



# Annual Report

May 2024 - July 2025

# Executive summary



Fibreshed Ireland is a community-supported movement 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

STEERING COMMITTEE



Kit Keawwantha  
co-founder / felter & spinner



Sandra King  
wool expert



Jennifer Lienhard  
natural dyer



Ciara Doyle  
knit & crochet pattern designer

We're a community-supported movement  
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)

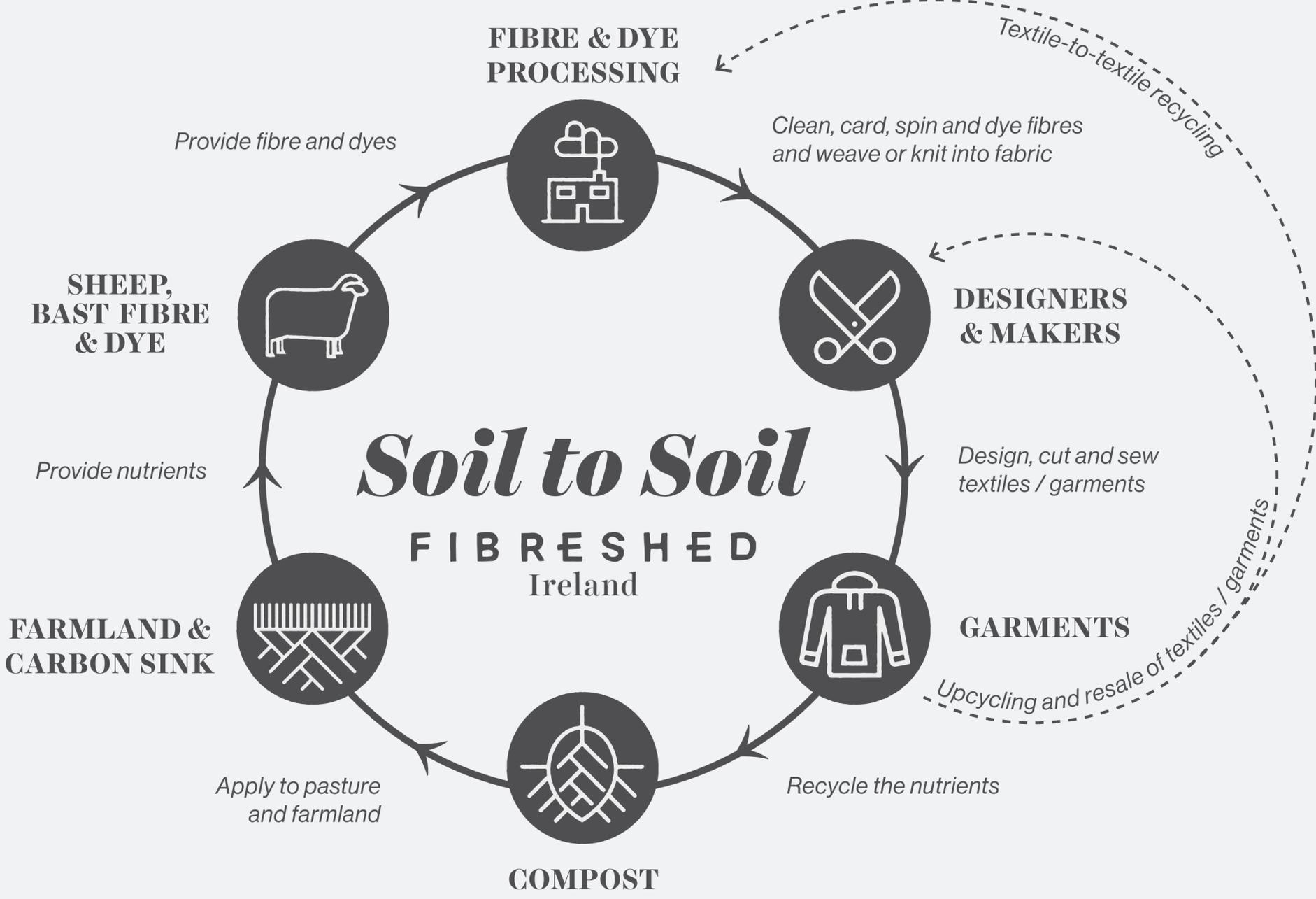
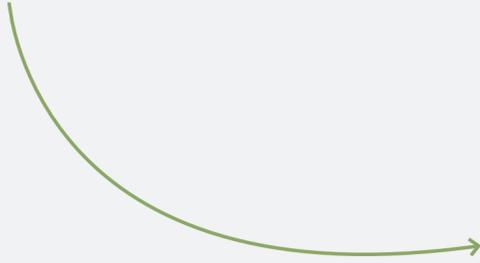


Imagine a watershed, the area of land that provides water for a specific region. Now, imagine if all of our textiles could be grown, processed and made within a specific area... or fibreshed.



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 THIS YEAR:

AUGUST 2024



## August Craft Month 2024: West Cork Hub Fibreshed Day

- **Attended by 23 participants**
- **6 makers participated**
- Wool discussion with local wool growers, crafters and researchers
- West Cork Flax presentation
- Discussion on animal hide processing and tanning learnings
- Show & Tell



WHAT WE'VE DONE THIS YEAR:

AUGUST 2024



## August Craft Month 2024: Galway Hub Fibreshed Day

- **Attended by 50 participants**
- **5 makers participated**
- Traditional craft demonstrations such as hand carding, hand spinning and weaving
- Skill sharing
- Talks by local crafters
- Open discussions with the public
- Showcase of the locally available materials that can be used in textile crafts
- Show & Tell



## WHAT WE'VE DONE THIS YEAR:

SEPTEMBER 2024



in collaboration with:



Shamrock  
Spring

## 'From Seeds to Textile Sovereignty' interactive space

During the Earth Rising Eco Art Festival at IMMA, we set-up a room so attendees could learn more and experience Irish-grown natural fibres and dyes. The displays included dye plants, Irish-grown wool and Irish flax plants at different stages of development. Attendees were invited to card and spin wool, contribute to a collaborative woven tapestry and process retted flax into hackled fine fibre. There were also talks about the potential of Irish-grown wool and hedgerow plants for dye.

- **Over 300 participants**
- **10 members were involved**

## WHAT WE'VE DONE THIS YEAR:

OCTOBER 2024



## Participation in the Dublin Fibre Festival

Richmond Barracks, Dublin

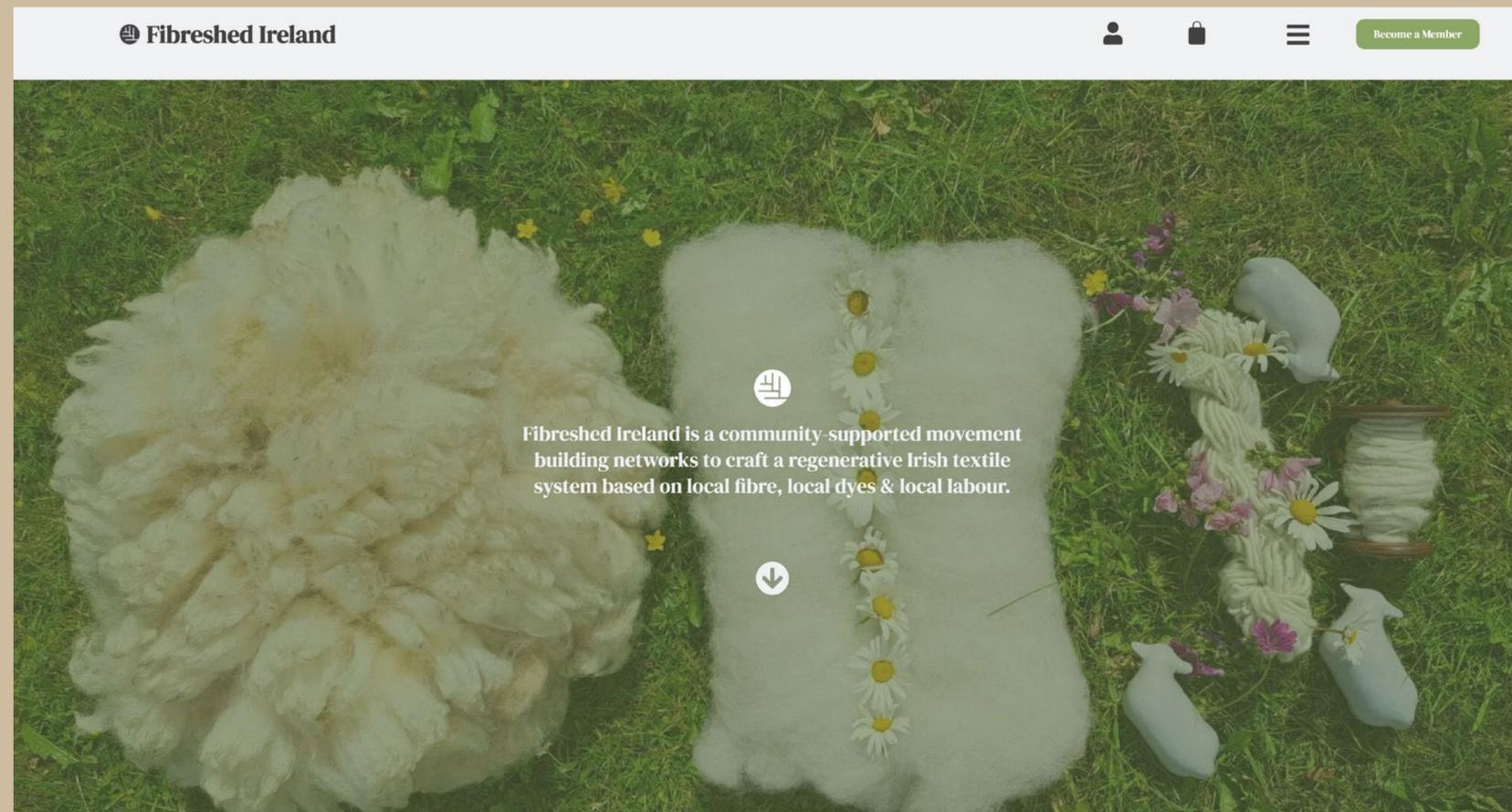
26 October, 2024

Fibreshed Ireland had a stall at the festival with displays explaining our Soil-to-Soil philosophy. We also sold yarn and finished products on behalf of our members, advertised our annual symposium and membership programme and invited attendees to contribute to our collaborative tapestry.

- Around 700 visitors to the festival
- Sold on behalf of 2 members
- All fibre on offer was Irish-grown and naturally-coloured or dyed

## WHAT WE'VE DONE THIS YEAR:

OCTOBER 2024



## New website

- Improved interactive map functionality
- Improved SEO
- Improved design
- Members' events functionality
- Potential for featuring members
- Potential to share resources



Photo by Ben Ingoldsby

## ‘Reimagining textiles for an equitable future’ annual symposium

Bridge House Hotel, Tullamore — 16 November 2024

**57 attendees & 14 speakers**

Presentations:

- Where we are and how we got here
- Women reimagine: fibre growing & processing, panel
- Soil to Soil
- Wool: intersections of tradition, imagination & creative financing, panel
- Fashion Future
- Lessons from working in community, panel
- Shaping the future of our Fibreshed, interactive session

Partly funded by the DCCI



DESIGN  
WEEK

Funded & Supported by  
Design & Crafts  
Council Ireland



## Soil Your Scarf workshop

Westport, Co. Mayo — 9 December, 2024

Part of Trinity College Dublin's LEVERS For Climate project

- Participants knitted a small scarf with local, untreated wool whilst learning about the importance of soil health to the ecosystem
- Later, they drew the outline of their body, and inside depicted their favourite space in nature. Then they applied the learning from the first part of the workshop into ideas of how best they could protect this space

Feedback was overwhelmingly positive with comments such as ***“interesting, made me think about how to improve my veg patch”***, and the desire to do more, when asked what other kinds of workshops they wanted to take part in, one participant asked ***“How to learn more, to help wildlife, learn how to do things different so I’m helping our world be a better place to live.”***



**Trinity College Dublin**  
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath  
The University of Dublin



## Promotional videos for members & Fibreshed Ireland

- **Featured 5 members**
- **Produced one video explaining what Fibreshed Ireland is and what we do**
- 12 applications; 7 members were selected by the steering committee, based on:
  - » Use of natural fibres, natural dyes and local materials
  - » Made in Ireland
  - » Capability to self-shoot short videos showing their workspace
  - » Variety of practices
  - » Variety of locations
  - » Lower online presence
- Unfortunately, on the day of the shoot, 2 members had to cancel their participation due to causes outside of anyone's control

## WHAT WE'VE DONE SO FAR:

## ONGOING

**SOIL YOUR SCARF**

**Step 1**  
Knit a small scarf using 100% undyed Irish wool.

**Step 2**  
Feed your scarf to the soil. Wait 3 months.

**Step 3**  
Unearth your scarf and see who's living there.

**Step 4**  
Share your story.

**PARTICIPATORY SCIENCE RESEARCH**

**SOILYOURSCARF.IE**

**Funded by the European Union**

IMPETUS is supporting our project. IMPETUS is funded by the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under grant agreement number 101058677. Views and opinions expressed are, however, those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Research Executive Agency (REA). Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

## Soil Your Scarf

- Using 100% Irish wool from member Galway Wool Co-op
- Citizen science project to highlight the use of compostable fibres while educating about the precious nature of our degraded soils and how we can better care for them
- A knitted tiny scarf becomes a measuring device that can be buried within the topsoil to gauge soil life activity and health
- Supported by IMPETUS

## WHAT WE'VE DONE SO FAR:



Photo by Ben Ingoldsby

## ONGOING

### Speaking engagements

- **Mary Robinson Climate Conference** (June 2024), workshop about Soil-to-Soil textiles, Ballina, Co. Mayo
- **Fields Good** (September 2024), panel on the potential of fibre farming in regenerative agriculture, Glenarm, Co. Antrim
- **Threads of Time** (October 2024), a celebration of West Cork's flax heritage, Clonakilty, Co. Cork
- **Apples in Winter** (November 2024), presented our Soil-to-Soil model and the Soil Your Scarf citizen science project, Westport, Co. Mayo
- **UCD Citizen Science** (April 2025), Soil Your Scarf citizen science project, UCD Belfield, Dublin
- **Brink! Summer Solstice** (June 2025), *Textiles for Liberation* talk, Brink!, Belfast
- **Hilltown Flax and Heritage Project** (June 2025), History and potential of flax processing, Hilltown, Co. Down

## Funding applications for specific projects

- **DCCI GANS Network Support Scheme 2024: successful**, partly financed the production of feature videos for 5 members and a promotional video explaining what Fibreshed Ireland is
- **DCCI August Craft Month 2024: successful**, financed 2 Galway Hub craft days in Gort, Co. Galway and Ballydehob, West Cork
- **IMMA Earth Rising 2024: successful**, funded our participation in the festival
- **DCCI Design Week 2024: successful**, partly financed our third annual symposium
- **DCCI GANS Network Support Scheme 2025: successful**, will partly finance accommodation, travel and meals during the Flax Meitheal Harvest Celebration
- **IMMA Earth Rising 2025: unsuccessful**
- **European Innovation Partnership (EIP) Stream B, as part of the sixth competitive call for proposals under the CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027**, in collaboration with the Galway Wool Co-op: **unsuccessful**

## Funding applications for specific projects (cont'd)

- **Erasmus+ updated application for WoolHub** with partners in Portugal, Turkey and Italy: **pending**, would fund the creation of a European train-the-trainers pilot programme for the use of wool in small-scale sustainable manufacturing and craft
- **2025 Community Heritage Grant Scheme:** **unsuccessful**
- **Generation Green Community Fund:** **pending**, would fund our online community platform on Mighty Networks to enable more engagement between members and the broader Fibreshed Ireland community
- **IMPETUS for Citizen Science Accelerator:** **successful**, will partly fund the Soil Your Scarf Project and may fund part of the Reciprocal Textiles Project
- **DCCI August Craft Month 2025:** **successful**, will finance a day of flax craft workshops and demonstrations in Ballydehob, West Cork
- **Shared Island Civic Society Fund**, in collaboration with Mallon Linen, Brink!, Willow and Lore, Kathy Kirwan and Wombat Media: **pending**, would fund the continuation of the Flax Meitheal collaborative series of events into 2026
- **Research Ireland Discover Programme:** **pending**, would partly fund the Soil Your Scarf Project

WHAT WE'VE DONE THIS YEAR:

MAY 2024 - JULY 2025

Applications for the long-term financial sustainability of our movement

- Rethink Ireland Hybrid Social Finance Loan: **unsuccessful**
- SEI Impact Programme 2024: **unsuccessful**



Photo by Ben Ingoldsby

## UPDATES ON COMMITMENTS:

## ONGOING



Photo by Ben Ingoldsby

## Membership programme

Helps fund our operations in exchange for certain benefits.

- **139 members (increased by 12 from last year)**
- Didn't meet target to double membership due to lack of organiser capacity and no clear strategy to do so
- New website has functionality to feature members' profiles and member events, which needs to be disseminated to members and managed
- Mighty Networks subscription has been purchased to build a platform where members and non-members can have more interaction beyond in-person events

UPDATES ON COMMITMENTS:

ONGOING

Photo © Seamus Bradley



Photo © Mallon Linen



## Reciprocal Textiles

### Programme

→ Paused for the moment, due to lack of organiser capacity and funding to continue knowledge-sharing activities



Photo by Linda Costello

## Reciprocal Textiles

### Fibre & Yarn

- There were unexpected delays in getting the spun yarn back
- We don't know whether we'll get any yarn at all
- Any attempts at producing more yarn from participating farmers of the Reciprocal Textiles programme have been paused for the moment

UPDATES ON COMMITMENTS:

ONGOING



Photo by Ben Ingoldsby

## Fibreshed Ireland manifesto

- Began as a 1-hour interactive activity during our 2024 annual symposium
- All contributions have been safely stored for reference
- Follow-up activity TBC

# Budget 2024 - 2025

	2024	2025
<b>INCOME</b>		
Grants	€0.00	€11,500.00
Symposium / Flax Meitheal ticket sales	€1,520.01	€0.00
Event-specific funding	€9,096.20	€1,939.80
Memberships	€3,509.92	€914.56
Workshops / Talks / Events	€0.00	€0.00
Awards / Donations / Tips	€100.00	€1,225.00
Sales of product	€98.31	€0.00
Other income	€13.32	€5.27
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>€14,337.76</b>	<b>€15,584.63</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Symposium / Flax Meitheal	(€6,607.04)	(€343.69)
Reciprocal Textiles programme	(€700.00)	(€0.00)
Workshop facilitation	(€2,504.32)	(€0.00)
Sales of product	(€422.50)	(€0.00)
Legal / Accountancy fees	(€0.00)	(€0.00)
Team salaries	(€0.00)	(€0.00)
Travel expenses	(€540.58)	(€0.00)
Website & software	(€6,014.99)	(€3,565.76)
Other operations expenses	(€1,232.24)	(€474.49)
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>(€18,021.67)</b>	<b>(€4,383.94)</b>
<b>NET CASH FLOW</b>	<b>(€3,683.91)</b>	<b>€11,200.69</b>
<b>CLOSING BANK BALANCE</b>	<b>€3,074.65</b>	<b>€14,275.34</b>

# Budget per project

Project	Funders	Funding	Self-funding	Expenses	Remaining
August Craft Month 2024	DCCI	€500.00		(€500.00)	€0.00
IMMA Earth Rising	IMMA	€2,335.00		(€2,335.00)	€0.00
2024 Symposium	DCCI	€5,591.00		(€6,607.04)	(€1,016.04)
Promotional videos	DCCI	€1,500.00	€1,500.00	(€3,000.00)	€0.00
The Flax Meitheal 2025	DCCI	€2,300.00	€2,300.00	(€343.69)	€4,256.31
Memberships	Members	€4,002.86			
Reciprocal Textiles 2024	Fibershed	€4,029.62		(€3,120.00)	€909.62
Soil Your Scarf	IMPETUS	€20,000.00			€20,000.00
Website & membership	SEI	€2,440.17		(€4,490.85)	-€2,050.68
Not yet allocated					(€890.59)

## INCREASING TRANSPARENCY

# Transparent reporting of finances on Open Collective

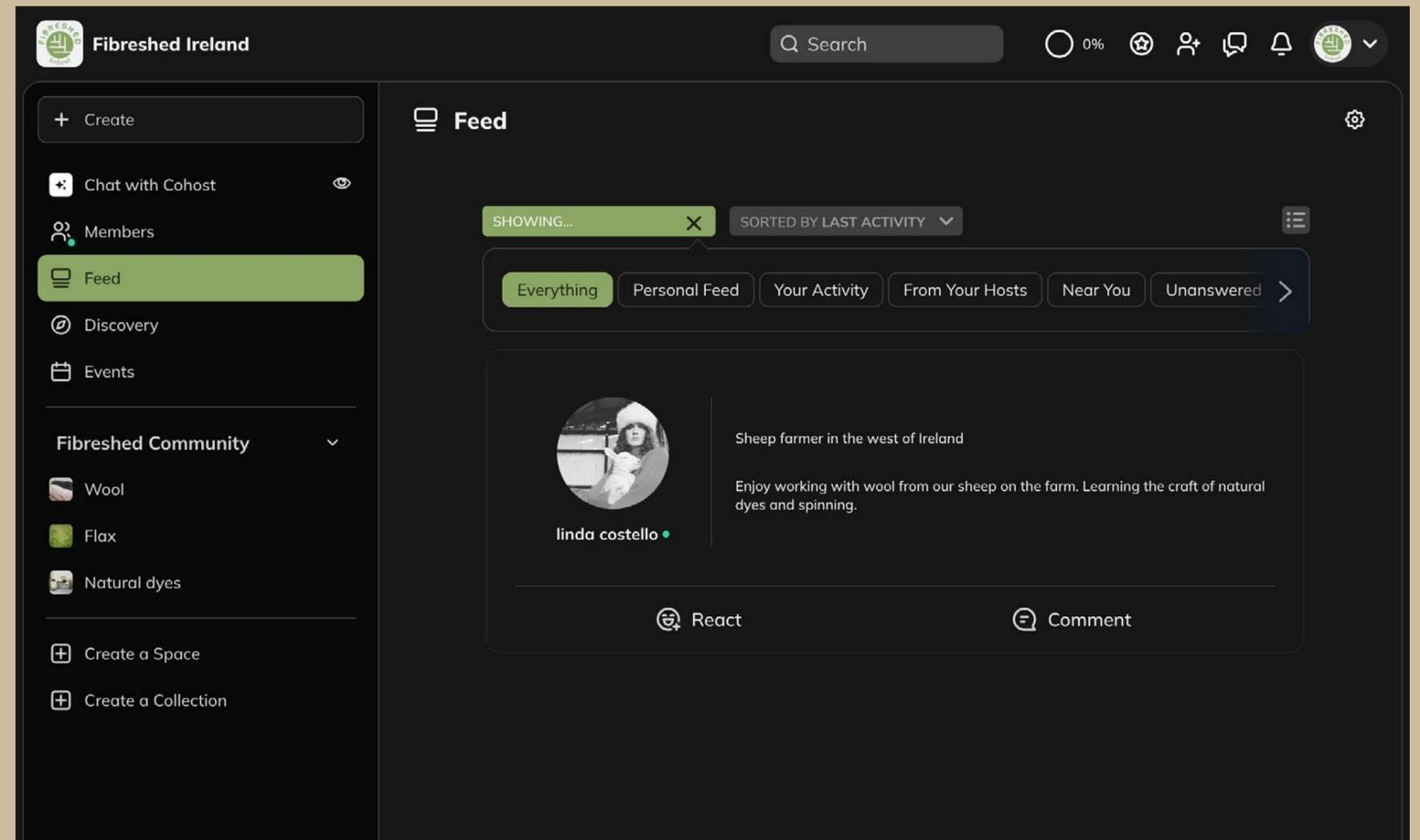
- Reflects all our financial transactions to help members and funders understand how their money is used
- Updated monthly
- Divided into specific projects
- <https://opencollective.com/fibreshed-ireland/>

The screenshot displays the Open Collective profile for Fibreshed Ireland. At the top, the Open Collective logo is on the left, and navigation links for Solutions, Product, Organization, and Help & Support are on the right. The main header features the Fibreshed Ireland logo and a description: "A community-supported movement building networks to craft a regenerative Irish textile system based on local fibre, local dyes & local labour". Below this, there are navigation buttons for BUDGET, CONTRIBUTE, and ABOUT, along with a SUBMIT EXPENSE button. A progress bar shows "Today's Balance €2,319.03" and "Estimated Annual Budget €14,626". The "Budget" section is active, showing "Transparent and open finances." and tabs for All, Expenses, and Transactions. A transaction entry is visible: "Current bank balance" with a credit of "+ €2,939.87 EUR" and a status of "COMPLETED".

## BUILDING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

# Soft launch of the Fibreshed Ireland community platform

- Hosted on Mighty Networks
- It's like a dedicated social media platform for Fibreshed Ireland members and the wider community to connect, engage, share knowledge and discuss online
- Keeps the engagement going in between live events such as the annual symposium
- Divided into Wool, Flax and Natural dyes to begin with, but new topics might emerge as discussions evolve
- <https://fibreshed-ireland.mn.co/>



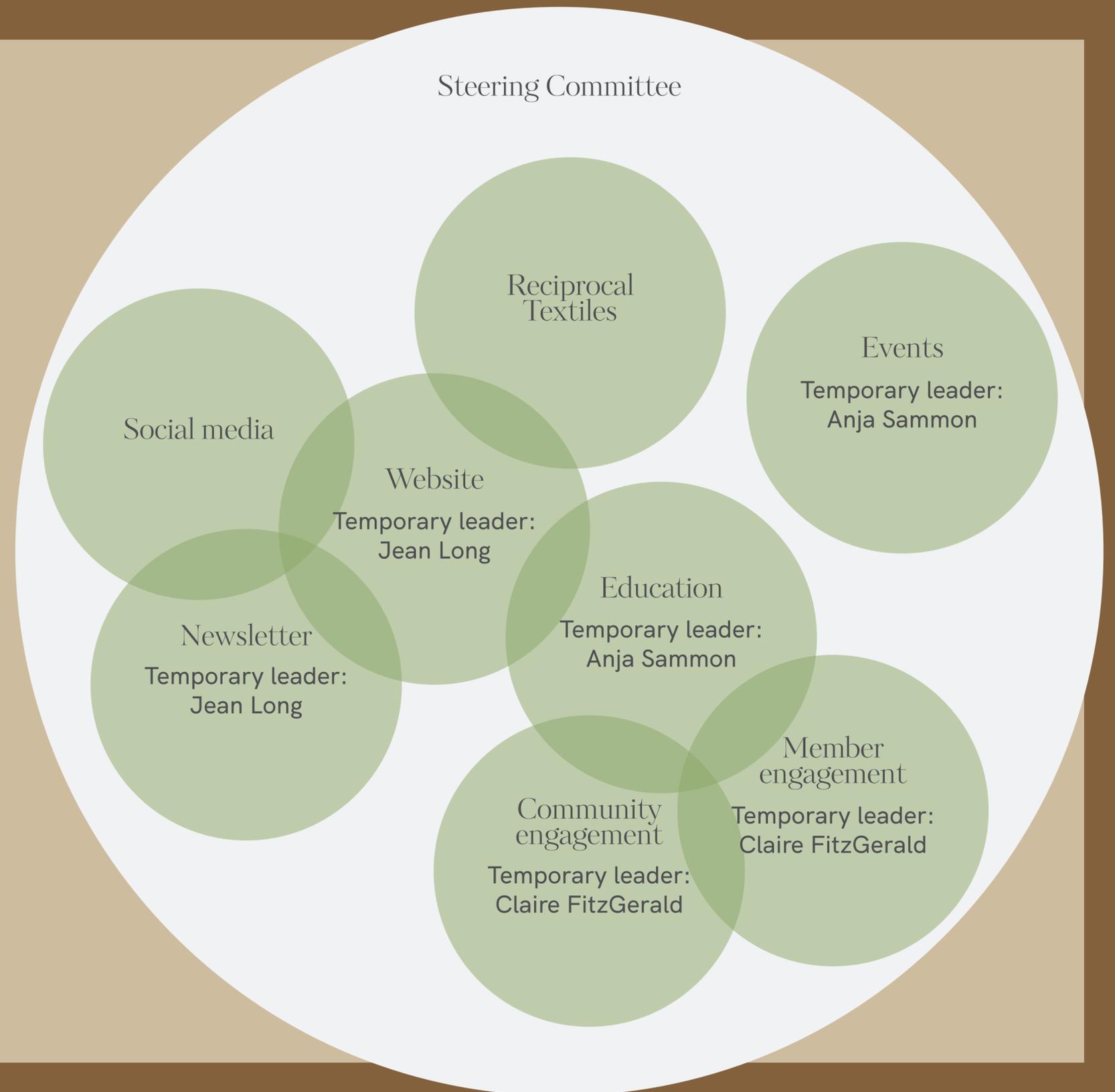
## NEW ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

### Volunteer teams or 'circles'

Thanks to interest from volunteers, we now have a big enough roster to start organising in various teams, or 'circles'.

This is based on a **sociocracy model**: a peer governance system based on consent that many non-hierarchical organisations use. Every circle has a domain, a defined area of authority and action. Circles make decisions about everything within their domain. Other circles cannot interfere unless their own work is somehow affected by the activities of the other circles. Circles use careful feedback mechanisms to assess how well they have fulfilled their aim.

Temporary leaders will help organise each circle for the next 6 months. After that time, they can decide whether they want to remain as leaders for a longer term, or a new leader will be defined by vote within the circle.



Thank you to our supporters!



**Design & Crafts  
Council Ireland**

# Upcoming events for your diary:

• AUGUST CRAFT MONTH 2025 • AUGUST CRAFT MONTH 2025 •

## FLAX & LINEN INNÉ AGUS INNIÚ and HERITAGE GAMES

Sunday 24 August 12:00 - 6:00 pm  
Kilcoe Studios, Ballydehob, West Cork  
Drop-in • FREE!

 AUGUST CRAFT MONTH 2025

 KILCOE KS STUDIOS  Funded & Supported by Design & Crafts Council Ireland



## The Flax Meitheal

HARVEST CELEBRATION

*Join us in An Creagán, Co. Tyrone!*  
30 - 31 August

*Subsidised bus & on-site accommodation available*

supported by:

 MALLON LINEN  art.park  Design & Crafts Council Ireland 

Trinity College Dublin  
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath  
The University of Dublin



## SOIL YOUR SCARF



A CITIZEN SCIENCE RESEARCH PROJECT



# FREE ENTRY

 DUBLIN MAKER

SAT 30<sup>th</sup> - SUN 31<sup>st</sup>  
AUGUST 2025

 Leopardstown Racecourse  
Dublin

For more information visit [www.DublinMaker.ie](http://www.DublinMaker.ie)



NEXT STEPS:

Volunteers will self-organise to begin work

Join our community platform!

<https://fibreshed-ireland.mn.co/>



fibreshedireland.ie • fibreshed.ireland@gmail.com

