



## Guidelines for Purchasers of Corporate Clothing

Currently, an estimated 10,500 of the 11,000 tonnes of new corporatewear garments worn in the UK each year end up being thrown away. That's a recovery rate of less than 5%.

Uniform Reuse is a new website which looks at the entire lifecycle of corporatewear, and helps companies – no matter how large or small - make the right purchasing decisions so they can avoid sending their workwear to landfill.

### Includes:

- Tips for purchasing
- Examples of best practice
- Options for re-use

Uniformreuse is run by the CRR



CENTRE FOR REMANUFACTURING & REUSE

## Tips for purchasing corporatewear

When selecting corporatewear garments, a purchaser should be mindful of the entire lifecycle of the items, and the options available when it ceases to be a work outfit. The main barriers to reuse and recycling include: the preference for blended fibre composition; construction which inhibits disassembly; and the use of logos with strong corporate identity.

## Best practice suppliers

Across the UK there are suppliers of corporate clothing who are doing their utmost to provide products that are both more sustainable in their fabric composition and more reusable at the end of life of the garment. By offering garments made of recycled polyesters, organic cotton, and more developmental man-made fibres, they present a viable alternative to polyester/cotton blends that are notoriously difficult to recycle.

## Extend the life of corporate clothing through reuse

This is a consideration to be made at the purchasing stage, as in order to make a garment more reusable, it has to visually conform to the look of an everyday equivalent. Choosing designs that are conventional and discreet increases the opportunity to dispose of items through textile recyclers, to be reused through charitable organisations or overseas export.

## Five simple tips to keep in mind when purchasing

- Fabric: aim for pure blend or natural fibres.
- Logos: is there a more discreet or removable option?
- Sustainability: is there a more sustainable option?
- Reuse: how might the garment be reused?
- Recycle: is the garment recyclable?

## [www.uniformreuse.co.uk](http://www.uniformreuse.co.uk)

Visit our website for a searchable directory of sustainable suppliers and recyclers of corporatewear, and for detailed reports and tools to aid purchasing decisions.

