Sustainable Red Carpet Fashion

In partnership with RCGD Global

A women-led sustainability organization
The Academy is thrilled to partner with RCGD Global to guide our guests towards a more sustainable awards season.

As some of you know, fashion design can cause adverse environmental and social impacts such as waste, pollution, climate, and injustice. A commitment to sustainable design will help combat this.

The red carpet is a powerful platform to show that creativity, beauty, and innovation can complement consideration and care. There are many fun ways to explore sustainable values on the red carpet. Here are just a few to get you started.

**Vintage.** Slow down consumption and borrow or rent from a clothing library or designers’ archives. Turn to vintage or second-hand garments and accessories to celebrate timeless masterful design. Work with a designer or local tailor to reinvent or customize garments or fabrics you already cherish. Challenge yourself to get DIY creative.

**Textiles.** Opt for textiles derived from natural sources such as hemp, linen, wool, certified or ethical silk, and vintage or preloved leather. Biodegradable plant and food-based materials from pineapple to mushroom, or even lab-grown ones, are innovating the design world.

**Color.** To reduce harmful impact, many designers are coloring textiles with responsible methods such as organic or certified low-impact dyes (OEKO-TEX® or GOTS are great starting points) or even biosynthetic ones sourced from renewable materials.

**Diversity, Representation, and Inclusion.** Support brands and businesses owned by AAPI, Black, Hispanic, Latina/e/o/x, Indigenous, and other people of color. Prioritize representation in the design world, and ask your favorite brands how their businesses are stepping up.

**Spotlight cultural heritage and craftsmanship.** Consider accessories, jewelry, and adornments you already own or support independent artisans and craftspeople.

**Finishing Touches.** Source recycled, vintage, or ethically mined gems and metals, or go cruelty-free with plant and food-based leather alternatives for shoes, clutches, or wallets. Invest in classic pieces that can be re-worn and shared across generations.

**After the Red Carpet.** Love your garment after the red carpet, give it a second life – have it professionally preserved for a rewear occasion or completely transformed with the help of a tailor or a re-dye. You can also sell it, donate it to your local theater department or a non-profit, or even start a family costume closet.

**FashionTech.** Check your garment labels for QR codes or NFC tags. Many designers and brands use technology and certifications to be transparent technology to trace where your garments come from and who made them.

**Certifications & Standards.** Build your trust in sustainable design by looking for certifications. B Corps™, Bluesign®, Cradle to Cradle Certified®, Global Organic Textile Standards, and OEKO-TEX® are commonplace ones with rigorous sustainability standards. And always ask questions to further your understanding.

**Labor Rights.** Support brands prioritizing human dignity with living wages, voluntary employment, and safe working conditions. These certifications are starting points: SA8000 Certification, Worldwide Responsible Accredited Production, amfori BSCI, Ethical Trading Initiative, and Fair Labor Association.

To learn more about sustainable fashion, visit our partners at rcgddglobal.com.