

SoFla looks great in green

Check out these eco-friendly, sustainable, fair trade clothing and accessories for the summer.

As Earth Day approaches, let's get real: There's hardly a less "green" or "fair trade" industry than fashion. Think about all the dyes, detergents and washes. Think of the sweat shop exploitation, soil-depleting cottons and excessive fuel resource use. Think of all the clothing and accessories we buy new instead of recycling old.

And just as importantly, think about how guilty you'll feel Friday when your carbon footprint looks like Sasquatch.

It's not like we aren't connected to nature here in South Florida, with our outdoors-love approaching religion status.

"People live a greener life in Florida," said Gina La Morte, editor-in-chief of Boho Magazine. "It's like California in that way. People move to Florida for that reason. We've definitely seen our readership grow in Florida. And there were sustainable fashion designers showing at Miami Fashion Week for the first time."

She is referring to eco-friendly designers Somy Ali, GooRoo Baby, Zula Khramov and Art of Shade, who shared a showcase catwalk show during Miami Beach International Fashion Week in March.

So we looked around and found some environment-friendly fashion that works in SoFla in the summer — and still looks chic.

Ecoist handbags teamed up with SoFla architect Chad Oppenheim for a limited-edition tote bag — "upcycled," as it is handmade from old architectural plans by artisans in Peru — and debuted it during Art Basel. The bag shown is \$250 at Ecoist.com with all proceeds benefiting Trees for the Future.

Havaianas' limited-edition sandals commemorate Conservation International, which reportedly will receive 7 percent of sales. The sandals cost \$24 at us.havaianas.com.

Paquerette Tub Top in slate is \$23 (made with soy and organic cotton) and Lavande Striped Shorts in white and blue is \$59 (organic cotton and hemp) at AmourVert.com.

Seiko's 2011 Solar Collection quartz watches are capable of converting all types of light into energy, with no battery replacement ever required. They retail for \$195 to \$225 at Macy's, J.C. Penny and Kohl's and select independent jewelers.

Revenge Is ... is an eco-friendly label popular with Miley Cyrus, Melissa Rivers and LaLa Vazquez. Items are made from recycled plastic, organic cotton and beechwood from sustainable forests. The company has introduced a new Eat Your Veggies collection this spring. Check it out at RevengeIs.com.

OKA b. sandals are made with recycled materials. The company says it sent 20,000 pairs of non-slip, waterproof and bacteria-resistant "spa shoes" to Haiti, and donated another 10,000 to breast cancer patients. This "Cynthia" sandal costs \$40 at ShoesThatLoveYou.com.

