Education and awareness about the impact of fast fashion on the environment and society help us understand the benefits of sustainable fashion, an alternative to fast fashion, or inexpensive clothing driven by the latest trends and produced rapidly by mass-market retailers. Moving at warp speed to satisfy consumer want and lucrative business has a hefty price tag, often leading to overproduction and waste, poor labor practices, and environmental threats, particularly by chemically treated clothing.

However, there are inherent challenges in transitioning to a carbon neutral fashion industry, and one that is also attuned to social justice and ecological integrity. While textile fibers materials like cotton and polyester require substantial amounts of water and energy to produce, more sustainable materials, like organic cotton and recycled polyester, are costly and more scarce—driving up competition and consumer prices.

Eco-fashion, or clothing and other goods made from recycled materials otherwise produced by methods that are kind to and respectful of the environment, includes recycling clothing by designing, sourcing, and producing products so that they can be used more effectively. It can be as simple as mending jeans; handing down clothes, or using thrift shops.

We may ask how fashion can practically be more green, clothing more sustainable, and wearables more meaningful for society, the environment, and our economy. Eco Fashion: Sustainability, Ethics, and Education explores the overarching need for a smarter, more ethical, and slower approach, while also looking at the history and future of fashion.

At Everett Cafe you’ll find a new book collection every few weeks that relates to current events, education, or learning environments.
The Sustainable Fashion Quest: Innovations in Business and Policy

Nikolay Anguelov

"This book uses the familiar (yet complex) industry of fashion as a lens to examine how business pressures and national and international policies can have both negative and positive social and ecological impacts."
Fashion Theory: A Reader

Malcolm Barnard

"This collection contextualises different theoretical approaches to identify, analyse and explain the remarkable diversity, complexity, and beauty of what we understand and experience as every day as fashion and clothing."
Eco-Friendly and Fair: Fast Fashion and Consumer Behavior

Caroline Becker-Leifhold and Mark Heuer

"... provides a comprehensive overview of new insights into consumer behaviour mechanisms in order to shift practices toward sustainable fashion and to minimize the negative impacts of fast fashion on the environment and society."
Clothing Poverty: The Hidden World of Fast Fashion and Second-Hand Clothes

Andrew Brooks

"... takes the reader on a vivid around-the-world tour to reveal how clothes are manufactured and retailed, bringing to light how fast fashion and clothing recycling are interconnected."
Engaging With Fashion: Perspectives on Communication, Education and Business

Federica Carlotto and Natalie C. McCreesh

"a modern exploration of how we engage with fashion today through the fields of Fashion, Dress, Material Culture, Fashion Management & Communication"
The History of Modern Fashion

Daniel James Cole and Nancy Deihl

"...explores fashion not simply from an aesthetic point of view but also as a manifestation of social and cultural change. Focusing on fashion from 1850, noted fashion historians Daniel James Cole and Nancy Deihl consider the evolution of womenswear, menswear, and childrenswear, decade by decade."
The Geographies of Fashion: Consumption, Space & Value

Louise Crewe

"...the first in-depth study of fashion economies from a geographer's perspective, exploring the complex relationship between our attachment to the clothes we own, love and desire, and their geographic and economic ties"
Wear No Evil: How to Change the World With Your Wardrobe

Greta Eagan

"...the first in-depth study of fashion economies from a geographer's perspective, exploring the complex relationship between our attachment to the clothes we own, love and desire, and their geographic and economic ties"
Sustainable Fashion: Past, Present and Future

Jennifer Farley Gordon and Colleen Hill

"...situate(s) today's eco-fashion movement in its multifaceted historical context, investigating the relationship between fashion and the environment as far back as the early nineteenth century."
Shaping Sustainable Fashion: Changing the Way We Make and Use Clothes

Alison Gwilt and Timo Rissanen

"...a practical guide to the ways in which designers are creating fashion with less waste and greater durability"
Local, Slow and Sustainable Fashion: Wool as a Fabric for Change

Ingun Grimstad Klepp and tone Skårdal Tobiasson

"Draws on an inclusive range of authors to deliver a representative examination of the textile industry; Offers an in-depth examination of how attempts at 'sustainable fashion' have faced challenges, and offers alternatives; Explores the importance of local practices in achieving global sustainability"
Tight Knit: Global Families and the Social Life of Fast Fashion

Elizabeth L. Krause

"...a fascinating story about the heterogeneity of contemporary capitalism that will interest social scientists, immigration experts, and anyone curious about how globalization is changing the most basic of human conditions—making a living and making a life."
Fixing Fashion: Rethinking the Way We Make, Market and Buy Our Clothes

Michael Lavergne

"...argues that the true legacy of Rana Plaza is increased awareness of how cheap, disposable clothing has led time and time again to serious community, environmental, and labor rights abuses."
Transformative Eco-Education for Human and Planetary Survival

Rebecca L. Oxford and Jing Lin

"...presents powerful ideas for transformative eco-education. At this time of ever-increasing ecological crisis, such education is needed more than ever before. We urge readers to use the ideas and activities in this book with your students, develop them further, and create new conceptions to share with other educators and students."
Naked Fashion: The New Sustainable Fashion Revolution

Safia Minney with Emma Watson, Vivienne Westwood, Orla Kiely and others

"..."invites you to join the movement of consumers, entrepreneurs, and creative professionals who are using their purchasing power, talents, and experience to make fashion more sustainable."
Slow Fashion: Aesthetics Meets Ethics

Safia Minney

"...offers creatives, entrepreneurs, and ethical consumers alike a glimpse into the innovative world of the eco-concept store movement, sustainable design, and business that puts people, livelihoods, and sustainability central to everything they do."
Recycling from Waste in Fashion and Textiles

Pintu Pandit, Shakeel Ahmed, Junal Singha, and Sanjay Shrivastava

"...addresses the role of sustainability by using textile waste in fashion and textiles with respect to manufacturing, materials, as well as the economic and business challenges and opportunities it poses."
Mending Matters: Stitch, Patch, and Repair Your Favorite Denim and More

Katrina Rodabaugh

“...explores visible mending techniques in both hands-on projects and thoughtful insight about how mending relates to mindful well-being.”
Consumer Behavior and Sustainable Fashion Consumption

Subramanian Senthilkannan Muthu

"Highlights customer-centric sustainability in sustainable fashion; presents case studies on the importance of consumer awareness of sustainability in clothing; discusses consumer attitudes towards sustainable fashion and consumption"
Detox Fashion: Case Studies

Subramanian Senthilkannan Muthu

"Highlights case studies, best practices, and their implementation in the detox fashion industry; Discusses the challenges involved in adopting detox fashion, using real-world examples from leading brands; Details detox fashion case studies, bearing in mind the goals of Mission 2020"
Shoddy: From Devil’s Dust to the Renaissance of Rags

Hanna Rose Shell

"... an interwoven tale of industrial espionage, political infighting, scientific inquiry, ethnic prejudices, and war profiteering" that will cause you "never use the word shoddy or think about your clothes, the environment, sustainability, or the intermingled world around you the same way again."
Fashion-Wise

M. Vaccarella and J. Foltyn

"...an in-depth study of fashion, exploring historical, socio-political, psychological and artistic aspects of this phenomenon. The chapters collected in the volume discuss fashion in the context of politics, business, popular culture, the arts, history and various social media."