



Case Study: Monkey Bars

City of Alameda, California

Monkey Bars is changing the way we think about children’s accessories by providing hip and stylish alternatives that are healthy for kids and the planet.

While the emphasis is on apparel, Monkey Bars provides a wide variety of products for children’s daily needs, including strollers, baby carriers, feeding and diapering products, as well as mattresses and toys. All items have undergone extensive review to ensure they are as sustainably made and toxin-free as claimed. This assurance, in part, is guaranteed by the personal relationships that Monkey Bars creates with their suppliers. Monkey Bars prioritizes local and US-made products, which helps ensure these strong bonds.

“There is something here for everyone and people can feel confident that items will be safe.”

-Heather Reed, Owner of Monkey Bars

At Monkey Bars, major efforts are made to reduce waste and energy usage. They receive 90% of their invoices, catalogues and order forms electronically to minimize paper waste. Packing materials and shipping boxes are all recycled or re-used. They do not use a heating or air-conditioning system, nor do they have major electrical appliances. The store’s lights are all super-efficient LED and energy-saving compact fluorescent bulbs.

Monkey Bars’ positive impact does not stop with the products they sell or with their daily operations.

Owner Heather Reed engages with the local community by offering workshops on a variety of health and environmental issues, and by sharing best practices, quick tips and the latest information on green parenting on her store’s blog.

Other notable practices include:

- Voluntarily enrolling in Alameda Green, a program through the local utility to support renewable energy.
- Using low flush toilets and faucet that save hundreds of gallons of water each month.
- All printing paper is 100% recycled-content.



Products made in the US and local when possible undergo review to ensure that they are sustainable.

THE RESULTS

In the past year, Monkey Bars saved:

- 2,411 kWh of energy,
- 4,650 gallons of water, and
- 1,754 of CO2



Bodysuits and onesies made from 100% soft organic cotton represent some of the many eco-friendly clothing items offered at Monkey Bars.

Learn more about the Bay Area Green Business Program at www.greenbusinessca.org
Contact Alameda County Coordinator Pamela Evans at pamela.evans@acgov.org