# Northern Ireland woman transforms textile waste into sustainable soundproofing materials



In a bold move that redefines personal ambition and environmental responsibility, a Northern Ireland woman has turned away from a two-decade career in the civil service to pursue her lifelong passion for fashion and textiles. Based in Derry, Lisa has ventured into the burgeoning field of circular economy innovations, focusing on transforming discarded textile waste into valuable products. Her unique approach not only addresses the significant issue of textile waste but also aims to create sustainable soundproofing materials for both homes and offices.

Lisa's journey reflects a growing trend among individuals who seek to align their careers with their passions. The textile industry, notoriously associated with massive waste and environmental concerns, is gradually shifting towards more sustainable practices. This transition is evident in various initiatives globally, such as those undertaken by LookChina in North Carolina, which has developed soundproofing blankets made from sanitized, recycled textiles. These blankets are designed to significantly reduce noise pollution in various settings, highlighting an innovative blend of environmental consciousness and practicality.

In an industry where waste reduction is paramount, Lisa's focus on converting what would typically be discarded fluff into acoustic materials resonates deeply with contemporary sustainability ideals. The integration of acoustic properties into textiles is gaining traction; innovative solutions include the use of acoustic fibres and composite textiles. For instance, Guilford of Maine’s 2968 Strata Acoustic Fabric, crafted from pre-consumer recycled polyester, boasts a high Noise Reduction Coefficient (NRC) rating, making it ideal for various applications involving sound management.

The significance of incorporating recycled materials into sound insulation extends beyond mere functionality. The textile sector grapples with noise pollution, particularly within manufacturing environments, where effective sound insulation can greatly enhance working conditions. As the demand for eco-friendly and regenerative materials grows, so too does the impetus for companies to innovate and adapt. Brands like IKEA and initiatives from Interface have demonstrated that using reclaimed materials, such as regenerative nylon waste, can not only mitigate environmental impacts but also produce high-quality products that appeal to socially conscious consumers.

Lisa's venture is emblematic of this shift, as she seeks to promote sustainability while following her creative instincts. By utilising waste materials, she is not only contributing to the reduction of landfill waste but also providing practical solutions to everyday problems, such as noise control in residential and commercial spaces. This synergy of creativity and sustainability is indicative of broader movements within the fashion and textiles industry, where the exploration of recycled and renewable resources is both a necessity and a lucrative opportunity.

As she navigates this exciting new path, Lisa joins a growing cadre of entrepreneurs dedicated to redefining resource use in the textile industry. The potential to create eco-efficient products not only provides a competitive edge but resonates with a consumer base increasingly aware of the environmental consequences of their choices. In pursuing her passion, Lisa not only champions her own career ambitions but also stands at the forefront of a significant transformation within a traditionally wasteful industry.

Overall, Lisa’s story is more than just a career change; it represents a pivotal shift in how we perceive waste and craft within the textile and fashion sectors. Her commitment to sustainability and innovation serves as an inspiring example for others considering similar paths, showcasing how personal passion can intersect beautifully with global imperatives for environmental stewardship.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://m.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/business/northern-ireland/how-ni-woman-left-civil-service-job-after-20-years-to-follow-her-passion-for-fashion-and-textiles/a1174027635.html), [[2]](https://www.fibre2fashion.com/news/textile-news/soundproofing-blankets-made-using-recycled-textiles-76032-newsdetails.htm)
* Paragraph 2 – [[3]](https://www.onlineclothingstudy.com/2024/06/sound-insulation-in-textile-industry.html), [[4]](https://www.tmsoundproofing.com/Guilford-Of-Maine-2968-Strata-Acoustic-Fabric.html)
* Paragraph 3 – [[5]](https://www.forbes.com/sites/amynguyen/2021/06/18/from-textile-waste-to-sound-insulation--the-acoustic-felt-made-from-recycled-polyester/), [[6]](https://www.fibre2fashion.com/news/textile-news/recycled-renewable-materials-absorb-noise-96745-newsdetails.htm)
* Paragraph 4 – [[7]](https://www.mdpi.com/2673-7248/3/2/13/xml)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://m.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/business/northern-ireland/how-ni-woman-left-civil-service-job-after-20-years-to-follow-her-passion-for-fashion-and-textiles/a1174027635.html)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://m.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/business/northern-ireland/how-ni-woman-left-civil-service-job-after-20-years-to-follow-her-passion-for-fashion-and-textiles/a1174027635.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.fibre2fashion.com/news/textile-news/soundproofing-blankets-made-using-recycled-textiles-76032-newsdetails.htm> - This article discusses the development of soundproofing blankets made from recycled textiles. It highlights the efforts of LookChina, a North Carolina-based provider of renewable textile manufacturing, in reclaiming natural fibers and integrating them into soundproofing materials. The blankets, called EZ Hang Acoustic Soundproof Blankets, are made from sanitized and recycled natural textiles and are designed to effectively reduce noise in various settings, from professional environments to homes.
3. <https://www.onlineclothingstudy.com/2024/06/sound-insulation-in-textile-industry.html> - This article explores the sources of noise pollution in textile mills and the benefits of sound insulation. It discusses advanced techniques and innovations in the textile industry, such as the use of acoustic fibers, composite textiles, smart textiles, and sustainable sound insulation solutions. The article emphasizes the importance of integrating recycled materials and eco-friendly treatments to enhance sound insulation while promoting sustainability in the textile sector.
4. <https://www.tmsoundproofing.com/Guilford-Of-Maine-2968-Strata-Acoustic-Fabric.html> - This page provides information about Guilford of Maine's 2968 Strata Acoustic Fabric, made from 100% pre-consumer recycled polyester. The fabric is designed to be acoustically transparent with a Noise Reduction Coefficient (NRC) rating of 0.95, making it suitable for applications like wall panels, diffusers, speaker grills, and wall coverings. The page also details various finishes and layering options available to enhance the fabric's performance and maintenance.
5. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/amynguyen/2021/06/18/from-textile-waste-to-sound-insulation--the-acoustic-felt-made-from-recycled-polyester/> - This article discusses the creation of acoustic felt made from recycled polyester, highlighting the efforts of companies like IKEA and collaborations between Interface and ECONYL® to use regenerative nylon waste in their products. It emphasizes the importance of addressing fashion's waste challenges and the potential of recycled textiles in creating sustainable sound insulation materials. The article also touches upon environmental concerns related to synthetic fibers and the need for alternative materials.
6. <https://www.fibre2fashion.com/news/textile-news/recycled-renewable-materials-absorb-noise-96745-newsdetails.htm> - This article highlights the use of recycled and renewable materials in automotive sound insulation. It focuses on GMC's Terrain vehicle, which utilizes kenaf fiber and recycled cotton and polyester to insulate various parts of the vehicle, including the dashboard and carpet. The use of these materials not only reduces weight but also promotes sustainability by diverting waste from landfills and reducing the demand for new raw materials.
7. <https://www.mdpi.com/2673-7248/3/2/13/xml> - This research paper investigates the use of nonwoven fabrics made from agricultural and industrial waste, such as coffee husk fibers, for acoustic and thermal insulation applications. It explores the potential of these natural fibers in creating sustainable and effective insulation materials, comparing their properties with commercially available acoustic materials. The study emphasizes the importance of utilizing waste materials to develop value-added products and reduce environmental impact.