

### Buy this handbag

Robin Givhan's Dec. 9 Style article, "Buy this handbag, save the planet?," about high-end fashion houses "going green," was further proof of how radically our society must change if we are to address climate change. The solution is not to nip and tuck around the edges by no longer using leather-curing chemicals that are bad for the environment but, rather, to yank up by the roots the consumerist culture, the throw-away mentality that prevails in this country, demonstrated by the "need" to buy the newest phone every year, a new car every few years, etc.



We need to stop purchasing so many material items that leave permanent footprints on the environment: the materials used to make them, the fuel required to transport them and space in the Earth once we no longer want them. We need to make do with less. Besides, we should demand that the products we buy do not have a built-in limited life-span. It is time to understand the difference between needs and desires and to live and purchase accordingly.

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