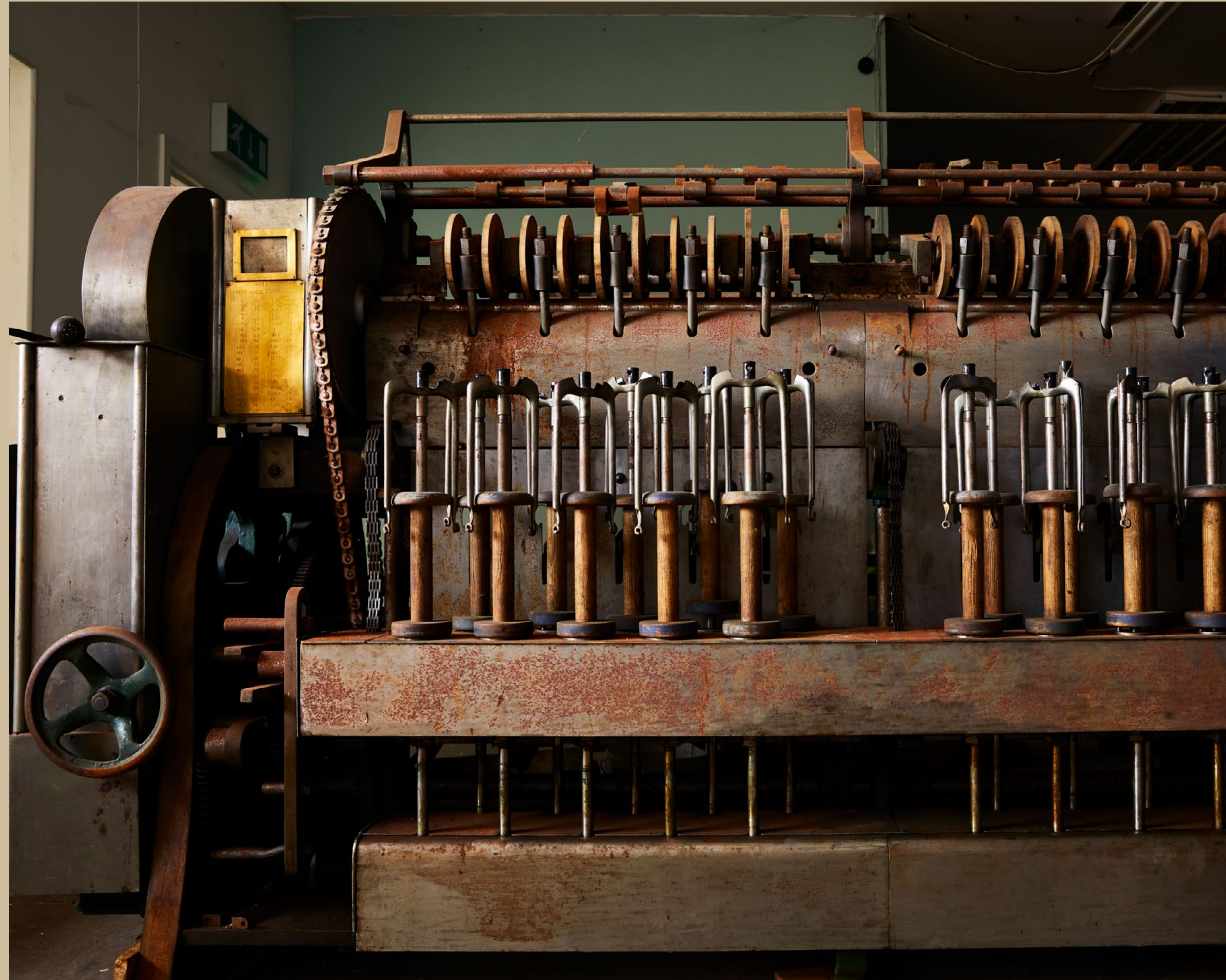
Legal Incorporation

Incorporated as a **Company Limited by Guarantee** and established our first advisory team of **7 volunteers**, including **2 co-directors**.

This legal structure ensures that all profits made by the organisation are reinvested in the company. It also opens doors for bigger funding opportunities.

WHAT WE'VE DONE SO FAR:

JUNE - JULY 2023



Support development of local
linen-processing facilities

Supported **Mourne Textiles'** successful
crowdfunding campaign to restore vintage
linen machinery for a fully-Irish linen
production from soil to finished textile.

→ Provided connections &
shared the campaign widely

Photo © Mourne Textiles

WHAT WE'VE DONE SO FAR:

AUGUST 2023



Support Kilcoe Studios for a weekend of events in Ballydehob

- **Attended by 150+ participants**
- Exhibition talk & networking
- Presentation on Fibreshed Ireland
- Talk about Irish-grown wool
- Alternative fashion show
- Market stall
- Knit & natural dye workshop

WHAT WE'VE DONE SO FAR:



SEPTEMBER 2023 - CURRENTLY

Reciprocal Textiles Fibre & Yarn

- We're in the process of getting **120kg of wool from 2 of our Reciprocal Programme participants** processed into scoured fibre, batting and yarn.
- It's being processed in Portugal, but we hope that future versions will have a fully-Irish value chain.
- Sales from this yarn will help fund our Reciprocal Textiles Programme.
- We aim to repeat this project and improve the quality of the fibre every year.

WHAT WE'VE DONE SO FAR:

SEPTEMBER 2023



‘Woven from our Soil’ collaborative tapestry

During the Earth Rising Eco Art Festival at IMMA, we offered drop-in demonstrations about spinning, weaving and natural dyeing using Irish-grown materials. Participants were also invited to learn more about the potential of Irish-grown biofibres and contribute to a collaborative woven tapestry to be displayed in future events and exhibitions.

- **Over 200 participants**
- **Only naturally-dyed Irish-grown fibres used for the weft of the tapestry**

WHAT WE'VE DONE SO FAR:

OCTOBER 2023



Participation in the 'Let's Knit' Festival

Russell Community Centre, Doolin, Co. Clare
29 October, 2023

Fibreshed Ireland had a stall at the festival with displays explaining our Soil-to-Soil philosophy. We also sold yarn, fibre and Irish wool books on behalf of our members

- Around 350 visitors to the festival
- Sold on behalf of 6 members
- All fibre on offer was Irish-grown and naturally-coloured or dyed



‘Resilient, regional and reciprocal: How tradition can inform the future of Irish textiles’ symposium

The Richmond, Dublin — 17 November 2023

50 attendees & 9 speakers

Presentations:

- Invisible made visible: mending, from folklore to craftivism
- History & folklore of dye plants in Ireland
- Cladóir: recovering one of Ireland’s native sheep breeds
- Spinning tales: textile histories and stories
- Lacemaking introduction
- A tradition exported: Irish lacemaking in Brazil
- Panel: remembering the future

Partly funded by the DCCI



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Council Ireland**



Photo © Paige Green

Conversations with policy makers for the future of circularity in Irish textiles

- Participation in the **Textiles Advisory Group** for the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications' in 2023
- Participation in circularity consultation workshop in Belfast: ***"Scaling Circular Innovation in ROI and NI - a strategic, long-term approach"***, supported by the Irish Department of the Environment, Climate, and Communications, Irish Manufacturing Research and CIRCULÉIRE

WHAT WE'VE DONE SO FAR:

ONGOING

Funding applications for specific projects

- DCCI Design Week 2022: **successful**, partly financed our first symposium
- Fibreshed Micro Grant series 2022: **successful**, financing the first iteration of our Reciprocal Textiles Programme
- Circular Economy Innovation Grants Scheme 2022 in collaboration with Common Knowledge: **unsuccessful**
- Creative Ireland Climate Action Fund 2023 in collaboration with Science Foundation Ireland: **unsuccessful**
- IMMA Earth Rising 2023: **successful**, funded our participation in the festival
- DCCI Design Week 2023: **successful**, partly financed our second symposium
- Fibreshed Micro Grant series 2023: **successful**, financing the second iteration of our Reciprocal Textiles Programme
- Erasmus+ application for WoolHub with partners in Portugal, Turkey and Italy: **pending**
- DCCI GANS Network Support Scheme 2024: **pending**
- IMMA Earth Rising 2024 in collaboration with AppleOak FibreWorks, Seeds4All and ShamrockSpring: **pending**

WHAT WE'VE DONE SO FAR:

ONGOING



Photo © RDS Awards

Funding applications for the long-term sustainability of our movement

- SEI Ideas Academy 2022 seed fund & Action Lab Programme 2023: **successful**, financed our legal incorporation, accountant fees and membership portal
- Rethink Ireland Social Enterprise Development Fund: **unsuccessful**
- SEI Changing Ireland Accelerator 2023: **unsuccessful**
- RDS Spring Agriculture Awards 2023: **successful commendation**, financed our reusable wooden signage
- Rethink Ireland Hybrid Social Finance Loan: **pending**
- RDS Spring Agriculture Awards 2024: **unsuccessful**
- SEI Impact Programme 2024: **pending**

Budget 2022-2024

	2022	2023	2024
INCOME			
Grants	€4,816.67	€11,169.79	€0.00
Symposium ticket sales	€1,738.81	€954.75	€199.88
Event-specific funding	€1,000.00	€3,190.00	€0.00
Memberships	€58.00	€2,980.68	€709.37
Workshops / Talks / Events	€0.00	€2,254.73	€0.00
Awards / Donations / Tips	€0.00	€1,052.00	€0.00
Sales of product	€7.45	€827.11	€0.00
Other income	€0.00	€11.61	€2.05
TOTAL INCOME	€7,620.93	€22,440.67	€911.30
EXPENSES			
Symposium	(€2,244.95)	(€4,466.10)	(€0.00)
Reciprocal Textiles programme	(€0.00)	(€2,430.03)	(€0.00)
Workshop facilitation	(€0.00)	(€2,300.85)	(€0.00)
Sales of product	(€0.00)	(€798.99)	(€110.00)
Legal / Accountancy fees	(€0.00)	(€2,526.50)	(€0.00)
Team salaries	(€1,000.86)	(€2,371.88)	(€600.00)
Travel expenses	(€0.00)	(€1,136.87)	(€0.00)
Website & software	(€506.10)	(€1,011.44)	(€119.58)
Other operations expenses	(€50.56)	(€1,477.94)	(€98.16)
TOTAL EXPENSES	(€3,802.47)	(€18,520.60)	(€927.74)
NET CASH FLOW	€3,818.46	€3,920.07	(€16.44)
CLOSING BANK BALANCE	€3,818.46	€7,738.53	€7,722.09

Budget per project

Project	Funders	Funding	Self-funding	Expenses	Remaining
2022 Symposium	DCCI	€1,000.00	€1,738.81	€2,395.13	€343.68
Memberships	Members	€3,748.05			
Workshops & talks	—		€2,254.73	€2,300.85	(€46.12)
Legal set-up	SEI	€2,526.50		€2,526.50	
Website & membership	SEI	€1,890.17		€1,199.82	€690.35
Wooden signage	RDS Awards	€1,000.00	€158.97	€1,158.97	
Reciprocal Textiles 2023	Fibershed	€4,140.21		€3,530.03	€610.18
IMMA Earth Rising	IMMA	€2,190.00		€2,706.52	(€516.52)
2023 Symposium	DCCI	€2,000.00	€954.75	€4,466.10	(€1,511.35)
Reciprocal Textiles 2024	Fibershed	€4,029.62		€600.00	€3,429.62
Not yet allocated					€2,991.94

Thank you to our supporters!



NEXT STEPS:

What do you want from your Fibreshed?

fibreshedireland.ie • fibreshed.ireland@gmail.com

