

SEPTEMBER 2010

Desert Magazine

La Vie en **GREEN**

Live well with new earth-friendly
products for yourself and your home

SUNNYLANDS The desert's greatest estate goes green,
and the gardens are even more beautiful.

AT GRGICH HILLS The legendary winemaker embraced
green, and got an even more delectable wine.

A bath towel made of bamboo...
who knew?

Green AND HOT

Not chili peppers, but rather these creations for yourself and your home will lighten your impact on our eco system

BY K KAUFMAN

With its blistering summers, overheated electric bills and discriminating consumers, the desert may be the ultimate testing ground for green products. We've talked with some of the region's savviest green entrepreneurs and advocates, and collected the best of the best in green products and services for your house, business, health and everyday life.

Activelon

What this gadget does, actually doesn't even sound possible; it turns plain tap water into an effective, antibacterial and even time-saving yet totally green, cleaning agent. Yolanda



Rushton of Living Eco-Wise, a green cleaning business, says it's the real deal. After you charge it up using a plug-in adapter, a nanocell in the dispenser "activates" the water with ions and very tiny bubbles. The ions and bubbles first attract dirt and germs, and then lift them off surfaces, without chemicals and without rinsing (so no film). It's good for most general cleaning jobs, from kitchen counters to carpets, although it's not for heavy-duty grease or mineral buildup. \$169-\$179, home model; \$329, commercial model; greenirene.com or activeion.com.

Kill A Watt

If you could have taken a cruise with what you spent on electricity last month, you'll want to track down the appliances that are kicking up your electric bill. This plug-in mini-meter will do the trick, with daily, weekly or monthly readings, so you can figure out how much each appliance in your house is costing you. There's also a surge protector model so you can monitor your computer and other home electronics. \$19 to \$85; Radio Shack, Best Buy, Amazon.



PHOTO BY TAILI SONG ROTH

Nandina

Although this Palm Desert-based business retails a colorful line of luxurious bamboo towels at 200 shops across the country, it doesn't have an outlet in the Coachella Valley... yet. On top of being super-absorbent, bamboo is also resistant to mildew and wears well. A Nandina retail website is in the offing, along with a new line of dish towels and a recycling program for worn-out towels. Nandina also gets high marks for its sustainable business model, manufacturing some of its towels at a Japanese factory run 100 percent on wind power. \$49-\$52; nandina.org.

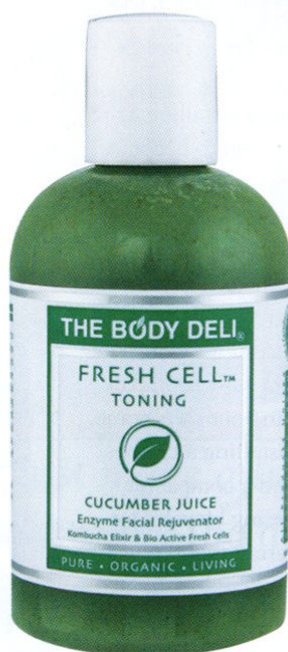
Solar ovens

These nifty, solar-concentrating cookers should be a standard part of every emergency preparedness kit in the Coachella Valley. Add a casserole or other appropriate cookware, and you will be able to whip up warm meals on a camping trip or in your backyard when the power goes out. Models range from fold-up DIY kits to top-of-the-line hybrids with a plug-in option. \$25-\$300; Solar Cookers International, solarcookers.org or Amazon.



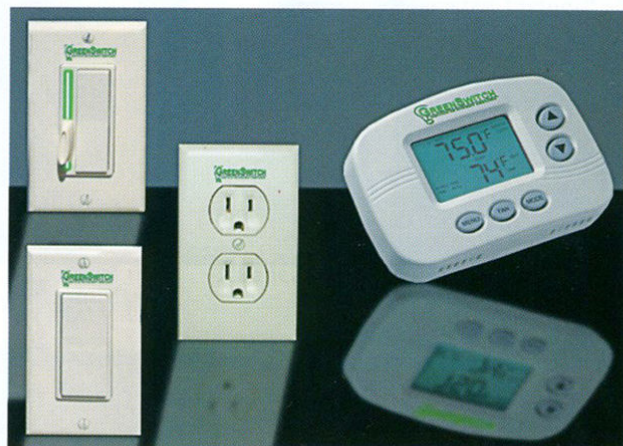
The Body Deli

Using commercial skin care products is akin to putting processed food on your face, says David Parker, the major creative force behind The Body Deli, a Palm Desert-based line of organic personal care products. The cleansers, moisturizers and other scrubs, creams and shampoos made at The Body Deli are all whipped up on site and use many locally produced ingredients. Feeding your face takes on a whole new meaning. \$8-\$140; Body Deli, 73-910 Hwy 111, Palm Desert; thebodydeli.com.



GreenSwitch

This one is for folks of all ages who can't seem to remember to turn off lights, thermostats or other home electronics, or who think putting their electronics on standby or sleep mode means they're turned off. Nope, "phantom" or "vampire" power suckers in your home can still add major bucks to your electric bill. This wireless system lets you turn off the whole lot with one flick of a switch on your way out. A residential system costs approximately \$1,100, which includes the master switch, 3 outlets, 3 light switches, a thermostat and key fob. Green Bay Group; greenbaygroup.net.



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