

# News Release

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**ERNEST MAIER BLOCK AND THE CONSERVATION FUND LAUNCH  
“BUILDING BLOCKS OF CHANGE”**

**Effort will Offset CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions from Concrete Building Materials, Restore Wildlife Habitat  
and Advance Green Building in Washington, D.C. Metro Area**

Arlington, VA—Ernest Maier Block and The Conservation Fund announced the *Building Blocks of Change* program to help offset the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from the production of concrete building materials, restore native forests for wildlife and advance green building in the Washington, D.C., metro area.

*Building Blocks of Change* is available to real estate developers, contractors, architects, designers and even residential homeowners working to advance sustainable development. For each regular concrete masonry unit or architectural concrete masonry unit purchased from Ernest Maier, customers can donate eight tenths of one cent (\$.008) toward offsetting the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions that result during the concrete manufacturing process. Similarly, for each square foot of concrete unit pavers, customers can donate one cent (\$.01), and for each square face foot of segmental retaining wall, customers can donate two cents (\$.02) toward offsetting the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions that result during the concrete manufacturing process.

Ernest Maier will match every customer donation, dollar for dollar. The Conservation Fund’s Go Zero<sup>®</sup> program will use the money to plant trees that will trap CO<sub>2</sub> emissions as they grow.

Founded in 1926 by Ernest Maier, Sr., the Bladensburg-based “Ernest Maier & Sons” started forming blocks by hand on a Sears block machine, turning out 72 per day. Eighty-four years later, Ernest Maier works with architects, contractors, real estate developers and homeowners in the Washington, D.C., metro area, selling more than nine million blocks each year. The company’s environmental efforts already include using fly ash in concrete masonry units to help keep emissions lower, recapturing water during block curing, capturing storm water for use in ready mix operations and collecting and processing used cooking oil from six Washington D.C. area restaurants for use as fuel for off-road equipment.

“Concrete is an essential building material for the construction industry,” said Brendan Quinn, president of Bladensburg-based Ernest Maier Block, “and in fact, its use as a material on earth is second only to water. Although it is durable and locally sourced, concrete includes cement and the manufacturing of cement results in greenhouse gas emissions. In fact, about one ton of CO<sub>2</sub> is emitted for every ton of cement produced. Through our *Building Blocks of Change* program, combined with our existing green initiatives, we can take positive steps with The Conservation Fund to not only mitigate those emissions, but also to help restore forests across America.”

As an inaugural gift to the program, Ernest Maier made a donation to The Conservation Fund on behalf of Stoddert Elementary School in Washington, D.C. to offset the use of concrete masonry units in the structural walls of the school. The school is being modernized with help from Ehrenkrantz, Eckstut & Kuhn Architects and Whiting-Turner Contracting, under the supervision of the Office of Public Education Facilities Modernization in the District government.

“Together with Ernest Maier and its customers, the concrete industry and the green building community in the Washington, D.C. metro area, we can advance sustainable development, help address climate change and restore habitat for wildlife,” said The Conservation Fund’s Go Zero director, Jena Meredith.

Go Zero works with individuals and companies like Ernest Maier to help reduce and then offset the carbon footprint of everyday activities, such as the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions resulting from an in-town or cross-country move with [U-Haul](#), a flight purchased from [Travelocity.com](#), a package shipped from [Gaiam.com](#) or the electricity it takes to power a [Dell](#) notebook for three years. Customer donations help plant native trees in protected parks and wildlife refuges that will capture and store carbon over time, while also creating forest habitats that are critical to birds, fish, bears and other wildlife.

Concrete masonry and concrete unit pavers enable designers to create durable and sustainable structures that are consistent with green building objectives, including those highlighted through the US Green Building Council’s Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®) standards. Through smart design, these products can be used to make efficient use of readily available local and recycled materials, produce structures that improve protection to occupants from fire, high-winds, and earthquakes, filter storm water through permeable pavements and achieve building energy efficiency.

Now, those involved with green building can take the process one-step further by participating in Ernest Maier’s *Building Blocks of Change* program to mitigate greenhouse gases and restore habitat for wildlife.

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**Heroes of Go Zero include:** Hundreds of thousands of dedicated individuals, Accenture Supply Chain Academy, Americas Lodging Investment Summit, Bella Figura Letterpress Invitations, Carfax, Inc., City of Austin, Conde Nast Publications, C&S Wholesale Grocers, Dell Computer Corporation, e-Blue Horizons, LLC, Ernest Maier Block Company, Florida Center for Environmental Studies, Gaiam, Inc., Indianapolis Colts NFL, Land Rover Portland, Lee County Board of County Commissioners, L’Oreal USA, Inc., McDonough Braungart Design Chemistry, LLC, Michigan International Speedway, Molinaro Koger, NBC Universal, New Jersey Natural Gas, Organic, Inc., Philadelphia Eagles, Premiere TV, Inc., Reverb Inc., SEAT Planners Incorporated, Sustainable Forestry Initiative, Inc., The North Face, Training Resources Group LLC, Travelocity, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U-Haul International, Inc., University of Delaware, Vans, Way Basics, William McDonough & Partners, P.L.C., World Class Charters, Inc.

#### **About Ernest Maier Block**

Ernest Maier Block is a manufacturer of concrete masonry units and distributor of other masonry and concrete products located in Bladensburg, Maryland. Ernest Maier Block has been a company “thinking globally and delivering locally” in the Washington, DC area since 1926. For more information on the company, visit [www.ernestmaier.com](http://www.ernestmaier.com).

#### **About The Conservation Fund**

The Conservation Fund is dedicated to advancing America’s land and water legacy. With our partners, we conserve land, train leaders and invest in conservation at home. Since 1985, we have helped protect more than 6 million acres, sustaining wild havens, working lands and vibrant communities. We’re a top-ranked conservation organization, effective and efficient. [www.conservationfund.org](http://www.conservationfund.org)