

# the alternative consumer

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## friday's eco-fashion finds: new year, new looks

As any seeker of a more sustainable lifestyle knows, you can create great new fashionable looks with found or pre-loved materials. Our latest survey of the landscape reveals a few new standouts to add a little edge to your new year:



(above) You can find upcycled bags, bags and more bags at Ridgewood, Long Island, New York-based, Vaya Bags – handbags, messenger bags, laptop bags, backpacks, cell phone / iPod pouches and a few other accessories – all created from recycled bike tubes, sailboat awnings, old vinyl banners and other reclaimed materials. Founder Tianna Meilinger uses no new materials to hand manufacture these stylish bags. As a former bike messenger, she designs each stylish bag with the biker in mind: utilizing waterproof material inside and out; easy access pockets; comfy shoulder straps with adjustments and releases; extra padding; and available with custom sizing and colorways. Line is affordable, too. A great way to cart stuff around, and keep perfectly good materials out of our landfills and never-ending wastestream.