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For Immediate Release

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Coral Springs Attains Green Government Certification *FGBC Designation Confirms Environmental Stewardship*

(Tallahassee, FL) – The Florida Green Building Coalition (FGBC), a membership-based non-profit organization that administers certification standards and provides education to promote sustainable building, development and business practices, has designated the city of Coral Springs a certified Florida Green Local Government after it successfully met the sustainability standards established in the FGBC Green Local Government Certification program. Coral Springs achieved 36 percent of its 339 applicable points, earning them a silver-level designation.

Suzanne Cook, FGBC Executive Director, said the designation demonstrates exemplary leadership by Mayor Roy Gold 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, Coral Spring’s staff, led by Environmental Coordinator Mark Westfall, undertook an extensive audit of the functions performed by every department within their government. The 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. From there teams used FGBC’s program tools to identify methods to improve the sustainability of their business practices and operations.

Cook said that there were significant and tangible accomplishments that will benefit taxpayers and the environment. “Through these efforts, there were reductions in operating costs and capital outlays, improvements in departmental communication, cooperation, and risk and asset management, a wealth of environmental benefits including measureable CO₂ reductions, and identification of programs that will improve community involvement and enhance sustainability throughout the city of Coral Springs,” Cook noted.

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. Cook emphasized that this level of support emanates from the fact that there is a sizeable and compelling return on investment for any municipality that chooses to initiate the process. “Depending upon the population of the community, the cost of this program is between \$2,000 and \$6,000,” she said. “The cost savings and environmental benefits that can be achieved dwarf the initial expenditure.”

In the case of Coral Springs, Cook listed a few of the significant accomplishments that were achieved:

- Enacted an endangered lands conservation and purchasing program
- Offers commuting incentives on Tri-Rail
- Installed renewable energy applications (PV) on Fire Station #80
- Utilizes green fleet maintenance practices
- Provides organic community gardens
- Enacted Florida Friendly Landscaping polices and practices
- Operates 26 diesel electric buses
- Became a Tree City USA
- Encourages and rewards government employees for environmental savings and innovation
- Incorporated environmental stewardship and recycling/reuse of materials in the disaster waste management plan.

(A complete list of environmental achievements is included at the end of this press release)

Since the FGBC Green Local Government Certification program was launched, 40 Florida local governments have achieved certification, with 18 others registered and in the process of certification. The program is performance based, not prescriptive, and all of the certified governments have found that many of their existing programs and policies contributed

to the point total needed for certification. “This program is an opportunity for local governments to establish sustainable practices that can be carried out on a systematic basis, and sets in motion a process that will extend beyond election terms and protect the community for years to come,” Cook said.

Presentation of the award to Coral Springs officials will be held on Tuesday, August 21, 2012, during the City Commission meeting in the City Commission Chambers located at 9551 W. Sample Road, Coral Springs.

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.

Complete list of the City of Coral Springs environmental achievements:

- Developed an energy reduction plan
- Developed a solid/hazardous waste reduction plan
- Participates in Cities for Climate Protection
- Purchased Alternative Fuel Vehicles and maintains a green fleet
- Constructed or renovated city building to a green certification standard
- Employs green cleaning and maintenance procedures
- Maintains an office or person to coordinate future green activities
- Enacted green landscaping ordinance for local government buildings
- Utilizes renewable energy on energy efficient local government buildings
- Budgets for publicity and community education on the city’s commitment to green
- Offers free or discounted green products to the public
- Offers green building education and materials to the community
- Maintains an active Florida Yards & Neighborhood or other landscaping outreach program to homeowners, builders and developers
- Requires mitigation for consumption of natural habitat or resources and enacted a tree preservation or land-clearing ordinance
- Enacted a Florida Friendly Landscaping ordinance for new construction
- Tracks tourism for eco-related activities

- Developed an historic preservation ordinance and funding mechanism
- Uses alternative fuel vehicles (AFV) or bicycle patrol for urban and neighborhood areas
- Firing ranges utilize non-lead bullets or trap and collect fragments
- Fire departments conserve water where appropriate in training operations
- Police trained in crime prevention through environmental design
- Provides alternative commuting incentives for city employees
- Provides reusable mug or water bottle to all employees
- New employee orientation includes city's commitment to environment
- Recycle end-of-life electronic equipment
- Enact policy so all computer electronic equipment is turned off when not in use
- Operates a website dedicated to the city's green program and provides environmental education content
- Created an endangered lands conservation/purchasing program
- Certified the city under the National Wildlife Federation Wildlife Habitat program
- Developed and implemented plans for species removal throughout public lands
- Posts air and water quality reports on website
- Operates an environmental demonstration/learning center and maintains organic community gardens
- Minimizes heat island effects through the use of trees and highly reflective materials or surfaces
- Implemented recycling stations for plastic, glass and aluminum in all public areas
- Developed a system of sustainable community indicators related to city planning and linked to a GIS system; Assist departments with tracking of indicators related to their functions
- Maintains a bicycle/pedestrian coordinator on staff
- Encourages mixed-use zoning and development
- Strives to reduce net impervious surface areas throughout zoning decisions
- Engages in carpool assistance and enforces express lanes for carpooling or buses
- Analyzes transportation routes and improves connectivity to bicycle and pedestrian network
- Provides public transportation route search and alternative commuting via the internet
- Utilizes integrated pest management practices

- Installed LED traffic lights
- Became a Tree City USA member
- Developed a reward program for employee environmental innovation in public works
- Trained select staff as certified arborists
- Involved students in green projects outside the school
- Developed a disaster waste management plan
- Offers recycling collection services and education to multi-family buildings
- Monitors types and amounts of material entering landfill
- Enacted volume-based or special rates for solid waste collection
- Offers educational materials to increase recycling program participation and conducts customer waste surveys
- Utilizes rate structures based on consumption
- Offers rebates for low-flow plumbing fixtures
- Enforces watering restrictions during meter reads
- Adopted policies to encourage alternative onsite wastewater and water reuse technologies
- Created an education campaign and utilizes informative billing to create awareness on water conservation

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