



Circular Design Innovation Programme and Award 2026

General terms and conditions

1. Eligibility

- The Circular Design Innovation Programme is open to eligible individuals, collectives, businesses, researchers and innovators based in Aotearoa New Zealand, subject to the specific requirements of each Award.
- Membership of Fashion & Textiles New Zealand is not required to enter.
- Fashion & Textiles New Zealand staff are not eligible to enter.
- Entrants associated with FTNZ Board members, programme sponsors or partners must declare these relationships. FTNZ may apply additional conditions where necessary to manage potential conflicts of interest.

2. Individual and collective entries

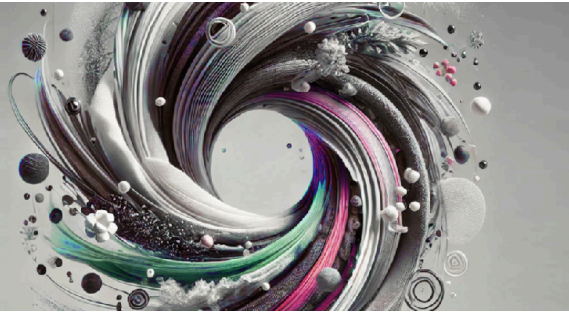
- Entries may be submitted by individuals or teams.
- All team members must be identified on the entry form. Where an entry is submitted by a team, a nominated representative will be responsible for programme communications and coordinating the distribution of any prizes.
- Entrants are responsible for obtaining the agreement of all collaborators and relevant organisations before submitting their work.

3. Textile waste requirements

- All entries must address an identifiable textile waste stream sourced within Aotearoa New Zealand.
- Entrants may respond to one of the programme's Challenge Briefs or identify their own waste stream.
- Where entrants identify their own waste stream, they must provide information about its source, composition, quantity where known, and the challenge their solution addresses.
- Specific material requirements for each Award are set out in the relevant information pack.

Textile waste is defined as:

- Pre-consumer or post-consumer fibres and textiles that are discarded, surplus, damaged, unsold or no longer suitable for their original intended use.
- This includes textile swatches; production, manufacturing or cut-and-sew fibre or textile off-cuts or waste; damaged or faulty textiles; damaged or faulty clothing or textile products; end-of-life, unwearable or un-sellable clothing; unusable textile products; and proprietary clothing or textile products that are no longer able to be worn.



- All textile waste used or addressed through the programme must be sourced within Aotearoa New Zealand.

4. Existing work and originality

- Existing research, designs, technologies and innovations may be submitted, provided the entrant has the necessary rights to enter the work and it meets the requirements of the relevant Award.
- Entrants must identify their contribution to the work and acknowledge relevant collaborators, institutions or organisations.
- Entries must not infringe the intellectual property rights of any third party.

Additional conditions for the Design Innovation category

- Entries previously exhibited at university graduation shows are eligible.
- Entries that have previously placed in the top three of another competition, or garments and accessories currently produced commercially or made under licence in New Zealand, are not eligible.

Additional conditions for the Science Innovation category

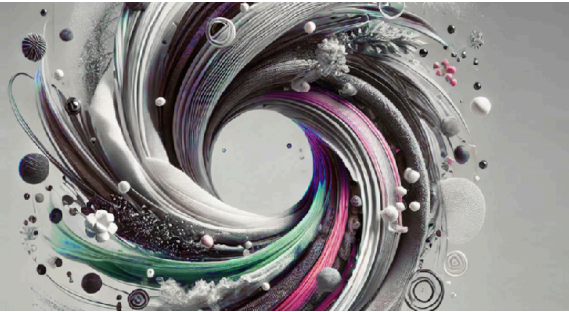
- Existing innovations are eligible where they are not yet widely deployed or commercially established for the textile waste challenge addressed by the entry, and they meet the Award's proof-of-concept requirements. For clarity, early commercial pilots are acceptable, but established commercial solutions are not.
- Entrants must disclose relevant institutional or commercial ownership and confirm they have the necessary rights to submit their work.

5. Intellectual property

- Entrants retain ownership of their intellectual property, subject to any existing agreements with employers, research institutions, collaborators or other rights holders.
- Participation in the Award does not transfer ownership of an entrant's innovation to FTNZ or any programme partner.
- Entrants are responsible for ensuring they have the necessary rights and permissions to submit their work and for identifying any third-party ownership or restrictions that apply.
- FTNZ may use non-confidential information, images and descriptions of entries for programme assessment, exhibition, promotion and reporting only in accordance with the approval process set out below.
- Any use or disclosure of confidential technical or commercially sensitive information outside the judging and administration process requires the entrant's prior written approval.

6. Confidentiality

- Entrants must clearly identify any information in their submission that is confidential, commercially sensitive or not approved for public disclosure.
- Confidential information will be made available only to those involved in administering and assessing the entry who require access to it, subject to signing a confidentiality agreement.



- Confidential information will not be included in public communications, exhibitions, finalist materials or programme reporting without the entrant's prior written approval.
- Entrants are responsible for considering whether public disclosure of their innovation could affect patentability, other intellectual property protection or commercial interests, and should seek their own specialist advice where appropriate.
- Where an entrant advises FTNZ that public disclosure could prejudice pending or intended intellectual property protection, FTNZ will work with the entrant to agree what information, images or materials can be made public.
- Confidentiality will continue beyond the Award process unless and until the entrant approves disclosure, the information enters the public domain through no breach by FTNZ, or disclosure is otherwise required by law.

7. Approval process for publication

- Before publishing or publicly exhibiting information about a finalist or winning entry, FTNZ will provide the entrant with the proposed public-facing description and intended images or other materials for review.
- Entrants will be given a reasonable opportunity to identify confidential or commercially sensitive information and request factual corrections or the removal of material that has not been approved for public disclosure.
- FTNZ will not publish technical details, test data, formulations, processes or other information identified as confidential without the entrant's prior written approval.
- Photographs, videos or other images of prototypes, samples or technical processes will only be published where they have been approved for public use by the entrant.
- Where publication or exhibition could affect pending patent protection or other legitimate intellectual property interests, FTNZ will work with the entrant to agree an appropriate public description and presentation. This may include limiting technical detail, using alternative imagery or delaying publication of specific information.
- Finalists are expected to participate in the Award showcase; however, where there are legitimate intellectual property or confidentiality concerns, FTNZ will work with the entrant to determine an appropriate way to communicate or exhibit the innovation without disclosing protected information.

7. Health and safety

- Entrants are responsible for ensuring that all research, experimentation, material processing and development activities are undertaken safely and in accordance with applicable requirements.
- Where relevant, experimental or technical work must be conducted within appropriately equipped facilities and under suitable supervision.
- Entrants must disclose any known safety risks associated with materials, prototypes or processes submitted for assessment or exhibition.
- FTNZ may decline to accept or exhibit materials or prototypes where appropriate safety requirements cannot be met.

8. Responsible research and data use



- Entrants are responsible for ensuring that research, data and information used in their entry have been obtained and used lawfully and appropriately, including any required permissions, privacy obligations, confidentiality requirements and institutional approvals.

9 . Judging

- Eligible entries will be assessed against the published judging criteria for the relevant Award.
- The judging panel may request additional information, clarification or supporting evidence where necessary.
- Judges are required to declare relevant conflicts of interest and must not participate in assessing entries where a conflict cannot be appropriately managed.
- The judging panel may decide not to award a prize where no eligible entry meets the required standard.
- Judging decisions are final.

10. Prizes and finalists

- Award prizes and finalist benefits will be confirmed in the programme's published prize schedule.
- Prizes are not transferable for cash unless otherwise stated.
- Where a team wins an Award, the team is responsible for determining how the prize is distributed among its members.
- Finalists may be required to provide additional information, samples, images or other materials for judging, exhibition and programme promotion.

11. Submission deadlines

- All entries must be received by the published closing date and time, together with the required entry form, and submission materials.
- Incomplete or late entries may be deemed ineligible.

For programme enquiries, contact FTNZ through the official Circular Design Award contact details.
circulardesignaward@fashiontextilesnz.org