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For Immediate Release

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Delray Beach Attains Green Government Certification *FGBC Designation Confirms Environmental Stewardship*

(Tallahassee, FL) – The Florida Green Building Coalition (FGBC), a membership-based non-profit organization that administers certification standards and provides education to promote sustainable building, development and business practices, has designated Delray Beach a certified Florida Green Local Government after it successfully met the sustainability standards established in the FGBC Green Local Government Certification program. Delray Beach achieved 39.5 percent of the 339 applicable points, earning it a silver-level designation.

Suzanne Cook, FGBC Executive Director, said the designation demonstrates exemplary leadership by Delray Beach Mayor Cary Glickstein and other elected officials 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 the municipality’s dedication and commitment to the important ideals outlined in this program.”

In order to achieve the FGBC Green Local Government Certification, Delray Beach staff, led by Environmental Services Director John Morgan, undertook an extensive audit of the functions performed by every department within their government. The criteria included 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. From there teams used FGBC’s program tools to identify methods to improve the sustainability of their business practices and operations.

Cook said that there were significant and tangible accomplishments that will benefit taxpayers and the environment. “Through these efforts, there were reductions in operating costs

and capital outlays, improvements in departmental communication, cooperation, and risk and asset management, a wealth of environmental benefits including measureable CO₂ reductions, and identification of programs that will improve community involvement and enhance sustainability throughout the Delray Beach,” Cook noted.

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. Cook emphasized that this level of support emanates from the fact that there is a sizeable and compelling return on investment for any municipality that chooses to initiate the process. “Depending upon the population of the community, the cost of this program is between \$2,000 and \$6,000,” she said. “The cost savings and environmental benefits that can be achieved dwarf the initial expenditure.”

In the case of Delray Beach, Cook listed just a few of the significant accomplishments that were achieved:

- Included the city’s environmental commitment into its mission statement and comprehensive plan and dedicates staff to coordinate green activities
- Developed a water reduction plan and created a reclaimed water infrastructure
- Utilizes LED, solar or other energy efficient traffic and streetlights
- Implemented energy efficient lighting and controls for outdoor courts, parks, and playfields
- Monitors and tracks the city’s solid waste and developed a solid waste reduction plan
- Participates in the Cities for Climate Protection Campaign to reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Purchased alternative fuel vehicles
- Enacted a green landscaping ordinance and offers a Florida Friendly Landscaping outreach program to builders and homeowners
- Offers green building education and products to the community
- Maintains an active teacher/student education program and involve students in green projects both within and outside of the school.
- Offers education on organic farming and sustainable agriculture
- Requires mitigation for consumption of natural habitats or resources
- Enacted a tree preservation or land-clearing ordinance
- Enacted a septic tank replacement ordinance

- Enacted a plumbing fixture retrofit ordinance for water hookups or upon resale of properties
- Teamed with tourism department on eco-tourism campaign and tracks activity
- Offers incentives for location of green businesses within the city
- Offers incentives for green redevelopment
- Developed an historic preservation ordinance
- Uses alternative fuel vehicles or bicycles to patrol urban areas and neighborhoods
- Firing ranges utilize non-lead bullets or trap and collect bullet fragments
- Fire departments review training procedures and conserve water where appropriate
- Police are trained in crime prevention through environmental design
- Offers energy audits to the community
- Mandate green building be used when constructing affordable housing projects
- Requires City computer equipment to have conservation features, be turned off when not in use, and recycled at the end of its useful life
- Created an endangered lands conservation or purchasing program
- Developed plans for removal of invasive species on public lands
- Enacted sea turtle ordinance
- Developed a boat facility siting plan for preservation of key habitat and protection of endangered species, hosts boater training, and takes part in the Florida Clean Marina program
- Enacted fountain or water feature standards to ensure that best management practices are used for water conservation
- Provides water and air quality index on city's website
- Maintains organic community gardens
- Minimizes chlorine in community swimming pools and applies Florida Friendly Landscaping principles at public amenities
- Public beaches adhere to the Blue Wave Campaign environmental stewardship criteria
- Implemented recycling stations at public areas
- Places signs, brochures or other educational information regarding green features at public amenities

- Implemented the Florida Dept of Transportation's "12 Steps Towards Walkable Communities" into planning process to provide continuous walkable linkages and bike routes
- Maintains a free bicycle-sharing program for select areas of the community, and ensures that public transportation fleet can store bikes on board
- Provides services that facilitate carpooling, park & rides, and express bus lanes
- Practices green fleet maintenance practices to reduce hazardous waste
- Utilizes integrated pest management to reduce the use of harmful chemicals
- Earned the National Arbor Day Foundation's Tree City USA designation that helps reduce heat island effect and provides wildlife habitat
- Operates a public reuse store or swap shop, and offers recycled paint back to the community
- Construction waste is separated at landfill for recycling
- Instituted landfill gas recovery and utilize for heat or power

Since the FGBC Green Local Government Certification program was launched, 83 Florida local governments have registered to participate in the program, with 60 certified to date. The program is performance based, not prescriptive, and all of the certified governments have found that many of their existing programs and policies contributed to the point total needed for certification. "This program is an opportunity for local governments to establish sustainable practices that can be carried out on a systematic basis, and sets in motion a process that will extend beyond election terms and protect the community for years to come," Cook said.

Presentation of the award to Delray Beach officials will be held on at 6 p.m. on April 19, 2016 during the Delray Beach City Council meeting in City Hall.

The Florida Green Building Coalition is an independent non-profit organization that was established in 2000 to promote green building 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 sales. For more information about the FGBC Green Local Governments designation visit www.floridagreenbuilding.org.

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