

## Green designation excites city leaders

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It may not be easy being green, but someone is noticing, at least when it comes to Palm Coast's efforts to be more environmentally friendly.

At Tuesday's City Council meeting, representatives from the Florida Green Building Coalition were on hand to formally present the city with its Silver Level Green Local Government certification.

"This is something we're very excited about," City Manager Jim Landon said.

Terry Janssen, a member of the board of directors of the Coalition, and co-chairman of the state's green standards committee, presented the city with its official designation.

"It gives me great pleasure to be here tonight to present this certificate to you and officially designate you as a Florida Green City," he said. "You can be very proud of your accomplishment."

Receipt of the designation is based on city facilities, regulations and operations and how these aspects meet criteria of the Green Local Government Standard. Examples include requiring developments to include native, drought-tolerant vegetation in landscape plans, coordinating an intricate bicycle/pedestrian network into the transportation planning process, offering free trees to the community, preserving environmentally sensitive land, developing community recycling plans, receiving national Tree City USA and growth awards, creating a reclaimed water infrastructure and implementing a water conservation education program

Janssen said the coalition recently approved flags to be made for all cities earning the certification.

Janssen spoke about the dangers of global warming and other threats to the environment as reasons why the green designation is so important.

"The most significant part of what you're doing is you're saving taxpayer dollars," he said.

Mayor Jon Netts said the city has also been working with the Flagler County/Palm Coast Home Builders Association on green issues.

"Right now building a home green may be something people aspire to but not everybody," Netts said. "I suspect that with the efforts of this council and this city and the Home Builders Association, we're going to see Palm Coast move to a community where everybody wants to build green and I think we're going to be a leader in the nation."