

Date: October 1, 2013

For Immediate Release

Contact: Suzanne B. Cook, CAE
PH: 850-894-3422
Email: cooks@nettally.com

Tarpon Springs 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 Tarpon Springs as a Florida Green Local Government after it successfully met the sustainability standards established in the FGBC Green Local Government 5-year recertification program. Tarpon Springs achieved 34.2 percent of its 357 applicable points, earning it a silver-level designation.

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 David Archie 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, Tarpon Springs staff lead by Police Captain Jeff Young undertook an extensive audit of the functions performed by every department within the government. 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 Tarpon Springs' green achievements include:

- Incorporate the City's environmental mission statement into its comprehensive plan
- Employ green cleaning and maintenance procedures
- Maintain a green fleet program, which reduces the use of toxic solvents, recycles oil, and minimizes the health risk to employees.
- Utilize renewal energy on local government buildings
- Utilize solar or other energy-efficient streetlights
- Offer free or discounted green products to the public
- Adopt FGBC or LEED green building standards as the official green standards of the city
- Offer incentives for FGBC certified green land developments
- Provide alternative commuting incentives to employees
- Apply Florida Friendly Landscape Principles at public amenities
- Involve students in green projects outside the school
- Offer recycling services and education to multi-family buildings and occupants
- Create a reclaimed water infrastructure
- Convert waste to energy

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, 66 Florida municipalities have registered to participate in the program. Forty-five have achieved certification, with 21 others in the process of certification.

Presentation of the award to Tarpon Springs officials will be held on Tuesday, October 1, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. during the City Commission meeting in the City Hall located at 324 E. Pine Street in Tarpon Springs.

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,

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

#####