

Green is the color of more products

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From functional objects to finery, green products are staking a claim across contemporary culture. Here's a sampling of what's out there—in boutiques, online and in big-box chains.

Sun light: A solar cell on this small lamp stores the sun's energy by day so you can read at night. For every lamp sold at Ikea worldwide, UNICEF receives another for a child in a developing country. Ikea, \$24.99.

Semi-precious soaps: Hand-crafted vegetable-based glycerine soaps take their colors from nature and look great on your sink or tub. Tumbled turquoise and amethyst crystal soaps from One Green Street, onegreenstreet.com, \$6 each.

Hang dry: Forget the dryer! This hanging plastic octopus has 16 clips (and cute little eyes) for air-drying damp clothes. Folds up for convenient storage. Ikea, \$5.99.



AP PHOTO

The new biodegradable SunChips bag.

Natural linens: Hand-printed towels made from natural linen bear images of Queen Anne's lace and fig leaves. One Green Street, onegreenstreet.com, \$26 apiece.

Banana box: The trunks of dying banana trees are cut into strips and left to dry in the sun. Once dry, the strips are woven into baskets and coated with water-based lacquer, to make them

more durable. Ikea, \$16.99.

It's about time: Sprout watches, for kids and grown-ups, feature bamboo dials, organic cotton straps and mercury-free batteries. The packaging is made of recycled fibers and can be recycled. Amazon.com/watches, \$30.

That's a wrap: Candy-wrapper speakers are compatible with laptops, iPods and MP3 players. MerkuryInnovations.com, \$14.99-\$19.99.

Biodegradable: A new SunChips bag biodegrades in 14 weeks. Made from plants, the bag will break down in an active compost bin. This bag crinkles louder than other SunChips bags, but the chips inside still taste the same. Stores and markets everywhere, about \$3.25.

Tree-free notebooks: These notebooks are made from 80 percent post-consumer waste and 20 percent banana fibers. Target, \$3.99 for the large notebook, \$6.99 for three small journals.