Hoover & Strong manufactures over 30,000 eco-friendly jewelry products, all made in the USA with Harmony Recycled Precious Metals, all of which carry the SCS third-party certification of recycled content.

From mill products to finished bridal jewelry, our jewelers have the opportunity to create the most responsible, eco-friendly jewelry in the history of this industry.

SCS Certification
All Harmony Recycled Precious Metals manufactured at Hoover & Strong including gold, platinum, palladium and silver are 100% recycled. We are audited every year by SCS Global Services, and have received the renewal certificates for 100% recycled precious metals every year since our original certification.

More Green Efforts within the Hoover & Strong Facility
- We recycle all plastic and glass bottles, aluminum cans, steel, copper, batteries, white papers, newspapers, magazines and cardboard packaging
- We have replaced our fluorescent ceiling lights for LED lights which use less energy
- Skylights and large windows provide natural light in the factory
- Our newer equipment runs on 3-phase electricity which uses less power than 1-phase electricity
- Controlled thermostats, set to energy-saving 68 degrees during the day, off at night
- We use recycled laser toner cartridges in our printers
Hoover & Strong has been refining precious metals for over 103 years and we pride ourselves on being the **WORLD’S GREENEST REFINER**!

Our refinery uses processes that produce 75% less chemicals and create zero waste water discharge. Scrubber systems remove harmful particulates from all exhaust fumes, so only clean air enters the environment. All cooling water for the smelting furnaces is recycled.

Hoover & Strong utilizes environmentally-friendly refining techniques that always exceed federal, state and local environmental regulations.

In April 2012, SCS Global Services certified us as a Responsible Refiner. This certification confirms our ongoing commitment to the environment and to our customers who demand ethical practices with minimal environmental impact.

We are proud to have earned this certification and we will continue to strive to be the most responsible, eco-friendly refiner in the industry.

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### What Makes Us the World’s Greenest Refiner

- Our gold refining process reduces the quantity of waste products generated per ounce recovered by 75%.

- Our platinum and palladium refining processes reduce the quantity of waste products generated per ounce recovered by 60%.

- All furnace and chemical exhaust fumes are processed through a scrubber system that removes all harmful particulates, neutralizes the acidity, cleaning the air before it is released into the environment.

- Our zero discharge waste water treatment facility removes all harmful materials from the water before it is evaporated. Absolutely no waste water is discharged into the environment.

- All cooling water for our refining smelting furnaces is provided by a fully recycled, no-loss water cooling system.

- Supplier screening and supply chain risk assessment practices are in use to prevent destructive environmental practices.

- Fair labor practices and labor protections are in place to ensure fair treatment of workers.

- All refining processes and products are manufactured in a USA facility certified for environmental and social accountability.
**Hoover & Strong’s Responsible Diamond Sources**

**Harmony Recycled Diamonds** - The most eco-friendly natural diamonds available

A recycled diamond has been previously set in jewelry, then removed and reintroduced into the supply chain for resale. Many millions of recycled diamonds are part of the world’s existing, above ground, supply of diamonds. Hoover & Strong participates in the acquisition and reintroduction of these diamonds back into the jewelry supply chain.

**How we obtain Harmony Recycled Diamonds** - We provide refining services to our customers which include free stone removal, diamond brokering, melee sorting and diamond grading. These services allow our customers the opportunity to recycle and sell their stones for the highest prices, and allow us to feed our inventory of Harmony Recycled Diamonds. We also buy loose diamonds.

**Canadian Diamonds** - Hoover & Strong offers certified, conflict free, diamonds from the Canadian Arctic. These diamonds are mined in the Canadian North and responsibly cut and polished. Their production and sale are subject to strict standards, set out by the Canadian Code of Conduct, CanadaMark™, and the Government of the Northwest Territories, designed to protect the Arctic environment, mine workers and local employees. Known for their sparkle and clarity, Canadian diamonds rank among the most spectacular diamonds currently available.

**Hoover & Strong’s Responsible Diamond Services**

**Refining, Stone Removal, Melee Sorting and Stone Brokering** - We buy diamonds from customers’ refining lots. Removing diamonds from metal scrap can be a time-consuming process for our customers, often resulting in significant stone breakage. Our state-of-the-art chemical processing facility removes diamonds quickly and safely, without a lot of stone damage or waste. We also buy loose diamonds...breakouts and melee, including all stone sizes, shapes, qualities and quantities. This service saves our customers valuable time and money. We are able to pay the highest prices for their diamonds because we recycle them.

**Harmony Diamond Auctions** - Hoover & Strong has given our jewelers the opportunity to sell their diamonds in auction at the highest prices, easily and safely. This revolutionary online platform recycles diamonds back into the jewelry supply chain. Diamond sellers can connect worldwide with qualified diamond buyers and get the highest prices for their stones without any risks. Diamond buyers have access to a large selection of guaranteed recycled diamonds and can place bids online without a deposit. Detailed descriptions, photos and expert grading information allow diamond buyers to place their bids online, risk-free, from the comfort of their own home or office.

**myAuction** - With the introduction of myAuction in 2016, Hoover & Strong has given jewelers the opportunity to increase store revenue without any risks or up-front costs. myAuction websites, customized for each participating jewelry store, allow store customers to auction their diamonds online to a large audience of qualified buyers. Easy to use and secure, this auction gives customers a platform to recycle their diamonds and receive the highest prices for their stones.
Fairmined® Gold and Silver - A Second Way for our Customers to Purchase Metal Responsibly

In 2013, Hoover & Strong partnered with Ethical Metalsmiths to bring Fairmined Gold to the U.S. for the very first time. Now, in addition to Harmony Recycled Precious Metal products, our customers have the additional option of choosing responsible jewelry products made from Certified Fairmined Gold or Silver. These Fairmined purchases positively impact thousands of artisanal miners, their families and communities that are in need.

Fairmined is an assurance label that certifies gold from responsible Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining (ASM). It is backed by a rigorous 3rd party certification that ensures that small entrepreneurial mining communities meet world leading standards for responsible practices. Fairmined transforms mining into an active force for good, delivering social development and environmental protection, providing everyone with a source of gold they can be proud of.

For every kilo of Fairmined Gold and Silver that we purchase, a fair price and premium is paid directly to the mining organization. The community, as a group, decides how to spend the premium, whether it be on improved working conditions or on an improved quality of life.

Since obtaining their Fairmined Certification in 2012, the AURELSA mine in Peru (our first Fairmined source) has accomplished many important milestones:

- AURELSA is recognized regionally as a leader of responsible mining
- Through Fairmined, AURELSA is now a direct exporter of their own gold
- Operation and maintenance of three schools, supporting 500+ students
- Investment in the local health center and subsidized community grocery store
- The construction of a desorption plant, resulting in increased efficiencies
- Investment in the construction of roads to facilitate easier access of miners and community members
- Investment in improvements to the security of the processing plant
- Investment in workplace health and safety, including equipment
- Investment in financial systems to improve reporting and internal system of control, including the construction of a desorption plant resulting in increased efficiencies and retained value

AURELSA mine information above obtained from www.fairmined.org

SCS Certified Fairmined Gold and Silver

On August 1, 2015, Hoover & Strong received the SCS Certification for our Fairmined Gold and Silver. This certification guarantees that our Fairmined Gold and Fairmined Silver products meet all necessary qualifications to be certified for the following claim: This certificate validates the permission granted by the Alliance for Responsible Mining for this holder to act as a: Fairmined First Authorized Buyer.