Silestone Stellar Night has 35% post consumer recycled glass content.
### Table of Contents

**Sections**

1 - Background and Purpose  
2 - Silestone’s Role in LEED-NC Projects  
3 - Environmental Support and Prevention Leaders  
4 - USGBC and LEED Green Building Rating System

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**The USGBC** is a non-profit coalition of building industry professionals. They seek to improve the environmental quality of buildings and communities. The USGBC has set the leading national standard for green building: The LEED Green Building Rating System. LEED is a voluntary consensus-based national standard developed by the USGBC to support and validate green building design, construction and operations.
SECTION 1 - Background & Purpose

Building teams throughout North America are realizing a rapid movement toward green building. New design strategies and an increasing use of more sustainable products will be required to support this movement. Such effort will maximize points toward the voluntary LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified building projects. It will also result in compliance with new national sustainability standards and updated local building and energy codes. Because of this reality, Cosentino N.A. manufacturers of Silestone® Natural Quartz has outlined in this document how building teams can benefit from and derive valuable LEED credits when Silestone® Quartz surfaces are included in:

1) the design and construction of new buildings AND,
2) renovations to existing buildings

Sustainable “green” or high performance building design strategies are desirable.

1) they can cut long-term energy needs to improve indoor environment quality, AND
2) they serve to reduce the overall environmental impact of a building.

Many building owners and communities believe that it is proper and environmentally responsible to build facilities which have a minimum impact on our earth’s resources. Green building is one of the ways they attempt to fulfill that mandate.

For example, carbon dioxide emissions generated from the burning of fossil fuels are considered by many to be one the largest contributors to climate change, a contribution that humans can and should control in coming years. A green building can lessen the structure’s reliance on electricity generated by burning coal or other fossil fuels.

U.S. BUILDING IMPACTS:

Source: LEED™ Rating System Version 2.1
Of the many possible green design strategies, this document specifically addresses the role of Silestone® Quartz surfaces in a green building environment. Silestone's unique manufacturing process of built-in Microban® antimicrobial product protection, NSF Certification and GREENGUARD Indoor Air Quality Certification make Silestone® Quartz a Cleaner, Greener surface to use in all of your design projects.

An additional purpose of this document is to assist architects, specifiers, and design teams who want to maintain aesthetics and safety within a building’s interior design with the use of Silestone® Quartz while pursuing LEED Green Building Rating System points toward certification.

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**LEED Points Available when using Silestone in your projects:**

1) Recycled Content: 10% (post-consumer + 1/2 pre-consumer) = 1 point
2) Recycled Content: 20% (post-consumer + 1/2 pre-consumer) = 1 point
3) Regional Materials 10% Extracted, Processed & Manufactured Regionally = 1 point
4) Emitting Materials: Adhesives & Sealants = 1 point

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**The Next Generation’s Perspective Will Increase Green Building:**

89% Choose brands aligned with social cause
74% Listen to brands aligned with social cause
69% Shop for brands aligned with social cause
66% Recommend brands aligned with social cause

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**Perceived Advantages of Building Green:**

- 8-9% decrease in operating costs
- 6.6% improvement in ROI
- 7.5% increase in building values
- 3-5% increase in occupancy

Source: LEED™ Rating System Version 2.1
Section 2 - Silestone’s Role in LEED-NC Projects

In general terms, building teams can gain points toward LEED certification from the U.S. Green Building Council for a building project with Silestone® Quartz surfacing. Silestone® Quartz surfaces are a cost-effective alternative to natural stones, laminates and other surfacing materials.

LEED does not assign points for a project. However, the information below provides detailed information for building teams that want to use Silestone® Quartz and pursuing LEED for New Construction and Major Renovations, Version 2.2, U.S. Green Building Rating System.

MR Credits 4.1 - Recycled Content: 10% (post-consumer + 1/2 pre-consumer) - 1 point

The Intent
To increase demand for building products that incorporate materials containing recycled content. This practice helps reduce the impact that can result from the extraction and processing of virgin materials.

Support: In several Silestone® colors there is a minimum of 35% post consumer recycled content. Coffee Brown, Absolute Green and the six colors in the Stellar Series contain a 35% post consumer recycled glass content. The color “Dali” is composed of more than 70% post consumer recycled glass.

Requirements
To use materials with recycled content. Here, the sum of their post-consumer recycled content plus 1/2 of their pre-consumer recycled content must constitute at least 10% (based on cost) of the total value of the materials in the project.

MR Credits 4.2 - Recycled Content: 20% (post-consumer + 1/2 pre-consumer) - 1 point

The Intent
Same as credit 4.1. However, the requirements differ. Here, building teams must use materials with recycled content such that the sum of their post-consumer recycled content plus 1/2 of their pre-consumer content constitutes as additional 10% beyond MR Credit 4.1 (total of 20%, based on cost) of the total value of the materials in the project.
Section 2 - Silestone’s Role in LEED-NC Projects continued

Requirements
To use materials with recycled content. Here, the sum of their post-consumer recycled content plus 1/2 of their pre-consumer recycled content must constitute at least 20% (based on cost) of the total value of the materials in the project.

Submittals
Provide the Leed Letter Template, signed by the architect, owner of other responsible party, declaring that the credit requirements have been met and listing the recycled content products used. Include details demonstrating that the project incorporates the required percentage of recycled content materials and products and showing their cost and percentage(s) of post-consumer and/or post-industrial content, and the total cost of all materials for the project.

MR (Materials & Resources) Credit 5.1 Regional Materials: 20% Extracted, Processed & Manufactured Regionally - 1 point

The Intent: MR Credits 5.1
To increase demand for building materials and products that are extracted and manufactured within the region. Thereby, it supports the use of indigenous resources and reduces the environmental impacts resulting from transportation.

Support: Silestone® countertops are fabricated regionally within 500 miles of a project. Cosentino N.A. has a network of regional fabricators to support your needs.

Requirements*
Use a minimum of 20% of building materials and products that are manufactured regionally within a radius of 500 miles. Manufacturing refers to the final assembly of components into the building product that is furnished and installed by the tradesmen.
Section 2 - Silestone’s Role in LEED-NC Projects continued

* For example, if the hardware comes from Dallas, TX, the lumber from Vancouver, British Columbia, and the joist is assembled in Kent, Washington, then the location of the final assembly is Kent, Washington.

Submittals
Provide the Leed Letter Template, signed by the architect, owner of other responsible party, declaring that the credit requirements have been met and listing the recycled content products used. Include calculations demonstrating that the project incorporated the required percentage of regional materials/products and showing their cost, percentage of regional components, distance from project to manufacturer, and the total cost of all materials for the project.

EQ Credit 4.1: Low - Emitting Materials: Adhesives & Sealants - 1 point

The Intent
To reduce the quantity of indoor air contaminants that are odorous, irritating and/or harmful to the comfort and well being of installers and occupants.

Support: The Silestone® network of Fabricators use DAP® caulk for countertop installations. To assure point availability make certain to request the use of DAP® caulk. DAP’s VOC content is less than the current VOC content limits of South Coast Air Quality Management District Regulation 8, Rule 51.

Requirements
The VOC content of adhesives and sealants used must be less that the current VOC content limits of South Coast Air Quality Management District Regulation 8, Rule 51.

Submittals
Provide the Leed Letter Template, signed by the architect, or responsible party, listing the adhesives and sealants used in the building and declaring that they meet the noted requirements.

*DAP is a registered trademark of DAP Products, Inc.
Section 3 - Environmental Support and Prevention Leaders

**Cosentino’s Environmental Commitment:**

_Cosentino is committed to respect, prevent, and control our environment in all of our production processes from the extraction and transformation to the distribution of our products; to accomplish this, Cosentino is investing in the best technology to preserve our most direct surroundings to favor the environment._

During the past few years, Cosentino’s rapid growth has positioned our company as a worldwide leader in the stone industry. Due to this, it is worth mentioning the opening of our new international infrastructure and the continual improvement of our industrial park in Cantoria (Almería), as well as the implementation of new production lines and product innovations, such as the addition of Microban® into our Silestone® Quartz surfaces.

All these investments would not have been possible without the establishment of strong policies of respect, prevention, and control for our environment in all aspects of our industrial processes.

From the beginning, the company has established the appropriate measurements to prevent and improve the environmental variables within the company’s most direct surroundings by investing in the latest available technology, allowing the development of Cosentino to be closely tied with respect for the environment. The objective is to implement the best environmental system to every process, and to continually improve our daily operations.

In order to achieve this, Cosentino has invested a significant percentage of its annual income in the installment and operations of various environmental systems within the stone industry. All of this make it possible for Cosentino to be one of the stone industries most green conscience companies with respect to the environment.

Source: LEED™ Rating System Version 2.1
Cosentino’s commitment in terms of **sustainability** can be summarized as follows:

- Continually improving our processes and our products using as a “tool” the **Quality Management and Environmental System**;

- Compliance with established environmental rules as well as the requirements of both the market and society;

This set of systems has imposed an investment of more 20 million dollars in the last five years.

**Facilities for the Volatile Organic Compound Purification (VOC’s) by means of Thermal Oxidation.**

It is important to emphasize the expenditures invested on the systems for treating Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC’s), which have surpassed 1.4 million dollars, and that have allowed the purification of 99% of the emissions generated by the factories, currently obtaining a quality of air far superior to the one established by the European legislation from the present year 2007.

These systems are based on the use of heat exchangers in the form of ceramic blocks that facilitate the combustion of organic compounds to convert them into carbon dioxide and water.

The uninterrupted operation of the system generates enough combustion heat to maintain the necessary temperature for decontamination, guaranteeing adequate levels for the heating system and therefore the optimization of energy requirements.

**Water Treatment in the Production Processes**

The investment in water processes, one of the most fundamental and sensible components to transform natural stone, has escalated to nearly 6 million dollars in the past few years.

This investment is shown in the new technology implemented in our productive processes, allowing optimization of the use of water and the attainment of our “zero discharge” goal.

The process of sizing, cutting, and polishing of Silestone® and other natural stones employ the use of water. Therefore, Cosentino uses 98% recycled water. Our factories have modern settlings and filtration systems with micro bubbles that have been designed exclusively for Cosentino, improving the old systems of decanting by gravity.
Through a mud reserve and a high-pressure dam, the wastewater sludge is expelled from the factories, separating the existing water as an input to the closed-circuit feed factory, favoring the subsequent controlled management of sludge and “zero discharge.”

We therefore get a double benefit: we generate efficient use of a scarce resource such as water and improve the efficiency of the machinery.

**Restoration of Quarries**

Cosentino cooperates with the quarries restoration plan as well as with the rubble places in Macael (Almeria) to recover its environment and original landscape.

The environmental actions taken by Cosentino pursue the recovery of space and landscapes of its surroundings. To achieve this goal, Cosentino cooperates with the stabilization of quarries, optimization of rubble generation, and natural erosion control. These, as well as some other actions, are helping us interact with our quarry surroundings in a respectful manner by generating new vegetation and the propagation of native species in the area. By doing so, we are trying to not only minimize the visual impact produced by the quarries’ presence, but also to utilize material which would not be used otherwise. All these steps are taking us to improve both the profitability of our quarries and the ecology of the area.

Cosentino’s challenge is to improve the quality of its surroundings and is concerned about reforestation and maintenance of the extraction areas throughout the years. By doing this, Cosentino fulfills its commitment with both the environment and society, and gives back to the area some of what has been taken out.

**Silestone® Production**

When clearing the production area of Silestone®, we use natural solutions; specifically an ecologic solvent that helps avoid emissions into the environment and improve working conditions as well as minimize residues that need to be treated in a specific way.

For the Silestone manufacturing process we have also made improvements during the past few years. Many of our existing colors have among their components post consumer recycled glass, specifically the color “Dali,” composed of more than 70% recycled glass and the Stellar Series, Coffee Brown and Absolute Green with 35% content.
To Cosentino, the pursuit of sustainability is a permanent challenge. The actions described above are not an arrival point but a permanent effort to achieve economic, social, and environmental prosperity in those areas in which Cosentino has business.

Cosentino’s environment commitment is related to its development and economical growth. At Cosentino we take the environment as a challenge to consolidate the company’s leadership and to continue the implementation and development of the most advanced systems to measure and support our environment.

To achieve its goals, Cosentino is constantly looking in the stone sector for new technology coming either from universities, clients, providers, specialized forums, or above all our employees.

Cosentino owns a system that accepts suggestions and awards the best ideas to improve both the social and the environmental aspects proposed by our employees.

The initiatives lined with our objectives are: To be a better person each day as well as respectful with our society and our surrounding environment.
### LEED Rating System Certification Levels:

|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|

**Use of Silestone® Can Contribute To Obtaining Up To (4) LEED Credits**

*Source: LEED™ Rating System Version 2.1*
For more information

The USGBC publishes LEED Reference Guides for further information about the standards for credits within the LEED Rating Systems. There are currently available for purchase from the USGBC LEED Reference Guide for New Construction, Existing Buildings, Commercial Interiors and Core and Shell Development.

According to the USGBC, the Reference Guide provide additional information about the documentation required, reference standards, potential design synergies and trade-offs, calculation methods and formulas (among other information).

For more information on Silestone® Natural Quartz visit us at www.silestoneusa.com.
Silestone Dali has 70% post consumer recycled glass content.