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**ECO™ BY COSENTINO SELECTED AS THE OFFICIAL COUNTERTOP OF THE CHARITYWORKS GREENHOUSE  
THE FIRST CARBON NEUTRAL SHOWHOUSE ON THE EAST COAST**

**NEW YORK, New York (September 18, 2009)** – **ECO™ by Cosentino** ([www.ecobyconsentino.com](http://www.ecobyconsentino.com)), an innovative new line of eco-friendly surfacing material composed of **75% recycled material** is proud to have been selected as the official countertop of **The CharityWorks GreenHouse**, the first carbon neutral designer showhouse in the Washington, DC area. *Traditional Home* magazine is the national media sponsor of The GreenHouse, which will be open to the public from October 10-30, 2009. ECO by Cosentino countertops will be used throughout the home in the **kitchen, laundry room, guest bathroom** and **powder room**.

ECO™ by Cosentino is composed of **75% post-industrial and post-consumer recycled raw material**, including: **mirrors** salvaged from houses, building and factories; **glass** from windows and bottles; **granulated glass** from consumer recycling practices; **porcelain** from china, tiles, sinks, toilets and decorative elements; and **industrial furnace residuals** from factories in the form of crystallized ashes. The raw materials are bonded together with a proprietary eco-friendly corn oil based resin to create a hard durable surface. The production of ECO™ by Cosentino will utilize the equivalent of **60,000,000 glass bottles every year**.

ECO™ by Cosentino is GREENGUARD certified for low chemical emissions and architects and building teams can gain points toward **LEED certification** from the U.S. Green Building Council for a building project that utilizes ECO™ by Cosentino surfacing.

Constructed by West-Group in collaboration with GreenSpur, Inc., and designed by the architectural firm of Cunningham Quill, the CharityWorks GreenHouse offers a truly new paradigm for sustainability, whereby green interior design, combined with innovative engineering and building construction can reduce carbon emissions to create a healthier home for individuals and for the planet. The GreenHouse was designed to qualify for the LEED Platinum Certification.

The GreenHouse features the eco-friendly designs of 19 acclaimed interior designers led by internationally recognized designer Barry Dixon. Together, they have transformed the interiors of the CharityWorks GreenHouse into a visionary example of stylish, green design for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Located within walking distance of downtown McLean, Va., the home includes a broad array of sustainable furnishings, fabrics and finishes. Proceeds from the CharityWorks GreenHouse benefit the Friendship Public Charter School in Washington, D.C., the McLean Project for the Arts, the Injured Marines Semper Fi Fund and the Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund. For more information regarding the CharityWorks GreenHouse, please visit [www.charityworksgreenhouse.com](http://www.charityworksgreenhouse.com)

For the kitchen, Design Chair **Barry Dixon** selected ECO by Cosentino countertops in *Riverbed*, one of ECO's 10 stylish colors, for its look and durability. Dixon's goal was to bring the natural world inside and use a surfacing material that was not only beautiful, but strong. "Our countertops for the kitchen had to be organic, practical, and totally green. What's great about ECO by Cosentino is that it has the look and feel of stone, but is actually a lot more durable for everyday use. You don't even have to seal it. It's a beautiful product *and* it's made from society's throwaways!" said Dixon.

In addition to the kitchen, the laundry room, powder room and guest bathroom have been outfitted with ECO by Cosentino vanity tops, highlighting the numerous uses for this sustainable surfacing material.

**Miriam Dillon**, a senior designer with Custom Design Concepts selected ECO for the powder room and laundry room because of its manufacturing processes and its durability. “We loved that Cosentino is reutilizing waste material and that they have healthy practices in their product manufacturing. It is also stain and scratch resistant – such an important feature in a laundry room,” she said. For the laundry room, she selected *Polar Cap*, a beautiful white hue with mirrored flecks. For the powder room, she chose *Luna*, a neutral, yet textural color-way.

Interior Designer **Sandra Meyers** of **Sandra Meyers Design Studio** preferred ECO to other countertops because of its high content of recycled materials and color range. “When I started to look for eco-friendly countertop options and came across ECO by Cosentino, I was pleasantly surprised by the amount of post consumer product they use and also by their range of colors. As a designer we are always looking for new product and this one is good for the environment,” she added.

ECO by Cosentino is helping to take green from *niche to the norm*, with availability at all Lowe’s home stores and kitchen and bath retailers nationwide. Prices range from **\$75 - \$110 per sq. ft.** depending on thickness and color, similar to the cost of a granite, but less harmful to the environment.

“We are delighted that ECO™ by Cosentino countertops are used throughout the CharityWorks GreenHouse. It is an honor for ECO to be recognized and selected by a team of such talented designers and architects. We hope that visitors will feel empowered after visiting the show house and will continue the dialogue on green building and green design with their friends and neighbors,” said Lorenzo Marquez, VP of Marketing, Cosentino North America.

#### **About ECO™ by Cosentino**

ECO™ by Cosentino is a new eco-friendly durable surface that has high stain, scratch and scorch performance. It is non-porous and does not require sealers. ECO™ by Cosentino is available in jumbo slabs and standard tiles in 10 designer colors, suitable for both commercial and residential projects. ECO™ by Cosentino has been awarded Cradle-to-Cradle certification and has been recognized by the U.S. Green Building Council for contributing towards five to nine credits in the LEED certification system. For more information, visit [www.ecobycosentino.com](http://www.ecobycosentino.com)

#### **About Cosentino North America**

Cosentino, a global natural stone manufacturer, began harvesting precious stones from the finest quarries in Europe close to a century ago. The Spanish company currently distributes material in more than 80 countries. Cosentino North America was established in 1998 to distribute and market natural quartz products in the US, Canada and Mexico. With 11 manufacturing lines, Cosentino is the largest manufacturer of natural quartz surfaces in the world. The company covers the entire process of producing natural stone products including quarrying, fabricating and installing surfaces, such as kitchen and bathroom countertops, wall cladding and many other applications. For more information visit [www.cosentinonorthamerica.com](http://www.cosentinonorthamerica.com).

#### **About Charity Works**

CharityWorks is a volunteer-led community organization that has been making connections between dreams and reality for more than a decade. Since 1999 CharityWorks has channeled millions of dollars to community organizations doing the hard work of helping children and families overcome challenges and break the cycle of poverty that continues to plague our nation’s capital.

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