



The vegan shoe line, XpreSole Panto, uses coffee beans | Photo source CCILU

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COFFEE GROUNDS TURNED INTO AWARD WINNING VEGAN FOOTWEAR

 FASHION & BEAUTY

The shoes and boots are lightweight, waterproof and use up 15 cups worth of coffee waste

Spotted: Japanese footwear company CCILU uses coffee grounds in all major parts of its vegan shoe line, XpreSole Panto. Waterproof, dirt proof and incredibly lightweight, the coffee-infused shoes and boots are also flexible and machine washable.

From the insole to the outer upper and the outer sole, coffee grounds add strength without weight, waterproofing without polluting and extra odour wicking and fast drying capabilities for an incredibly versatile shoe. As the world's coffee habits continues to grow, sustainable growing is no longer the only issue. At hand now is a growing amount of spent coffee grounds. CCILU is taking advantage of the volume of waste available and, using proprietary processes, turning the leftovers into yarn and injection-moulding material.

Laces used in the shoes and boots are made from recycled plastic bottles. The company has a variety of other styles available, all with a focus on sustainable materials and processes.

While much of the initial sustainability focus on the coffee industry focused on single use plastic and styrofoam cups and lids, innovators are increasingly seeking new ways to make coffee grounds serve an alternative purpose. Springwise has spotted [aeroplane food trays](#) made from coffee waste and [biodegradable hangers](#) that incorporate coffee grounds.

Written by: Keely Khoury

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Email: service@ccilu.com

Website: ccilu.com

Takeaway:

With the EU facing a permanent ban on sales of petrol- and diesel-powered cars within the next 20 years, biofuels are massively needed. Many prototypes and processes are already being tested, with Springwise having covered ideas ranging from textile waste to captured carbon dioxide as potential sources of biofuels. The next steps are to begin trials on a commercial scale alongside refining the technologies so as to get as close to carbon negative as possible during the production processes. It's a tricky line to walk when balancing the potential power of knowledge sharing, collaboration and partnership with proprietary creations and businesses.