

SUSTAINABLE LEATHER FOUNDATION

Industry Led – Consumer Focused



Partnership Proposal Pack

2021

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A FRESH APPROACH:

Today's society is more informed and more conscious of the effects that production and consumption have on the earth's natural resources and its ability to regenerate; the negative impacts that can damage our ecosystem, the importance of fair and humane treatment of workers, and the welfare of animals.

The leather industry has the potential to impact positively and negatively on both our environment and also as part of a sustainable economy for the future. A traditional industry, leather making is responsible for employing millions of people worldwide, producing approximately 24 billion square feet of leather annually and resulting in an economy worth in excess of \$80 billion annually. These statistics make it vital that as an industry we ensure future sustainability by:

- protecting the environment
- driving innovation for improvement
- educating and encouraging the use of best available techniques
- supporting the health and wellbeing of workforces across the value chain.

There are many organisations and associations who work to support the leather industry, some specific to region or to specialist areas, however, there is a need for a cohesive organisation that can combine the efforts of the industry with the needs of the consumers, and society in general, in a more holistic way that will address the current and future responsibilities of the industry....

...Welcome to the Sustainable Leather Foundation.

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VISION

The Sustainable Leather Foundation’s vision is to enable collective improvement and education globally, for more sustainable practices in leather manufacture and production. The Sustainable Leather Foundation is concerned with all aspects of sustainability – Environmental, Social and Governance. As a not-for-profit organisation, the Foundation will provide a transparent and inclusive approach to demonstrating sustainable good practice throughout the value chain. Coupled with this, the Foundation is committed to ensuring that consumers have a clear mechanism to see and understand the sustainable attributes of leather as a material and the work that the industry does to ensure good practice.

The Foundation’s objective is to bring together all leather value chain stakeholders to unite in ensuring a sustainable future for the leather industry by shining a spotlight on innovation and best practice, providing a mechanism for improvement and education, while also preserving the social and economic wellbeing of communities in less advanced regions. Working together is key to ensure that we can accelerate the action required for our society’s future needs:



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STRUCTURE:

The Sustainable Leather Foundation aims to provide the structure and support to enable leather manufacturers and associated facilities to work on the reduction and improvement criteria necessary to be successful.

At the heart of the Foundation is the **SLF Transparency Dashboard™** and integrated platform, linked to a certification standard that assesses new, or records existing, conformance and performance of leather manufacturers and associated facilities against the three pillars of sustainability.

- ✓ **Identify potential risk and impact**
- ✓ **Measure existing consumption and outputs**
- ✓ **Agree objectives for improvement**
- ✓ **Monitor progress**
- ✓ **Review results to provide future objectives**



Our inclusive and transparent approach provides a consumer accessible window to sustainability performance, alongside fully transparent, detailed, data for value chain partners. This enables better understanding of the product lifecycle management of leather articles and better-informed purchasing decisions at the consumer end. By encouraging more secure value chain knowledge from farm to finished product, and by assessing and certifying leather manufacturers and associated facilities for their conformance and performance against the SLF Audit Standard (or other certification already in place), it is possible to independently foster better solutions and better outcomes. The **SLF Transparency Dashboard™** approach to

attainment and performance is key to transparency for both value chain customers and the end consumer, providing integrity and value.

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Avoiding unnecessary duplication of cost and resource is a key objective of the Sustainable Leather Foundation and therefore, should a company already hold an equivalent certification from another organisation or standard provider, it can be recognised within the Foundation and added to the organisation’s Dashboard for transparent reporting and recognition. Comprehensive sustainability metrics will be assessed and measured, either directly through the SLF Audit Standard, or by a combination of existing certifications that offer equivalency to the overarching industry and legislative requirements, encompassing:

Environmental

- Permits, Licenses, Statutory
- Environmental Management Systems
- Environmental Health & Safety
- Environmental Footprint
- Land Use
- Energy Consumption
- Water Use
- Raw Materials & Chemicals
- Machinery & Equipment
- Air Emissions
- Effluent Treatment
- Soil Contamination
- Solid Waste

Social

- Permits, Licenses, Statutory
- Age of Workers
- Compulsory Labour
- Discrimination
- Corporate Social Responsibility
- Staff Development & Representation
- Wages and Benefits
- Worker Health & Safety
- Working Hours

Governance

- Permits, Licenses, Statutory
- Ethical Business Practice
- Animal Welfare Practice
- Traceability & Procurement
- Housekeeping
- Best Available Techniques
- Process Control & Quality
- Chemical Control
- Restricted Substances
- Occupational Health & Safety
- PR & Communication

Accessibility is another key objective of SLF and to ensure this, leather manufacturers and associated facilities will not be excluded from partnership on the basis of non-conformance or non-certification in one or more areas. Instead, partnership will enable companies to demonstrate what they can comply with and where their outstanding areas of concern or improvement are, in order to give a fully transparent mechanism that supports continued improvement across the three pillars of sustainability.

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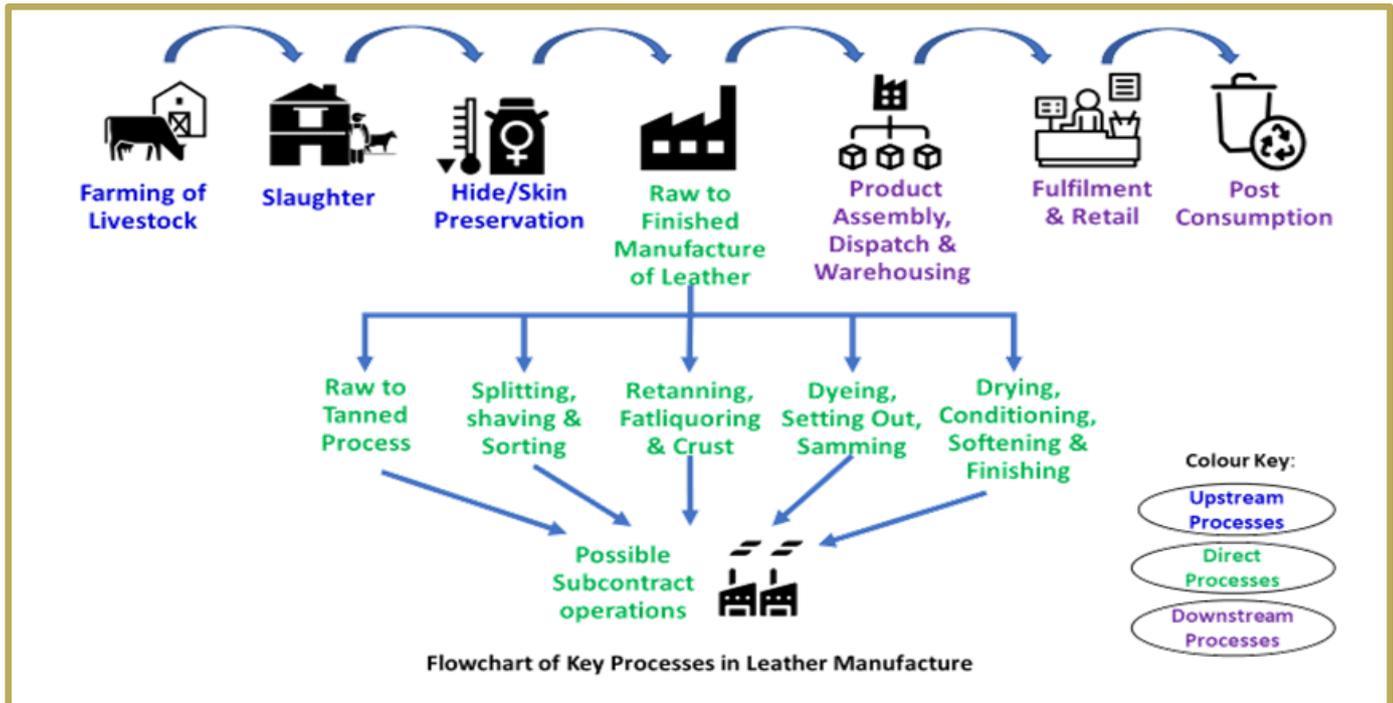
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LEATHER VALUE CHAIN

The Leather Value Chain is complex and in order to achieve full transparency for sustainable production, there is a need for cross industry collaboration, from farming through to finished product, and increasingly onward to post-consumption considerations such as bio-degradability or re-cycling and re-purposing.

By working and communicating beyond the traditional lines of industry, the Foundation aims to create economies of effort, enhanced problem-solving capabilities, improved transparency and traceability, and increased levels of innovation for improvement. The following illustration shows the wider value chain that includes both upstream and downstream processes as well as the direct processes for leather manufacture. All these processes interlink and rely on each other for success.



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PARTNERSHIP ROUTES:

Our partners enable the Foundation to conduct the work we do, and they are extremely important in helping us accomplish our goals. Partnership with the Sustainable Leather Foundation demonstrates a shared goal of improvement, best practice, collaboration and innovation and we welcome partners from across the value chain.



Compliance Partners

Our compliance partners are industry related organisations who are involved in the physical manufacturing process of leather. These partners undergo auditing and certification across the environmental, social and governance criteria of sustainability. Compliance partners include:

Leather Manufacturers, Chemical Companies, Traders, Machinery Companies, Subcontractors, Product Manufacturers, Farmers, Abattoirs, Effluent Treatment Plant Providers



Contributing Partners

Our contributing partners do not have a direct manufacturing process but do represent important aspects of the wider leather value chain and are essential to ensuring the cohesive and harmonised approach to sustainable leather. Contributing Partners include:

Industry NGOs, Testing & Verification Providers, Certification Organisations, Educational Institutes, Industry Associations, Industry related individuals, Consultants



Licensed Partners

Our licensed partners are the sellers of leather products and goods. These partners are the link between the industry and the consumer and have a responsibility to ensure they are sourcing leather from organisations who uphold the highest standards of sustainability. Licensed Partners include:

Brands, Retailers, OEMs

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BENEFITS OF PARTNERSHIP:

Our partners benefit from being part of a community that is committed to adopting best sustainability standards, focused on driving transformative change in order to reduce negative impacts on our environment and create positive impacts within our communities. Furthermore, our partners benefit from:

For All Partners

- **Access to a multi-stakeholder platform that supports training, development & improvement**
- **Access to meetings, workshops & other events**
- **Newsletters & periodic updates**
- **Access to a Transparency Dashboard™ that provides real time certification results, performance metrics and conformance data**
- **The opportunity to actively work within, and/or chair & co-ordinate Technical, Consumer & Industry focused Collaboration Hubs**
- **Access to an improvement and innovation fund designed to support advancements for a more sustainable leather industry**
- **Access to SLF materials and logos**

For Compliance Partners

In addition to the general partnership benefits, compliance partners will also benefit from:

- **A Certification Programme to demonstrate conformance and performance against the 3 pillars of Environmental, Social and Governance good practice**
- **Additional recognition for technological innovation, social or sustainability projects, that are not auditable elements or that exceed the norms of the Sustainable Leather Foundation Standard**
- **The ability to display certifications from multiple organisations in one platform**

For Licensed Partners

In addition to the general partnership benefits, licensed partners will also benefit from:

- **Licensing to use trademarked logos and claims on product and POS materials.**
- **Support through QR technology to direct consumers to factual, relevant information about products**
- **Support with use of claims language**
- **Access to a Transparency Dashboard™ that provides certification, performance and compliance data of value chain suppliers**





PARTNERSHIP AND FEE STRUCTURE

Our Work is funded by the fees paid by our partners. Fees are paid annually in advance and our subscription year runs from 1st January to 31st December.

Partnership Level	Partnership Fees per annum (£)
Individual	£250
Industry NGOs and Associations	£1,500
Corporate Partnership (based on annual turnover) *	
Turnover: 0 -£100,000	£500
Turnover: £100,000 - £1 million	£1,750
Turnover: £1 million - £500 million	£2,750
Turnover: £500 million - £1 billion	£4,000
Turnover: £1 - 3 billion	£8,000
Turnover: £3 billion +	£15,000
Compliance Partners**	
Partnership & Dashboard Creation (incl equivalency mapping of single facility)	£2,000
Mapping of each additional facility	£750
Environmental Audit**	£3,500 (plus expenses at cost)
Social Audit**	£3,500 (plus expenses at cost)
Governance Audit (including transparency & traceability)**	£3,500 (plus expenses at cost)
All 3-audit package	£8,000 (plus expenses at cost)

*Licensing fees for trademarks and POS will be in addition to the partnership fee. Please enquire for further information.

**If “gap certification” only is required then costs will be reduced depending upon requirements. Minimum cost is £1,500 to allow 1 day for audit and 1 day for reporting (plus expenses at cost).

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GOVERNANCE:

The Sustainable Leather Foundation is a not-for-profit, Community Interest Company, and is set up and registered in the UK, at Companies House Reg No. 12739406. The Foundation is independent of any commercial interest or bias.

Surplus funds will be reinvested for:

1. further development of the Foundation and
2. supporting innovation and improvement projects that will benefit the industry through a grant application process.

An Advisory Board of individuals, selected for their expertise and knowledge across the whole leather value chain, has been appointed to:

- advise on the appropriateness of the information disseminated
- review technical content
- support with the development of the Foundation

The Advisory Board will also review all requests for funding for innovation projects and make recommendations to the Directors for final approval.

The Foundation is governed under Articles of Association which can be accessed here: [Articles of Association - Sustainable Leather Foundation](#)