

Material Knowledge

What are all the relevant material options?
Can you ensure sustained supply of these materials?

Appropriateness of Material Choice

What functional or aesthetic properties of the leather are used in your product?
How does the material choice relate to the overall design?
Can leather replace another (less sustainable) material?
Can another (more sustainable) material replace leather?

Business Model

How can you make your business model (more) circular?

Marketing & Communications

How do you communicate so that consumers value how your product fosters sustainable development?
How and how much information on chemicals, working conditions etc. do you share with your consumers?

Type of Leather

Is the type of leather used (tanning process, animal origin, etc.) appropriate for the products functionality and aesthetics?

Chemicals & Finishing

Did the chemical management during the production ensure a high level of protection of human health and the environment?
Does your finishing require specific (and potentially harmful) chemicals?
Is the finishing appropriate to the anticipated usage (e.g. does it lead to a higher usage of chemical protection or caring products)?

Materials

How can you reduce the total number of materials used for your product?

Who is your Consumer?

What do you know about your target group regarding the usage and disposal of leather products?
What are their values, beliefs and behavioural patterns?
What do they know about sustainable development with regards to this product?

Sourcing

What is the geographic origin of the hide?
From where does the leather come from (company / country)?
What are socio-economic consequences from sourcing (and not sourcing) the leather from this origin?
Can you establish trustful and sustained cooperations with manufacturers?

Consumer Behaviour Change

How can your design foster more sustainable consumption patterns regarding your product (e.g. maintenance, sharing, repairing, etc.)?
Can your design / marketing strategy increase awareness regarding sustainability issues in the context of leather products?

Traceability

What can you trace regarding the origin of the leather and the chemicals used?
How can you be sure the information you are receiving is valid?
To what extent can you trace back chemicals used in during the production of the leather?

Legal aspects and business potentials

What are the relevant regulatory frameworks (e.g. EU Green Deal, REACH supply chain due diligence in terms of social and environmental aspects, ...)?
What are working and environmental standards at the locations you are sourcing from?
Can you find business opportunities derived from these regulatory impulses?

Process Optimisation & Waste Avoidance [Pre-Consumer Aspects]

Does producing your product create unnecessary waste (e.g. from splitting, cutting, etc.)?
Could you adapt the design in a way that producing your product require less harmful chemicals?

Recyclability & Circular Economy [Post-Consumer Aspects]

What happens with your product after its use-phase?
Can it be easily disassembled?
Are there collection points and other infrastructure that facilitate recycling?
Can you use (or avoid) specific added materials, chemicals or processes to ensure or increase recyclability?

Product Lifespan

How do you extend the product life?
How do you ensure a specific quality level?

Reparability

How can you increase reparability of your product?
Can you help your consumer to repair (e.g. with services or additional products)?

Product Ecosystem

What is the ecosystem around your product? Can you add or adjust additional products or services to make your product more sustainable?

Longevity

How can you extend the product's lifetime? What are the specific technical and conceptual features that make your product more durable?
How aesthetics and emotional aspects of the design make consumers use your product for a longer period of time?