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For Immediate Release

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Dunedin Achieves Gold Designation *FGBC Designation Confirms Sustainability Commitment*

(Tallahassee, FL) – The City of Dunedin has advanced to the Florida Green Local Government gold-level designation for environmental stewardship after it successfully met the sustainability standards established in the FGBC Green Local Government Certification program.

First certified in December 2007 at the silver level, Dunedin continued to expand its strategic planning and performance management actions to earn 47 percent of its 311 applicable points, thus qualifying it for the gold-level designation.

Dunedin is the fourth local government to complete the upgrade process and is tied with Sarasota County for the highest score.

The program 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.

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 the Dunedin’s gold-level green achievements include:

- Enacted green landscaping ordinance for newly constructed government buildings
- Received Florida-Friendly Landscape certification for city parks.
- Enacted green building incentives that include fast-track permitting, density bonuses, and 25 percent reduced parking requirement. In addition, the City offers

permit fee rebates to builders who certify their projects under the Florida Green Building standards or LEED programs.

- Partnered with Habitat for Humanity to construct green certified townhomes for low-income families.
- Offers an annual workshop to educate the community about Dunedin's green building program.
- Provides street signage and recognition on the City's website for green building projects.
- Requires mitigation for consumption of natural habitat or resources
- Converted to digital photo storage to minimize photo-processing waste
- Installed recycling stations at all city-owned recreational areas

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, 34 Florida municipalities have achieved certification, with 20 others registered and in the process of certification.

Presentation of the award to Dunedin officials will be held on December 1, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. during the City Commission meeting at 542 Main Street in Dunedin.

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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