

## ECO PEARLS OF WISDOM



Eco-expert Nicole Cardi  
of Cereplast

Go ahead; pile on gilt adornment without feeling guilty. Eco-chic jewelry, from simple silver studs to hypnotically sparkly sapphires, is everywhere. Next time you're feeling blue, remember that a Green agenda can include beacoup de bijoux. As vice president of Cereplast, a sustainable bioplastics manufacturer, Nicole Cardi is well versed in ethical accessorizing. Both online and in stores, consumers can find an abundance of jewelry that reflects eco-friendly materials, methods, and market standards. Use Nicole's Pearls of Wisdom and Precious Picks to gift yourself — or someone else — something gorgeous and green.

### Pearls of Wisdom:

#### 1. Bauble Buzzwords:

- **Conflict Free Diamonds:** To join the global fight against human rights abuses, buy diamonds mined and manufactured according to high ethical and environmental standards.
- **Choose Fair Trade Diamonds,** and help increase the economic incentive to employ fair prices, livable wages, and safe labor practices.
- **Cultured Pearls** are more eco-friendly than most gems because they're farmed in water (Aquaculture), rather than mined from the earth.
- **Land Mining vs. Created Gemstones:** Some manufacturers prefer synthetic gems because land mining displaces earth and leaks residual chemicals into the ground. Other producers, however, mine gems through low-impact methods.

2. **Old is Green:** Vintage jewelry, the epitome of eco-chic, comes with a social conscience and unique story at no extra charge.

3. **Made to Last:** Find jewelry made from sustainable materials like hemp, cotton, wood, and glass beads. Avoid plastic, unless of course, it's Bioplastic.

### Nicole's Precious Picks:



Ecojewel

**Fortunoff** recently launched **Ecojewel** — a collection of modern but romantic sterling silver pieces plated in 18 karat gold. Delicate floral cutouts lend Ecojewel a distinctly artisanal feel. Buy Pear-shaped drop earrings at fortunoffjewelry.com or Fortunoff stores.



Alex and Ani

**Alex and Ani** take from the earth — inspiration, that is. Using recycled materials, the company creates all of its beautifully wrought, bohemian pieces in the US, repurposing local refineries' scraps into metallic masterpieces. Buy Jordan Beaded Expandable Wire Bangle Set in Yellow Gold at alexandani.com



Dogeared

**Dogeared's** charming pendants come with a purpose — to support social and environmental change. Proceeds from the company's Karma collection go to various nonprofit organizations, including Heal the Bay, which works to improve the cleanliness, safety, and health of California's coastal waters and watersheds. Buy the gold dipped Life's a Beach necklace and learn how Dogeared puts Karma in Action at dogeared.com.



Brilliant Earth

**Brilliant Earth** offers an exquisite collection of "ethically sourced" fine jewelry. An unwavering devotion to social responsibility means that every piece, from diamond rings to platinum pendants, meets high environmental standards. Buy Brilliant Earth White Gold Halo Pendant at brilliantearth.com