

SUSTAINABLE SHOPPING

These companies produce sustainable, or environmentally safe, products. Most, maybe all, commit to delivery in sustainable packaging. We'd love to hear from NOVA members whether they have tried any of these, and what they think of these products. Please also let us know what other sustainable products you have used and would recommend. E-mail [Markie Harwood](#) or [Carolyn Miller](#).

Household and personal care products

Bamboo products: Toilet paper and paper towels made from bamboo (saves trees!) are available at many local stores, including CVS.

[ByHumankind](#): Company aims to eliminate single-use plastics by offering its products -- toothpaste, dental floss, deodorant, hand sanitizer -- in refillable dispensers. **Dianne Carroll bought the dental floss and dispenser.** "It is a great replacement for all those plastic dispensers," she says.

[Chagrin Valley Soap and Salve Co.](#): Shampoos, soaps, deodorant, moisturizers and products to treat various skin conditions. **Kathy Scheimer recommends the Coconut Milk Bar Shampoo**, which she purchases at Whole Foods and says it works well once you create a good lather. "Glad to make this small gesture to minimize my use of plastic."

[Cleancult](#): Plastic-free laundry and dishwasher liquid and other cleaning products. Your first order arrives in a glass container; refills are delivered in recyclable milk cartons. Sold at some CVS stores (use store locator on website).

[Dropps](#): Provides small-pod, no-plastic laundry soap and dishwasher soap, packaged in cardboard. Here's Dropps' pitch: "By using Dropps, you are helping turn the tide against toxic pollution, plastic waste, and animal cruelty. Oh, and the dirt in your home." (See **Tide** below.)

[Etee](#): Etee offers dish-cleaning products, food wraps and bags, bamboo toothbrushes and other body care products. Reviewers on the website praise the "Chewpaste" and charcoal aloe face soap.

[If You Care](#): Coffee and tea filters, baking and cooking products, household products, wraps, firelighters. Sold online and locally at Target, Harris Teeter, Safeway, Whole Foods, Mom's Organic Market and more (use store locator on website to find stores near you).

[Native](#): Deodorant, body wash, toothpaste. Says Native: "We never use aluminum, parabens, or sulfates in any of our products. We only create products we'd use on ourselves."

[Net Zero Co.](#): Range of eco-friendly products for eating, drinking, cooking, cleaning, storing. "If you want to help contribute to a world with less plastic, you are in the right place," the website says.

[Reel](#): A Black-owned business that produces toilet paper and paper towels made of sustainable bamboo. Profits go toward providing toilets to people and countries that need them. Order over the Internet, 24 rolls of toilet paper for \$19.99, 12 rolls of paper towels for \$45. Saves trees!

[Responsible Products](#): Food bags, waste bags, paper bags and more. The pitch: "These compostable and biodegradable products are made from renewable plant materials, require fewer resources to produce and reduce pollution and plastic waste."

Seventh Generation: Dish care, laundry care, personal care, disinfecting cleaners. Its stated mission: “to nurture people & planet.” Sold online and locally at Target, CVS, Container Store, Walgreens, Walmart and more (use store locator on website to find stores near you).

Sheets Laundry Club: Plastic-free cleaning products. **Meg Tucillo recommends the laundry sheets.** “I order them from Amazon - the sheets totally dissolve in the wash, eco-friendly and come in cardboard box,” she says.

Tide in a cardboard box. Look for it at CVS and some grocery stores. **Carolyn Miller prefers this product** over the plastic jugs -- and over the Dropps laundry soap listed here.

TreeZero: Printer paper is “made using sustainable, sugarcane-based natural resources. One pallet (40 boxes) of TreeZero paper saves 24 trees, while one pallet of 30% recycled paper saves just 7 trees,” according to the website. **Kathy Scheimer buys** at a FedEx store. “The printer paper is excellent but is more expensive, around \$9.00 for a ream. However I can manage that,” she says.

TruEarth: Low-sudsing laundry strips. The pitch: “packs ultra-concentrated, hypoallergenic, eco-friendly cleaning power into a tiny, pre-measured strip of liquidless detergent.”

Who Gives a Crap: Plastic-free toilet paper, tissues, paper towels. “Our TP helps build toilets for people who need them,” the website says. **Jennifer Loveranes has the TP delivered.** “It’s sturdy but not at all rough or scratchy. But not Charmin soft either. I don’t care for their paper towels, they seem a bit more industrial,” she says.

Clothing (shop and recycle)

Amour Vert: Women’s clothing. The pitch: “We are Green Love. Our sustainable practices address all aspects of our business operations and the full lifecycle of the garment: the fibers and the production processes used, how workers are treated, how it gets to the consumer, and finally -- whether it can be recycled or is forced into a landfill.”

Ash & Rose: The women's-clothing company follows sustainable and ethical production practices, including the use of bamboo and hemp fibers, fair trade and labor practices, upcycling of waste fabrics, and a selection of vegan products. The website has a “shop by impact” filter, so you can pick your shopping values.

Everlane: Men’s and women’s clothing made in “ethical” factories -- i.e. factories that rate high for fair wages, reasonable hours and working conditions.

Karen Kane: Company, which offers women’s clothing and home accessories, has committed to sustainable practices.

Madewell: Take any brand or style of jeans to a Madewell store. Through the company’s Blue Jeans Go Green program, jeans will be recycled as housing insulation, and you will receive a \$20 coupon toward a new pair of Madewell jeans. Local stores include Mosaic, Tyson’s and Georgetown locations.

Nordstrom: Mail unwanted but usable clothing to Nordstrom. “Our priority is to keep clothing in use and out of landfills,” Nordstrom says. Local stores accept used cosmetics containers (search “nordstrom” at terracycle.com) and packaging and other recyclables.

Patagonia: Recycle the company's products at participating retail stores.

Poshmark: Online consignment of clothing, home decor and cosmetics.

Reformation: Women's clothing made with sustainable fabrics. Check for reopening of Georgetown store at 3033 M Street NW.

Surfrider Foundation: Proceeds from purchases of sustainable clothing go to protection of oceans.

TheRealReal: Luxury consignment shop for clothing and home decor. 1050 Potomac NW, Washington.

ThredUp: "An online consignment and thrift store for you, your wallet and the planet." Buy or sell second-hand women's and children's merchandise.

UpWest: The company offers men's and women's clothing and home accessories. The website says it is "working toward" sustainable practices.

Warp and Weft: Denim for men, women and children made with sustainable practices.

A local zero-waste shop **Mason and Greens**: A zero-waste store, 913 King Street, Alexandria. Offers bulk groceries and sustainable dry goods. Read about it here: in the [Washington Post](#)

NOVA's OWN sustainability experts

- **Composting: Linda Rosenberg; Richard Urban, David Mog, Victoria Robinson**
- **Dominion Alternative Energy Program: David Mog**
- **Electric cars: David Mog**
- **Solar roofing: Jeanne Clarkson**