

A photograph of a red canoe on a calm lake. The canoe is in the foreground, pointing towards the center of the frame. The water is still and reflects the sky and the forested shore in the background. The sky is a deep teal color. The text "Our Environmental Journey" is centered in the upper half of the image.

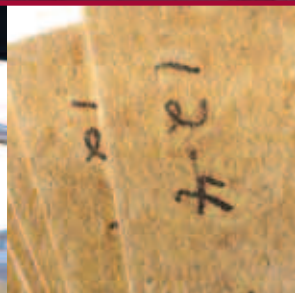
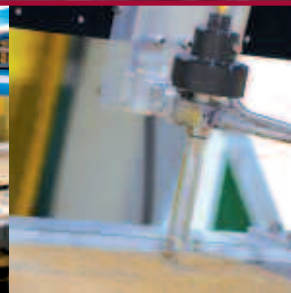
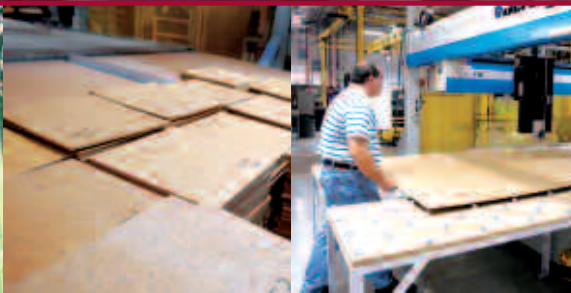
# Our Environmental Journey

**HON**



Environmental responsibility is a journey, not a destination. The HON Company embarked on its journey more than 60 years ago, when we crafted one of our first product lines out of recycled scrap metal. We continue to respect the finite nature of the Earth's resources today, as we chart a course for a greener world. We've made great progress in reducing our impact on the environment. But we know there is much more to do. And we will keep striving for improvement anywhere and everywhere we can.

We invite you to join us on our quest.



## Growing New Ideas.

Office furniture manufacturers typically use some form of acoustical control material within systems furniture panels. The HON Company has developed an alternative with a reduced environmental impact. We call it Nature Core™ fiberboard.

Nature Core is a non-woven composite material made up of a blend of natural and synthetic fibers. The natural fiber is called kenaf, which is derived from an annually renewable plant related to cotton and okra. It's a remarkably fast-growing plant, rising to heights of 12-14 feet in

as little as four to five months, and it can yield six to ten tons of dry fiber per acre, year after year.

The HON Company was the first manufacturer to render kenaf suitable for panel system use. The kenaf fibers are combined with synthetic fibers and processed into roll goods. The roll goods are treated with our patented smoke- and flame-retardant applications to ensure the finished product meets UL Class "A" fire rating.

## NATURE CORE HIGHLIGHTS:

- Kenaf fibers are annually renewable
- No formaldehyde is added
- Fire-retardant materials are natural and non-brominated
- Sound Transmission Classification (STC) exceeding BIFMA standards

# Waste not, want not.



Way back in 1947, The HON Company's founders made a decision that would forever shape our relationship to the planet and its resources. In the wake of material shortages precipitated by World War II, they refused to squander even an ounce of the scrap metal generated in their factory. Instead, they made recipe boxes out of it. "Waste not, want not," was their philosophy. It remains part of our corporate DNA more than sixty years later.



## Clearing the Air.

In 2006, The HON Company became the world's first office furniture manufacturer to have products certified by the Indoor Advantage™ program. Virtually all manufactured products emit chemical compounds into the air. Indoor Advantage evaluates these compounds to help improve the air quality within enclosed indoor environments.

Developed by Scientific Certification Systems (SCS), the Indoor Advantage program certifies that products meet the emission limits specified by BIFMA's Furniture Emission Standards. Further, Indoor Advantage tests individual components as well as overall assemblies, and provides detailed analysis of a comprehensive range of chemicals rather than a simple pass/fail for only the most common. This enables us to help our suppliers reduce the environmental impact of their products and processes, too.



SCS offers two levels of certification:

- **Indoor Advantage** certifies conformance with LEED-CI criteria for EQ4.5, as well as BIFMA X7.1 Low-Emitting Furniture and Seating.
- **Indoor Advantage Gold** certifies additional conformance with California 01350 Special Environmental Requirements and Collaborative for High Performance Schools (CHPS).

For the most current list of certified HON furniture, please visit [hon.com/sustainability](http://hon.com/sustainability).



## Lean is Green.

What began in 1947 as the relentless pursuit of waste reduction had morphed into a formal environmental management program by the 1980s. In the 1990s, we adopted lean manufacturing, and settled on a new definition of waste: it's anything that does not bring value to the customer.



### Call it Treecycling.

Trees contribute more than just beauty to the world – they also reduce atmospheric carbon dioxide, increase available oxygen, filter air pollutants, decrease water pollutants, reduce flooding and more. While trees are renewable resources, they're also relatively slow growing. That's why The HON Company has taken steps to reduce the number of trees that must be cut down to create our products.

Rather than newly harvested wood, we use postconsumer wood waste for many seating components. Basically, we're recycling wood that has already been

used for other products and is now being discarded after completing its intended use. We use a compression molding process to form this wood waste into usable "boards."

This process, called comold, enables us to save roughly 400,000 trees and divert thousands of tons of wood waste from landfills - every single year.



What does bring value? Using only what we need. Conserving limited resources. Maximizing health and safety. These result in better products for our customers, better working conditions for our members and a better world for us all. The bottom line: Less waste equals less cost. That makes our lean, green approach a good business decision as well as a smart environmental strategy.



## Old Paint Made New Again.

The HON Company's waste-reduction efforts extend to the paint we use on our products. Our powdercoat finishes are applied in a special chamber that continuously collects unused paint particles and loops them back into an electrostatic spray gun.





## Shoddy Thinking.

The HON Company minimizes fabric waste by using precise, computer-guided cutting machines. Nonetheless, fabric scraps are inevitable. We collect our scrap fabric and turn it over to a company that shreds it for use in “shoddy” – a fibrous material predominately used in the automotive industry.

Annually, we recycle 200-300 bales of fabric scraps -- keeping 1,000 lbs of fabric waste per bale out of landfills.



# People Who Care.

The HON Company is headquartered in Iowa, on the banks of the mighty Mississippi River. Our fathers and grandfathers made their living off this rich and fertile land, and it enriches us with its beauty and majesty every day. So it should come as no surprise that we feel a special responsibility to preserve it for generations to come. Not just here, but around the planet.

## LEED, Don't Follow.

The LEED® green building certification program is the internationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction and operation of high-performance green buildings. LEED gives building owners and operators a road map for making environmentally conscientious decisions. Buildings can achieve LEED certification by meeting certain prerequisites and performance benchmarks (credits).

Most HON products can contribute toward one or more credits in the LEED for Commercial Interiors category. For details, please visit [hon.com/sustainability](http://hon.com/sustainability).

## Bulking Up.

For years, The HON Company has been working to reduce the amount of packing material delivered to customer sites. Our bulk packing option consumes fewer raw materials and decreases the amount of shipping material our customers must recycle or send to landfills.



We've been relatively quiet about our environmental accomplishments thus far – we're Midwesterners, after all, and we don't like to boast. But we now have a new way to keep you informed.

For more details on the programs highlighted in this brochure, and to monitor the progress of our environmental journey, please visit **[hon.com/sustainability](http://hon.com/sustainability)**.

The Journey Continues Online.

**Green Paper:** This brochure is printed on Mohawk Options® paper, which is certified as 100% recycled by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). All fiber comes from postconsumer waste in accordance with FSC standards.



1992 The HON Company introduces Rapid Continuous Improvement (RCI), which empowers employees to develop more efficient production processes and eliminate waste, thereby benefiting the environment and the bottom line.

2003 The HON Company is awarded the *Evergreen Furniture Award for Innovation and Environmentally Preferable Products* from the General Services Administration (GSA).

2004 Based on case studies of the environmental benefits attributed to RCI, The HON Company is awarded a *Pollution Prevention Award* by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).

2005 The HON Company is recognized for its contributions to a *Lean and the Environment Tool Kit* produced by the USEPA.

2006 The HON Company is the first office furniture manufacturer to participate in Scientific Certification System's Indoor Advantage air quality certification program, assuring the best possible air quality for office workers.

2007 The HON Company introduces Nature Core and becomes the first office furniture manufacturer to receive Indoor Advantage Gold certification for a panel system (Initiate®).

2009 The HON Company received level™ certification for its panels systems Initiate and Abound®, becoming one of the first manufacturers to receive the certification.

2010 At the time of this printing, The HON Company has received level™ 2 certification for 60 product lines. That means more than 80 percent of our product volume has earned this important certification, which evaluates multiple sustainability attributes, including Materials, Energy and Atmosphere, Human and Ecosystem Health, and Social Responsibility.

[hon.com/sustainability](http://hon.com/sustainability)

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