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## **City of Palm 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 city of Palm 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 July 2009 at the silver level with 21 percent of its applicable points, Palm Bay continued to expand its sustainability strategic planning and performance management actions to earn 33 percent of its 336 applicable points, thus qualifying it for another silver-level designation. Palm Bay is the sixth local government to complete the recertification process and the only local government in Brevard County to have received certification.

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.

Suzanne Cook, FGBC Executive Director, said the designation demonstrates exemplary leadership by Mayor William Capote 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 Palm Bay’s dedication and commitment to the important ideals outlined in this program.”

In order to achieve the FGBC Green Local Government Certification, the Palm Bay “green team” lead by Special Projects Manager Jennifer Williams and Environmental

Management Services Coordinator DeShon Davis-Patterson, undertook an extensive audit of the functions performed by every department. From there teams used 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 Palm Bay's green achievements include:

- Develop a local government solid and hazardous waste reduction plan
- Encourage Environmentally Preferred Purchasing program implementation
- Participate in Cities for Climate Protection Campaign
- Become a Tree City USA
- Purchase Alternative fuel vehicles & operate a local government alternative fueling station
- Employ green cleaning and maintenance procedures
- Implement an ISO 14001 Environmental Management System
- Enact green landscaping ordinance for local government buildings
- Offer incentives to create organic farms or sustainable, water efficient agriculture
- Offer green building education and materials to the community
- Maintain an active student/teacher education program and involve students in green projects outside of the school
- Adopt FGBC or LEED as the official green building standards of the city
- Offer incentives for certified green buildings
- Enact a septic system replacement ordinance
- Team with tourism department on eco-tourism campaign
- Develop an historic preservation ordinance
- Use alternative fuel vehicles or bicycle patrol for urban neighborhoods
- Police trained in crime prevention through environmental design
- New employee orientation includes city commitment to sustainability
- Operate local government computer & equipment reuse center
- Operate a website dedicated to the city's green program

- Enact a manatee protection plan and develop a boat facility siting plan
- Operate an environmental demonstration and learning center
- Maintain organic community gardens
- Apply Florida Friendly landscaping principles at public amenities
- Minimize heat island effect through the use of highly-reflective materials
- Implement recycling stations in all areas
- Implement energy-efficient lighting & controls for outdoor recreation areas
- Use LED traffic lights
- Place signs or brochures explaining green features & benefits at public amenities
- Develop & maintain urban area boundaries
- Engage in carpool / vanpool assistance
- Analyze transportation routes & improve connectivity to bicycle & pedestrian network
- Provide public transportation route searching and information about alternative commuting on the website
- Conduct a community stormwater education campaign
- Offer recycled paint back to the community
- Offer recycling collection services and education program to businesses
- Develop a program for composting waste and offering mulched yard waste to the community
- Seek FL Dept of Environmental Protection wastewater plant operations excellence award
- Create a reclaimed water infrastructure
- Implement sanitary sewer overflow abatement to reduce overflows into surface waters
- Conduct energy audits of treatment facilities
- Create an education campaign for water use reduction (Florida Friendly landscaping, rainwater harvesting, etc.)
- Implement solar e-waste cans in the City

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, 73 Florida municipalities have registered to participate in the program. Forty-three have achieved certification, with 30 others in the process of certification.

Presentation of the award to Palm Bay officials will be held on Thursday, December 4, 2014 at 7 p.m. during the City Commission meeting in the City Hall Annex located at 120 Malabar Rd., SE in Palm Bay.

***About the Florida Green Building Coalition***

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 and analysis, materials, products, construction, inspection, marketing, finance, and sales. For more information about the FGBC Green Local Governments designation visit

[www.floridagreenbuilding.org](http://www.floridagreenbuilding.org).

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