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TOOLS FOR GREEN LIVING

Resources for  
Eco-Awareness and Action

By Jessica Patton Pellegrino and Brita Belli

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LUXE LAYERS

We can't get enough of these wardrobe staples from designer Kate D'Arcy's **Toggerly Collection**: exceptionally soft fine-knit organic cotton and bamboo rayon shirts (\$44-\$79) in a variety of styles, from fitted tank to funky drape back to flowing tunic. They are lightweight enough to layer yet substantial enough to wear on their own, taking you comfortably through all seasons and settings.



[www.toggerlycollection.com](http://www.toggerlycollection.com).

BOOT-IFUL

Some would say “eco-friendly leather” is an oxymoron, but for those who won't be swayed from wearing suede, there's **Naya Shoes**, which deems its line of leather shoes and boots eco-friendly due to its vegetable tanning process, water-based adhesives and recycled-content packaging. The **Naya Artemis open-toe boots** (\$185), while they won't keep your toes warm, will certainly keep you stylish with their bamboo heel and “Kimono Knot” detailing. And the boots are awfully comfortable, too.



[www.nayashoes.com](http://www.nayashoes.com).

KISS OFF

In the thick of winter when you could split a lip just by smiling, **CO Bigelow Mentha Organics Sheer Lip Tint** (\$7.50) is our latest favorite lip lube. It comes in three shimmery, subtle pinks—Barely There, Sheer Rose and Just Blushed—and layers well with that favorite matte lipstick that's just too dry on its own this time of year. Made with over 90% organic ingredients and real peppermint oil, it's not sticky but still has staying power...though you may have to reapply often because it tastes so good.



[www.bigelowchemist.com](http://www.bigelowchemist.com).

ART OF LOVE

**Heart by Kerry** makes beautiful botany-inspired collages (\$34-\$46) in which this elementary school teacher-turned-crafty entrepreneur recycles fabric scraps and paperboard into one-of-a-kind, frame-worthy folk art. A lovely gift for your Valentine, and with enough notice Kerry will even customize a piece to suit your beloved's desires and décor.



[www.heartbykerry.etsy.com](http://www.heartbykerry.etsy.com).

RACK 'EM UP

**Raxstars** (\$25) is a genius solution for the occasional skier or snowboarder who wants to transport their gear without the investment or gas-mileage increase of a permanently affixed equipment rack. Small enough to stash in a console compartment when not in use, Raxstars turns a standard roof rack with crossbars into a secure winter-equipment carrier in under five minutes, and at a low enough price that buying two or three to accommodate multiple snowboards or a quiver of skis will still cost you less than one of the leading permanent ski racks.



[www.raxstars.com](http://www.raxstars.com).

ONE DAY AT A TIME

Have you seen this calendar? It's become a year-to-year fixture on family bulletin boards from Washington, D.C., to Washington State, from whence artist **Nikki McClure** hails. McClure illustrates children's books, journals, posters and notecards, slicing all her images in one continuous cut from black paper using an X-ACTO knife. The scenes emerge in the relief space—scenes of nature and wonder, solitude and solidarity, matched in the calendar to single words with wide applications like “Accept,” “Give” and “Behold.” The images reflect a pace of life slow enough to savor the moment, even while planning the week or month to come. The **Endeavor 2011 Wall Calendar** (\$16) is printed on recycled paper with soy ink and available from [buyolympia.com](http://buyolympia.com) which supports local artists online and at Land, its retail shop/art gallery in Portland, Oregon.



[www.buyolympia.com](http://www.buyolympia.com).

BOOK REVIEWS By Brita Belli

THE IMAGINED FUTURE

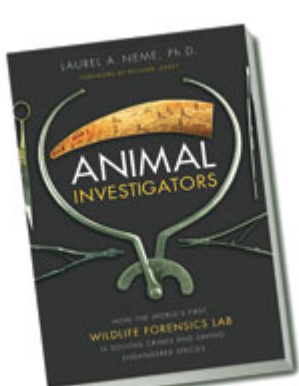
With technology accelerating us into the future at an ever-quickenning pace, the book **2030: Technology That Will Change the World** (Oxford University Press, \$29.95) contains a few surprises. In its discussion of automobile manufacturing, authors **Rutger Van Santenm** (a computational catalytic chemist), **Djan Khoe** (a professor of electro-optical communication) and **Bram Vermeer** (a Dutch science journalist) find that little has changed since the days of Henry Ford. Car manufacture is so ordered, in fact, that certain changes will almost certainly never be made, despite how they might add to efficiency or reduce waste. They write: “An engineer who would like to cast the wiring into the chassis has no chance of ever seeing that done, any more than a designer has who wants to manufacture the chassis and body as a single unit. Changes like that would change the sequence of operations, which automatically rules them out.”



The authors don't always offer a clear solution—in this case, they argue for lighter vehicles, smarter designs and less-rigid factories—but they get to the heart of what's the matter with the way we produce stuff and the shifts we'll need to see if we're ever to approach real sustainability.

INSIDE ANIMAL TRADE

By any measure, illegal wildlife trade is out of control—there are willing buyers for \$23,000 rhinoceros-horn bowls, polar bear skins, tiger teeth and elephant ivory calling card cases. Trafficking in illegal animals alone is likely a \$20 billion per year business, writes environmental journalist **Laurel Neme** in **Animal Investigators: How the World's First Wildlife Forensics Lab Is Solving Crimes and Saving Endangered Species** (University Press of Florida, \$19.95). With that much money changing hands, it's sophisticated business, and wildlife trafficking has even been linked to terrorism.



Once she's established the problem, Neme gets right to the nitty-gritty in her account: the workings of the world's only wildlife forensics crime lab, with researchers tracking the case of headless, washed-up walrus in Alaska. They were tasked—like human investigators—with determining intent: Had the animals been slaughtered for sustenance, which was legal, or for commercial sale of their tusks, which was not? There should be some drama here, and some suspense, but the pay-off is slow to come.

Those who enjoy the inner workings of a walrus dissection will appreciate Neme's attention to detail. “The hard work dulled his blade,” Neme writes of one scientist at work, “forcing him to stop every fifteen to twenty minutes to sharpen it.” There's a lot of potential here, but more particulars than the average reader (or CSI-watcher) is likely to want to sift through.

EASY CHOICES

One of the many things that sets the book **Just Green It!: Simple Swaps to Save the Planet and Your Health** (\$17.95, Running Press) apart from other green guides is its focus on specific product brands. Authors **Ron and Lisa Beres**, the founders of [GreenNest.com](http://GreenNest.com), aren't afraid to name names. Covering everything from lightbulbs to pillows to muffin pans and vodka, the book breaks each category down into “Green It!” or “Skip It!” recommendations.



They suggest shaving creams from companies like Dr. Bronner's, Aubrey Organics and Tom's of Maine, for example, since these are made from organic ingredients, without harmful chemicals or triclosan. On the opposing “skip it” page are pictured the Gillette spray shave creams, those containing chemicals called phthalates hidden in fragrances that are “linked to health concerns such as birth defects, developmental problems, and in extreme cases, cancer.” There's no chance for the book to delve into details, but it could serve as a handy reference guide when navigating the supermarket or drug store aisles.

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