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For Immediate Release

Contact: Suzanne B. Cook, CAE
PH: 850-894-3422
Email: scook@floridagreenbuilding.org

City of Aventura Achieves Green Recertification *FGBC Designation Confirms Sustainability Commitment*

(Tallahassee, FL) – The Florida Green Building Coalition (FGBC) that administers green certification standards in Florida has recertified the city of Aventura as a Florida Green Local Government after it successfully met the sustainability standards established in the FGBC Green Local Government 5-year recertification program.

First certified in November of 2010 at the silver level with 26 percent of its applicable points, Aventura continued to expand its sustainability strategic planning and performance management actions to earn 32.4 percent of its 299 applicable points, thus qualifying it for another silver-level designation.

The program criteria includes evaluations of energy and water usage, air quality, health issues, land use, recycling and waste disposal, maintenance policies, educational programs, purchasing practices, regulatory policies, and many others.

Suzanne Cook, FGBC Executive Director, said the designation demonstrates exemplary leadership by Aventura’s City Commission and administration who provided the framework and support to move forward with the process that helps to better manage the cost of government.

“Their leadership in this effort will help protect and conserve the community’s natural resources, enhance the efficiency of government thus reducing the cost to taxpayers, and raise public awareness about the benefits of environmental stewardship,” Cook said. “Our membership applauds Aventura’s dedication and commitment to the important ideals outlined in this program.”

In order to achieve the FGBC Green Local Government certification, Aventura’s “green team,” led by Community Services Director Robert Sherman, undertook an extensive audit of the functions performed by every department. From there teams used the FGBC’s program tools to identify methods to improve the sustainability of their business practices and operations.

One goal of the Florida Green Local Government Standard is for the local government to “lead by example” and to encourage the private sector to apply the same principles through the creation of

green homes, green commercial buildings, and green land developments. Bringing together community businesses and residents with common objectives and overlapping interests can lead to integrated environmental solutions to local issues.

Some of Aventura's green achievements include:

- Developed reduction plans for energy use and monitors consumption
- Implemented an Environmentally Preferred Purchasing Program
- Employs green cleaning and maintenance practices
- Enacted green landscaping ordinance for government buildings
- Offers free or discounted green products to the public
- Adopted green certification standards for construction of new government buildings
- Offers incentives for the construction of green certified homes and land developments
- Purchased alternative fuel vehicles and uses in conjunction with bicycles for patrol of urban areas and neighborhoods
- Uses green fleet maintenance practices
- Police trained in crime prevention through environmental design
- Implemented recycling stations at public amenities
- Implemented energy-efficient lighting and controls for outdoor courts, parks and playfields
- Minimized heat island effect and stormwater runoff of recreational areas through the use of trees, highly reflective materials, or pervious surface
- Promote alternative transportation with carpool assistance, public transportation route searching via the internet, and improved connectivity of roads for bicycles and pedestrian walkability
- Monitors energy use within the school system
- Retrofitted diesel vehicles to reduce emissions
- Involves students in green activities both within and outside of school
- Maintains organic community gardens
- Implemented an anti-idling policy

(A complete list of green achievements is available on the Florida Green Building Coalition website)

FGBC's Green Local Government certification program is the only one of its type in Florida and is endorsed by the Florida Legislature, the Florida League of Cities and the Florida League of Mayors.

Since the FGBC Green Local Government certification program was launched, 87 Florida governments have registered to participate in the program, with 63 of those achieving certification to date.

About the Florida Green Building Coalition

The Florida Green Building Coalition is the leading certifier of green projects in Florida. To date it has 13,700 residential, over 26 million s.f. of commercial and high-rise, 53 land developments, and 87 local governments participating in its certification programs. FGBC certification programs are the only standards developed with climate specific criteria to address issues caused by Florida's hot-humid environment and natural disasters.

The Florida Green Building Coalition (FGBC) is a nonprofit 501(C)3 Florida corporation founded in 2000 dedicated to improving the built environment. Its mission is "to lead and promote sustainability with environmental, economic, and social benefits through regional education and certification programs." For more information about the FGBC "Florida Green" certification programs visit www.floridagreenbuilding.org.

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