

## **Project Spotlight:**

### **Chico's National Store Support Center Earns FGBC Certification**

Certified: June 21, 2013

Points Achieved: 130

FGBC Version 2

Certification Level: Bronze

Project Evaluator: Jennifer Languell



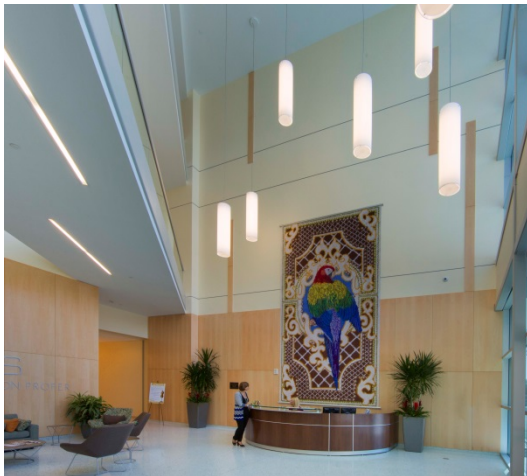
Chico's FAS new 146,000 Sq. Ft. National Store Support Center (NSSC) in Fort Myers, Florida has been awarded the Florida Green Commercial Building designation by the Florida Green Building Coalition (FGBC) after it successfully met the sustainability standards established in the FGBC Florida Green Commercial Building Certification program. The building site was also awarded a gold-level Florida Friendly Landscape Program Certification for exceptional plant selection and irrigation techniques.

FGBC has been providing statewide green building certification standards with economic, social and environmental benefits since 2000. 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. . Additional innovation credit was awarded to the project for items reflecting Chico's corporate culture emphasizing sustainability and support for their Associates.

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 Chico’s NSSC Building #10 serves as a model of sustainability for Lee County businesses and residents,” said Suzanne Cook, Executive Director for the FGBC.

The project is located on Chico’s FAS 65 acre National Store Support Center featuring a park-like setting with open space and preserve areas. The 500 Associates who will occupy the building will benefit from a healthy work environment free of toxic compounds and pollutants in the air. Over 75 percent of the occupied spaces receive natural light and enjoy direct line of sight views to the outdoors through large windows with high performance, insulating glazing.



Highly-efficient air conditioning and lighting systems were utilized to minimize energy consumption. Restricted flow plumbing fixtures were also specified to maximize water conservation. Over 20 percent of materials used in construction contained recycled content and during construction 50 percent of waste generated was recycled and diverted from landfills. All construction materials were highly durable contributing to the overall longevity of the structure. The building itself was designed to withstand wind speeds higher than required by the Florida Building Code.

Architectural services and FGBC certification documentation for Chico's National Store Support Center were provided by GMA Architects and Planners (GMA) of Fort Myers.

Key green features of Chico's include:

- ENERGY - Focus on fossil fuel reduction using occupancy sensors and lighting controls to conserve energy
- WATER - Interior water use reduction from low flow fixtures
- Exterior water use reduction achieved by following and certifying the landscape based on the Florida Friendly Landscape principles
- SITE -The project campus setting provides the project with adjacent basic services, allows for open space on site, designated outdoor space for employees, and encourages multi-modal transportation
- HEALTH - Design strategies and selection of materials to improve indoor air quality
- MATERIAL - Use of recycled content materials and on site recycling of construction waste to minimize environmental impacts of the project
- DISASTER MITIGATION - Use of passive design such as impact glazing, building hardening, and back up generators to improve durability and operational stability.
- INNOVATIVE:
  - Fleet of electric and solar powered golf carts are utilized by Associates while on campus in lieu of combustion vehicles to reduce fossil fuel use and emissions.
  - Food Service purchases local and organic products and uses plates, cups, and utensils made from biodegradable, compostable material.
  - Associate Wellness Program - The fully outfitted Campus Wellness Center features no-cost personal trainers, diet counseling, and smoking cessation programs. There are also outdoor walking and running trails on campus and encouragement for bicycling. Incentives for health insurance programs are offered for Associates who participate in these programs.
  - Employee Training - Every Chico's employee attends an intensive training program as a part of the employment process. In addition to the normal company "Policies & Procedures", a significant amount of time is spent on explaining the campus wide recycling program, preferred parking program, onsite access to basic services, and

Green Initiatives Policy. A brochure is also included outlining the sustainable attributes included in Building 10.

- Green Policy - As a result of the FGBC experience, several of Chico's standard operating procedures regarding sustainability have been formalized as Policy, such as green housekeeping and pest control.
- Onsite Services - Chico's provides a large array of onsite basic services to Associates, not typical of this type of business. Some are outlined in the FGBC credit for "Access to Basic Services," but Chico's continues to expand the program and eliminate the need for additional travel miles.

### **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 certification programs are the only standards developed with climate specific criteria to address issues caused by Florida's hot-humid environment and natural disasters. Currently, FGBC is the leading certifier of green projects in Florida. For more information about the FGBC "Florida Green" certification programs visit [www.floridagreenbuilding.org](http://www.floridagreenbuilding.org).

### **About GMA Architects and Planners**

For more than 30 years, GMA Architects and Planners has been Southwest Florida's leading architectural design firm. Earning recognition from the Florida Southwest American Institute of Architects, the Florida Home Builders Association and the Lee County Building Industry Association, the firm has provided award-winning architectural and interior design services for a broad range of clients in the public and private sectors, including several leading area developers. For more information, call 239-275-0225 or visit [www.GMAarchitect.com](http://www.GMAarchitect.com).

*About FGBC: The Florida Green Building Coalition is an independent non-profit organization that was established in 2000 to promote green building in the state of Florida through the development of voluntary green building standards. FGBC's membership is comprised of individuals and businesses from all areas of the building industry - including research, design, materials, products, construction, inspection, real estate, financing, sales, and government. For more information visit: [www.FloridaGreenBuilding.org](http://www.FloridaGreenBuilding.org)*