


Greener Leather Tannery in Vietnam to Supply Global Footwear Brands

by [Warren McLaren, Sydney](#) on 09.29.08

 isa tantec eco leather factory. photo

Leather is a very contentious material. Certainly whenever we mention it here, we are inundated with emotional responses from been a integral element of [human history](#) from at least 2,000 BC. But, even setting aside issues of animal welfare, it has not be industries, as this report on the [leather production process](#) in Pakistan clearly indicates.

So it was pleasing to see a recent media release announcing the construction of a greener leather tannery in Vietnam, that will s Timberland, New Balance, Keen, Reef, Simple Shoes and Hush Puppies. The plant operated by German/Chinese consortium, IS what they call LITE (Low Impact To the Environment) leather. They make this claim by reducing energy loads by 30% and water

Two million square metres of leather will be produced in the factory, which is due to open in June 2009.

Water Conservation

A solar hot water system will not only provide the hot production water, but also offer shading for the carpark (did they [Patagonia's photovoltaic carpark?](#)). Additional hot water will be collected from the water used to cooled the hydraulic s is pumped up by a windmill and waste water is partially treated by a bamboo grove.

Energy Reduction

Energy is to be reduced by a variety of means, one of which includes a green roof, which moderates the high Vietnam: ambient air temperature. No doubt the 280 employees will also welcome this measure.

When in operation it is anticipated that "The tannery will emit 35% less CO2 than conventional production facilities, bas dioxide emissions for each square meter of leather produced."

[::ISA TanTec](#), via [Sports One Source](#)

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- [Chrome-free EcoPell Leather](#)
- [Can Leather Be a TreeHugger-Friendly Material?](#)
- [Organic Leather: The Company and The Product](#)



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Inuits tanned leather by chewing on it, and urinating on it. The natural enzymes of both processes worked wonders on the leather. The most ancient tanning methods are the best. Museums have traditionally tanned leather goods

hundreds of years old that are still supple.

A Russian sailing vessel that sank off Britain in the mid-1700s, carrying tanned hides, was salvaged recently, and the leather was in a perfect state of preservation. The hides were made into bespoke shoes that went for thousands of dollars, partially perhaps because of the novelty value, but also because the leather was exquisite.

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rob says:

This makes me really happy because I love New Balance sneakers and Timberland shoes but I've been avoiding brands that aren't more eco-friendly.

I recently discovered Pikolinos shoes and Groundhog shoes, both in the earth friendly shoes over at PlanetShoes.com. Seeing all the brands together and finding good prices has made me much more conscious of what I'm buying since getting eco-friendly leather or canvas is so much easier and more affordable now.

I found this article to be really interesting - it made me read that whole report from Pakistan and I'm definitely going to be thinking twice before I buy leather goods from now on.

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Blair Stephens says:

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