

Ode

FOR INTELLIGENT OPTIMISTS

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ECOLUNCHBOX: REUSABLE LUNCH KITS

Many of us fill our lunches—or our children's lunches—with individually packaged foods and other plastic containers that go straight into the garbage after use. Why not smarten up our lunches? thought Sandra Ann Harris, founder of ECOLunchbox, based in the San Francisco Bay Area. So she created reusable cotton lunch bags that can be sported as backpacks, slings and shoulder or hip bags. Harris' bags are colorfully dyed in India, and are handmade, sweatshop-free and machine-washable. Each bag contains three cotton napkins, a stainless steel two-tier food container and a bamboo "spork." By taking the plastic waste out of a packed lunch, we're left with only good, compostable waste like apple cores and banana peels. ■ ECOLUNCHBOX KIT, \$45 ■ ECOLUNCHBOXES.COM



The average family with kids in school spends almost \$550 for supplies.

Have your school supplies?

From levitating globes to eco-lunchboxes, here's the latest in cool school gear.



School Lunches How to not eat away at Mother Earth

Did you know the average child generates 67 pounds of school-lunch waste each year? That's nearly 19,000 pounds of trash for a typical-size school. These Bay Area companies are putting the "green" in school lunch, helping you save the planet

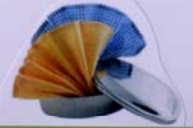
mothering

INSPIRING NATURAL PARENTS SINCE 1974

Genius

Zero-waste lunch and back-to-school basics with a surplus of style

Remember those nifty metal lunch boxes we used to take to school? Well, metal—in the form of stainless steel—is back in a big way. But unlike before, you can share these new lunch boxes with your kid without looking like a raver.



Parents' Press

The SF Bay Area's Locally Owned Parent Newspaper

ECO LUNCHBOX

Being a mother of two children in elementary school helps when it comes to designing a lunchbox. "I wanted to design a lunch bag that didn't look exclusively like a purse," said Lafayette mom Sandra Ann Harris.

Her cloth Eco Lunchboxes (\$30-\$35) are something that both her 9-year-old son, Nikolo, and 6-year-old daughter, Mabel, can enjoy. Shaped like a brown paper bag, each Eco Lunchbox is made of organic cotton block-printed in India by a collective, with an interior of canvas for durability. The bags are reversible and machine washable.

"There is nothing cookie cutter about them because of the block printing," said Harris. "It's the reinvented brown paper bag with a twist."



Green to Go This six-piece set uses cotton and sustainable bamboo.

ECO Lunchbox

Healthy for People & the Planet

I think I might have a lunchbox/bag addiction problem this year! I found yet another awesome waste-free lunch system by ECOLunchboxes. While I thought I was getting this one for my son, when it arrived I feel in love with it and I'm keeping it for myself.



Sandra Ann Harris of Lafayette, mother of two and a veteran of the "daily battle of the lunch," has waste-free lunch wrapped up. Her solution? An ECOLunchbox, which is actually a machine-washable cotton bag holding three cloth napkins/placemats, bamboo utensils and a three-compartment stainless steel container. \$45 at Whole Foods, REI and ecolunchboxes.com.

PHOTO BY WWW.DAVIDALLENSTUDIO.COM

FOOD & WINE

best new lunch totes

These reusable carriers are good eco-alternatives to disposable bags.

—Christine Quinlan



LUNCH

the new box set

Organic Connections

The magazine of Peter Gillham's News

NATURAL VITALITY

The Mom and the Eco-friendly Lunchbox

published: March 1, 2010



There are many people (you likely know one or two yourself) who will occasionally have brilliant ideas to help one or another of the planet's big problems. There is a severe dividing line, though, between those who have such ideas and those who actually set out to implement them.

Take, for example, the mom who became conscientious about the amount of plastic she was consuming and throwing away just packing lunches. Not only was discarding plastics an

Organics, Health & Wellnes

ECOLUNCHBOX OFFERS ALTERNATIVE TO WASTE

Buying reusable lunchware, such as a hand-crafted stainless steel ECOLunchbox, can help prevent trash from being thrown away, states the cover of *Organics, Health & Wellnes*. "Reusable lunchware is a classic green gift that lasts and giving the whole year round," says ECOLunchbox founder Sandra Ann Harris, whose