

Tip Of The Month: Buying Vintage Clothes

Anna West

New clothes bought in the UK produce more carbon emissions per minute than driving a car around the world six times, according to new research published by Oxfam.

The textile industry produces more greenhouse gas emissions than the shipping and aviation industries combined. To keep prices low, throwaway fashion is made by garment workers often from the world's poorest communities, and paid below the living wage. Each week 11 million garments end up in landfill in the UK.

Oxfam also found that:

- More than two tonnes of clothing are bought each minute in the UK
- Buying one new white cotton shirt produces the same emissions as driving a car for 35 miles
- The emissions from all the new clothes bought in the UK each month are greater than those from flying a plane around the world 900 times
- The average adult spends £27 a month in fast fashion outlets and currently owns two items which remain unworn

However things are changing especially amongst the young and the fashion conscious.

Buy and Sell... Online

Many are not only using online resale sites such as Depop, Vinted and eBay to make money from selling their unwanted clothes but also buying clothes for much less than their original price new.

In the UK, the apparel resale market grew by 149% between 2016 and 2022, and is forecast to rise by 67.5% from 2022 to 2026.

... Local second hand clothes shops

There are also shops locally where you can sell your own unwanted garments and buy beautifully presented clothes. For example:

Shop at the Top in Modbury

Quirky Bird in Ashburton

Number 30 also in Ashburton

... Charity shops

These experienced an 11% rise in sales in the three months to the end of September, according to the Charity Retail Association, while Oxfam said sales rocketed by 40% in the run-up to Christmas as shoppers turned to their local high street for sustainable presents.

Recently at Brent Cross, a group of charities set up a pop up superstore which had social media influencers scouring the Charity.Super.Mkt rails, taking pics amid the throngs of opening-night visitors,

”Sustainability is the latest thing on the high street”, “We are big on social media and we’ve watched it grow and grow, and the customers are getting younger.”

(Cancer Research UK’s Nick Mountain)

... High Street Shops

Shops such as Urban Outfitters have also taken up the idea of sustainability and the beauty of reinventing old clothes...



What is Urban Renewal?

“At UO, we recognise that the future of fashion lies in its past. We believe every piece should tell a story and have carefully curated vintage collections since 1983. Today, our Urban Renewal team continues to hand-pick vintage clothing from our recycling partner, to not only uncover rare, one-of-a-kind pieces, but to also give new life to damaged and unwanted clothing. At our UK vintage wholesaler's alone, we save over 260,000 pieces of clothing every year that could otherwise be destined for landfill.”

So why not be on trend – make money and save the planet!