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For Immediate Release

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Cutler Bay 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 Town of Cutler Bay 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 2009 at the silver level with 25 percent of its applicable points, Cutler Bay continued to expand its sustainability strategic planning and performance management actions to earn 32 percent of its 301 applicable points, thus qualifying it again for a 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 Cutler Bay’s Town Council and administration who provided the framework and support to move forward with the process that helps to better manage the cost of government. This is a reflection of more than a decade of commitments by county leadership and strong support by members of the community.

“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 Cutler Bay’s dedication and commitment to the important ideals outlined in this program.”

In order to achieve the FGBC Green Local Government Certification, Cutler Bay’s “green team” led by Grants Coordinator LaKeesha Morris 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 Cutler Bay's green achievements include:

- Monitors and tracks local government energy and water use
- Results from water quality testing is posted on website
- Community Air quality index is posted on website
- Developed an Environmentally Preferred Purchasing program for the local government
- Participates in Cities for Climate Protection Campaign
- Purchased alternative fuel vehicles and operates a green fleet
- Employs green cleaning and maintenance procedures
- Maintains an office, person, or group to coordinate current and future green activities
- Adopted a green certification standard as official minimum criteria for new and renovated government buildings
- Offers incentives for FGBC, LEED or Energy Star certified residential, commercial and institutional buildings
- Offers an incentives for FGBC certified green land developments
- Budgeted for publicity and education related to the government's commitment to green
- Organized green building education and materials for the public and local government staff
- Requires key staff to complete approved course in green building on a bi-annual basis
- Maintains an active Florida Yards & Neighborhoods landscaping program or other home owner/builder/developer outreach program
- Trains and certifies select staff as certified arborists
- Maintains an active student/teacher green education program and involves students in green projects outside the school
- Operates a website dedicated to green city/county program
- Developed environmental education content for city website, TV programs, etc.
- Enacted and enforces a tree preservation or land-clearing ordinance

- Uses AFV and/or bicycle patrol for urban or neighborhood areas
- Police are trained in crime prevention through environmental design
- Firing ranges utilize non-lead bullets or traps and collect fragments
- Created an education campaign for enhancing the durability of buildings through mitigation strategies
- New employee orientation includes general city/county commitment to environment
- Operates public reuse store and swap shop
- Recycles end-of-life electronic equipment
- Enacted local government policy so all computer/ancillary equipment is off when not in use
- Conducts regular education on energy savings modes for in-house equipment
- Enacted open burning regulations
- Enacted a fountain / water feature standard
- Maintains organic community gardens
- Installed appropriate bicycle security at all public amenities
- Implemented recycling stations for plastic, glass and aluminum containers at all areas
- Implemented energy efficient lighting & controls for outdoor recreational parks
- Adopted as policy “healthy street design” to minimize stormwater runoff and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by encouraging walkability
- Developed and maintains urban area boundaries
- Encourage mixed-use zoning / development
- Provides public transportation route searching via the internet
- Provides information about alternative commuting on website
- Developed a construction project waste management/recycling plan
- Became a Tree City USA
- Has a community stormwater education campaign
- Has city- wide chemical/hazardous waste collection
- Mandatory recycling program for large volumes of C&D debris
- Offers waste assessments to businesses and offers educational materials to increase recycling program participation
- Requires recycling at all local government buildings
- Offers PACE low-cost energy loans

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, 86 Florida governments have registered to participate in the program, with 62 of those achieving certification to date.

About the Florida Green Building Coalition

The Florida Green Building Coalition (FGBC) is a 501(C)3 nonprofit Florida corporation founded in 2000 and 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." 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. Currently, FGBC is the leading certifier of green projects in Florida.

FGBC's membership is comprised of individuals and businesses from all areas of the building industry, including research, design, materials, products, construction, inspection, marketing, finance and public advocates. For more information about the FGBC "Florida Green" certification programs visit www.floridagreenbuilding.org.

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