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ELKAY® INTRODUCES QUICK, CLEAN + GREEN EZH2O™ BOTTLE FILLING STATION
Rapid Fill, Filtered Water Innovation Minimizes Plastic Bottle Waste

OAK BROOK, IL – February 11, 2010 – As consumers begin to steer away from disposable plastic bottled water due to the environmental impact that results from the millions of bottles that end up in landfills year after year, the influx of headlines blowing the whistle on the lack of health regulations surrounding the bottled water industry as well as the financial toll that purchasing bottled water can put on recession-strapped end-users, there has been a resurgence of water cooler and drinking fountain usage. Not only do water coolers and drinking fountains provide an alternative to disposable bottled water waste, they meet strict health, plumbing code, sanitation and environmental standards.

Today, building on the research and execution of the first *GreenSpec*® VRCGRN water coolers, Elkay Commercial Products once again has created a new standard in quick, clean and green drinking water with the introduction of the EZH2O bottle filling station. This new environmentally-friendly innovation was developed to provide consumers with a pure, clean and affordable filtered water option, while also offering plumbing professionals and specifiers high-quality, in-demand drinking water solutions in the ever-growing, ever-changing marketplace. Designed to serve as the one drinking water solution for any location, the EZH2O bottle filling station provides a rapid fill of cold, filtered water at a rate of 1.1 – 1.5 gpm¹, which is three times faster than a standard drinking fountain. This will allow an end user to fill a 20-ounce sports bottle in as little as 6 ½ seconds!

Ideal for education, fitness, healthcare and hospitality facilities, Elkay makes it easy to create the ultimate high-end water station since the EZH2O unit can be retrofitted to any existing “EZ style” Elkay water cooler, installed in new construction as a stand-alone in-wall unit or paired with an Elkay Softsides® or SwirlFlo® drinking fountain.

Making It Clear that It's Clean

With a long-standing tradition of pioneering high-quality, environmentally-responsible water

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¹ Fill rate is 1.1 gpm for refrigerated units; 1.5 gpm for non-refrigerated units; gpm is gallons per minute.

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coolers, Elkay equipped this newest addition to their ground-breaking portfolio of products with an impressive feature set that benefits the end-user, the plumbing professional or specifier as well as any maintenance or facility crew charged with the upkeep of the EZH2O station, once installed.

For example, the EZH2O bottle filling station design includes the Visual Filter Monitor, a unique green, yellow and red LED display on the user interface, visually communicating the presence of a built-in WaterSentry® Plus filtration system. Functioning to reduce unpleasant tastes and odors frequently detected in unfiltered water, this innovative filter system also serves to decrease the amount of other harmful impurities, such as lead and sediment, from reaching an end-user. Outfitting the EZH2O bottle filling station with the enhanced 3,000 gallon capacity of the WaterSentry Plus filtration system can be equated to saving up to 24,000, 16-ounce plastic bottles per filter². To help end-users better visualize these savings in terms of the number of plastic water bottles not wasted, a green “ticker” on the front of the unit displays the running total of 16-ounce disposable water bottles saved by using the EZH2O³.

The EZH2O unit also contains a built-in sensor that dispenses water into the end-users container without requiring them to touch the water cooler or hold the container while it is being filled, ensuring sanitary operation. A safeguard is also built into the model to automatically shut off the stream of filtered water after 30 seconds, making this smart water cooler an intelligent choice.

“The current weight of the economic and environmental impact of plastic bottle waste has definitely ignited a strong consumer demand for alternative water sources that are clean, green and inexpensive,” notes Jack Krecek, vice president and general manager, Elkay Commercial Business Unit. “We succeeded in developing a solution that services a variety of applications by providing a quick fill of filtered water while also reminding end-users that they are doing their part by not taking the easier, but less environmentally-responsible road with plastic bottled water.”

Additionally, there are several features of this unit that directly benefit the maintenance or facility managers at the application sites. Specifically, each EZH2O bottle filling station comes with a flexible

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² 1,500 gallon capacity WaterSentry filtration system yields 12,000 16 oz. servings therefore 3,000 gallon capacity estimated 24,000 16 oz. servings.

³ Refrigerated units count every 12 oz. of water; non-refrigerated units count every 16 oz. of water.

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fill mat under the area where the bottle or container is placed, designed to channel excess water into the drain, preventing water from spilling or collecting on the floor under the unit. It is also important to note that all the plastic surrounding the dispensing area is integrated with a Silver Ion Anti-Microbial agent, inhibiting growth of common bacteria, molds and fungi that cause stains, odors and product deterioration. The MSRP for the EZH2O retrofit kit is \$679, while the EZH2O in-wall unit is offered starting at \$1,549 MSRP.

For more than 90 years, Elkay has been an innovative manufacturer of stainless steel sinks and faucets for residential and commercial use. Elkay expanded its commercial offerings more than 37 years ago to include efficient water coolers and drinking fountains. Elkay, which is ranked 57th in *Crain's Chicago Business* list of Chicago's Largest Privately-Held Companies, has more than 2,800 employees in facilities across the United States and select international markets. Elkay is also a member of key industry associations including the U.S. Green Building Council [USGBC], The North American Association of Food Equipment Manufacturers [NAFEM], The American Society of Plumbing Engineers [ASPE] and the Plumbing Manufacturers' Institute [PMI].

Headquartered in Oak Brook, Illinois, Elkay Manufacturing Company has broadened its holdings to include numerous plumbing-related brands, three cabinet brands and two granite and composite countertop material companies. As America's number one selling stainless steel sink company, the Elkay Plumbing Division includes the Elkay Residential, Elkay Commercial, Phylrich, Halsey Taylor and Revere Stainless Steel brands. In 2009, ElkaySSP, LLC was added to the plumbing brand family, and Elkay became the exclusive North American distributor for Webert Italian Design faucets. The Elkay Manufacturing Cabinetry Division is the fourth largest cabinet manufacturer in the U.S. with its Yorktowne® Cabinetry, Medallion® Cabinetry and Mastercraft® Cabinets holdings. Today, Elkay Manufacturing also provides high-quality granite and composite countertop materials for the East Coast with the addition of Badolato Granite and Chesapeake Stoneworks holdings. For more information, Elkay customers can contact Elkay customer service at (630) 572-3192 or visit elkayusa.com, key word EZH2O. For media inquiries regarding Elkay Commercial products, contact Gaelen Bell at (312) 946-6089 or gbell@msinet.com.

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