

# Eco-Chic

Eugene's ethical and fashionable clothes

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**E**UGENEANS ARE GENERALLY a casual bunch; no one blinks at Birkenstocks worn to business meetings, tie-dye at weddings, or jeans in the finest restaurants. But until recently, those who desired clothing that was both ethical and fashionable were left with little choice beyond buying vintage or browsing thrift store bins.

However, "eco-fashion" is no longer a contradiction in terms. It's easy to find stylish clothing made with fair labor practices and of organic or sustainable plant materials, like the bamboo garments sold by Due Donne. Bamboo grows rapidly, without pesticides, and makes an incredibly soft fabric.

Local designer Laura Lee Laroux reduces the impact of her items by using reclaimed fabrics from other garments, curtains, sheets, or even tablecloths. Her Revival line is available at Deluxe, Infinity Mercantile, and Saturday Market, as well as online.

For all-new garments, many local designers, like Mira Fanning of Sweet Skins, turn to organic hemp and cotton blends that are hand-dyed using low-impact colors. Available at Better Yet and Saturday Market, Sweet Skins also offers a wrap made from recycled soda bottles spun into cozy fleece. Local label Xylem designs clothing using soft soy "cashmere," hemp, Tencel (a silky fabric made from wood pulp cellulose), and organic cotton.

Children's boutique Bambini offers clothing by Tea, which donates 40 to 50 percent of all sales from their line to The Global Fund for Children. Due Donne also offers pants by Pine IV, who will plant a tree for every pair sold.

So forget the idea that ethical clothing means drab, shapeless garb. The following pages show just how beautiful having ethics can be, especially in casual Eugene.

*Writer Jessica Tuerk contributed to this story.*

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