

KS PROGRESS REPORT '18

Join us for 2018's
highs and lows,
and where we
want to go.

Kate Sylvester takes a kind and considered approach to everything we do. These principles guide the way we make our clothes, our business practice and the community we surround ourselves with. 2018 has been a really exciting year for us and we've made some pretty great changes that we wanted to share with the Kate Sylvester community.

Integrity is important to us, and with integrity comes transparency. Which is why we're launching our Progress Report. An annual report that gives our customers an insight into the wins and also the challenges of the past year, and looks ahead to our 2019 goals.

THE TRUE VALUE OF CLOTHING IS IN
ITS DESIGN, HOW IT WAS MADE AND
HOW LONG IT WILL LAST

DESIGN FOR A LIFETIME,
NOT A SEASON

BUY LESS, BUY WELL,
SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES

REDUCE, REUSE, REPURPOSE,
RECYCLE

HONEST IS MORE IMPORTANT
THAN PERFECT



THE WORKROOM TEAM

THE KS GANG

Our people and the people who make our clothes are integral to the success of Kate Sylvester.

You can meet some of the wonderful people who help bring our garments to life here:

<https://katesylvester.com/kate/our-people>

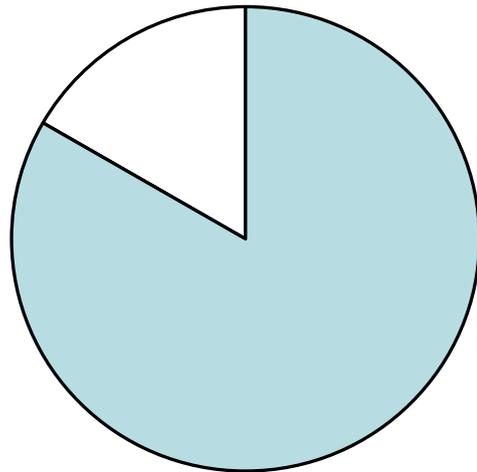
OUR AUCKLAND
WORKROOM
TEAM 23,
OUR
RETAIL TEAM 19,
OUR LOCAL
MANUFACTURING
PARTNERS 22,
OUR OFFSHORE
MANUFACTURING
PARTNERS 6,
OUR LOCAL FABRIC
SUPPLIERS 7.
OUR FABRIC MILLS 6.

MAKING OUR CLOTHES

In 2018, we made 83% of Kate Sylvester styles and 58% of our entire product offering in New Zealand.

Made in New Zealand is something that's super important to Kate Sylvester and we pride ourselves on knowing and trusting our makers on a first hand basis.

In New Zealand we work with 22 amazing local partners who specialise in their own unique crafts that cover all parts of our garment production process including cutting, making, finishing, pressing, pleating, printing and more.



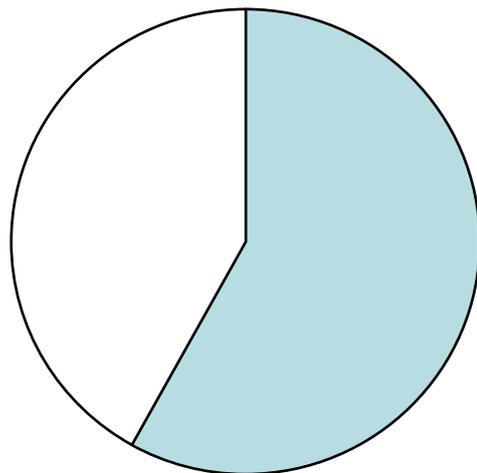
83% OF KATE SYLVESTER STYLES ARE MADE IN NEW ZEALAND (2018)

OUR FACTORIES

We are proud to have 100% traceability of all our final stage manufacturing partners.

All of our New Zealand and offshore partners have signed our Code of Conduct and share our commitment to our high standards and values.

All our offshore manufacturing is accredited as Child Labor Free and Kate is proud to have been an ambassador for this important initiative since 2015.



58% OF TOTAL STYLES ARE MADE IN NEW ZEALAND (2018)

SOME THINGS WE'RE CHUFFED ABOUT THAT HAPPENED IN 2018.

REPAIRS INITIATIVE

Kate Sylvester has always loved clothes. She believes the true value of clothing is in its design, how it was made and how long it will last.

One garbage truck of textile waste is sent to landfill or burnt every second. ¹ Here at KS we make clothes to last a life time not a season. We believe in the integrity of our product and this year our team launched our Repairs Initiative, offering complimentary repairs on any garment from any time, or any season to stop pre-loved Kate Sylvester ending up in landfill.

Since launching this initiative in April 2018, we have repaired 104 garments. Keep them coming!

CHINA VISIT

In October our design and production teams again visited all our manufacturing partners and some of our fabric mills in China. It is always a very positive, reaffirming experience being able to see first hand where our clothes are made. We are excited to continue our long standing relationships with these partners and have our next visit booked in for September.

COMPOSTABLE PACKAGING

We teamed up with local company *Compostic* to launch a compostable packaging option for our online orders in September last year. We offset the carbon emissions of your package's delivery by donating to *Trees that Count* a charitable trust that supports local tree planting projects around New Zealand helping to counter the effects of climate change. So far we have planted 54 trees. We are also in the process of transitioning all courier bags within the business to compostable packaging.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Our new Code of Conduct was rolled out in 2018 and we continue to make improvements with the collaboration of the wider Kate Sylvester network.

You can view our code of conduct here:

<https://katesylvester.com/kate/transparency-traceability>

REPAIRED GARMENTS



TREES PLANTED



REDUCE, REUSE, REPURPOSE AND RECYCLE

Reduce, Reuse, Repurpose and Recycle are key practices for our waste policy at Kate Sylvester.

We reuse excess fabrics when sampling for upcoming seasons and donate fabric to fashion technology interns and school projects. We also repurpose our left over fabric scraps wherever possible. This year we have participated in a project with local primary schools to donate fabric off-cuts and scraps to be made into beeswax food wraps and reusable shopping bags. We also donate fabric to support the project Y_OUR HANDS which involves teaching valuable sewing skills to the community.

We've invested in the very cool Style CAD, an in-house technology that allows us to improve fabric yields by digitally mapping how a garment will be cut into the fabric. This has greatly reduced our paper and fabric waste.

In 2018, we digitised many of our systems to minimise paper use; including our in store receipts which are now emailed directly to our customers. We've also teamed up with *ecostore* and *Innocent Packaging* to provide our head office and stores with environmentally friendly cleaning supplies.

2018'S CHALLENGES

In 2018 we launched our Fabric Traceability Project. This has been the single biggest challenge of the year, and something we have discovered is a huge limitation of our local garment industry as a whole.

Our New Zealand fabric suppliers' business model is to purchase end of line fabrics from global markets and on-sell to ours. As small local fashion businesses making small runs of product, we don't require the fabric volume of multinational companies so we can use this fabric successfully in our market. We consider this a sustainable use of end of line fabric as it could otherwise be disposed of into landfill. The down side is that finding fabric mill and base material information for these types of fabrics is pretty challenging, but we feel that the benefits of saving this fabric from landfill outweighs this drawback.

At Kate Sylvester we also work with fabric suppliers to produce signature fabrics for our brand. As a boutique business buying small amounts of fabric to make our very limited garment runs, we've discovered we don't have the buying power and influence like fast fashion multinationals to demand full disclosure from suppliers. Their fabric mill and base material information is their intellectual property and their livelihood, they can't have designers going direct to source.

With these frustrating roadblocks to overcome, we began chatting with other local designer brands facing similar challenges, to try find a solution collectively. Out of this challenge began our very special project for 2019: Mindful Fashion New Zealand.

HERE ARE SOME OF THE THINGS WE HAVE ON OUR AGENDA FOR 2019.

MINDFUL FASHION NEW ZEALAND

As the New Zealand garment making industry is very unique and important to Kate Sylvester and our customers, we are in the process of co-founding a collaborative industry project to create benchmarks for ethical practice in clothing production relevant to our local industry. Watch this space.

THIRD PARTY FACTORY AUDITS

We visit our factories in China regularly, but it's always great to get professional feedback. This year we have 3rd party audits happening for all our offshore manufacturing partners in March and April and another China trip planned for our team in September.

CARBON FOOTPRINT

In 2019 we want to understand more about our carbon footprint across our whole business including design, manufacturing, and retail. We will be conducting a review of our entire supply chain's impact to gain a better understanding of how we can improve our processes.

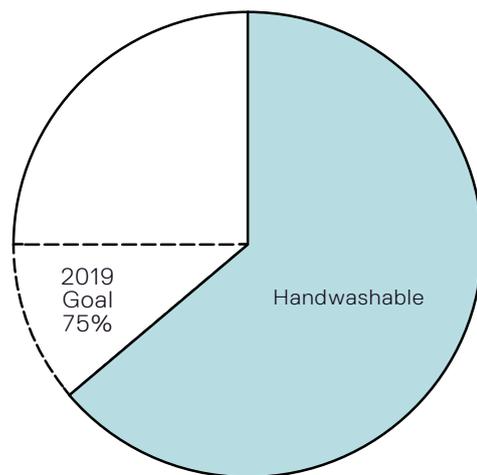
AND MORE...

CARING FOR YOUR KS

We want to increase our percentage of low impact garment care products this year. The use phase of a garment's life cycle can account for up to 80% of its total greenhouse gas emissions due to the energy consumption of laundering. ² In 2018 64% of our garments were hand washable. In 2019 our goal is to reach 75%. We will be launching a KS Care Guide and including multiple washing options on our swing tags from Summer '19 so you can understand how best to care for your KS garments.

KATE SYLVESTER RE-LOVED

In 2019 we are working towards launching an online space for customers to on sell their pre-loved Kate Sylvester clothing. Our hope is to further extend the life of our garments and prevent them ending up in landfill.



64% OF OUR GARMENT OFFERING IN 2018 IS HANDWASHABLE

2019 GOALS, WE'RE READY FOR YOU!

We love to hear feedback and suggestions from the Kate Sylvester community.

You can reach out to us at
community@katesylvester.com



Reference

¹The Ellen MacArthur Foundation. "A New Textiles Economy: Redesigning Fashion's Future" 2017.

²Business for Social Responsibility. "Apparel Industry Life Cycle Carbon Mapping" 2009

²Collins, Michael, and Simon Aumônier. "Streamlined Life Cycle Assessment of Two Marks & Spence Plc Apparel products" 2002.

