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For Immediate Release

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

Tropical Farms Laboratory Earns FGBC Certification

Martin County's Tropical Farms Laboratory and Workshop has been awarded the Florida Green Commercial Building designation by the Florida Green Building Coalition (FGBC) after it successfully met the sustainability standards established in the FGBC Florida Green Commercial Building Certification program.

The designation represents achievements in a number of categories, such as energy efficiency, water conservation, site preservation, indoor air quality, materials, and durability, including disaster mitigation.

FGBC-certified projects complete a technically rigorous building assessment and construction process to promote design and construction practices that reduce the negative environmental impacts of the building, improve occupant health and well-being, and reduce operating costs for the owner.

"As an FGBC-certified building, the Tropical Farms Laboratory and Workshop serves as a model of sustainability for Martin County businesses and residents," said Suzanne Cook, Executive Director for the FGBC.

Tropical Farms Laboratory and Workshop is located within a larger project owned by the Martin County Utilities Department, which includes a water treatment plant and supporting facilities. Green features of the lab include:

- PV system that provides 30% of the building electric consumption
- 100% drought tolerant landscaping
- No potable water used for irrigation
- 35% reduction in potable water use inside the building
- Environmentally friendly maintenance

- Views to the outside for 100% of the occupants
- Recycled 75% of the construction waste
- 38% of the building is comprised of recyclable materials
- 39% of the materials were manufactured locally
- Exterior of building is comprised of durable low maintenance materials
- Windows and doors are impact resistant

Presentation of the award to Martin County administrators will be held on November 29, 2011 at 8 a.m. in the Tropical Farms Laboratory and Workshop located at 8595 Southwest Kansas Avenue, Stuart, FL.

About the Florida Green Building Coalition

The Florida Green Building Coalition (FGBC) is a nonprofit 501(C)3 Florida corporation founded in 2000 dedicated to improving the built environment. Its mission is "to lead and promote sustainability with environmental, economic, and social benefits through regional education and certification programs."

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 public advocates. For more information about the FGBC Florida Green Commercial Building Certification Standard visit www.floridagreenbuilding.org.

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