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For Immediate Release

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Town of Davie Attains Green Government Certification *FGBC Designation Confirms Environmental Stewardship*

(Tallahassee, FL) – The Florida Green Building Coalition (FGBC), a membership-based non-profit organization that promotes sustainable building, development and business practices, has designated the Town of Davie a certified Florida Green Local Government after it successfully met the sustainability standards established in the FGBC Green Local Government Certification program. Davie achieved 22 percent, earning them a Silver- level designation.

Suzanne Cook, FGBC Executive Director, said the designation demonstrates a strong commitment by Davie elected officials to embrace the tenants of sustainability, while also helping to better manage the cost of government. “Their leadership in this effort will help protect and conserve our natural resources, enhance the efficiency of government, 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, Davie staff, led by Lise Bazinet, 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, waste disposal and recycling, maintenance policies, educational programs, purchasing practices, regulatory policies, and many others. From there teams used FGBC’s online 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 Davie,” 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 Davie, Cook listed just a few of the significant accomplishments that were achieved:

- Development of a local government energy reduction plan
- Development of a local government hazardous waste reduction plan and became a partner in the EPA waste wise program
- Implemented the FDOT “12 Steps Towards Walkable Communities” into planning processes
- Requires mitigation for consumption of natural habitat or resources
- Regulates impervious parking surfaces
- Enacted a rain sensor ordinance applicable to all functioning automatic irrigation systems
- Enacted a landscaping ordinance for new construction
- Developed a partnership with the tourism department to promote eco-tourism
- Developed a historic preservation ordinance
- Provides C&D separation for recycling at landfill, offers recycled paint back to the community, and offers recycling collection to multi-family dwellings
- Participates in the Cities for Climate Protection Campaign and become a Tree City USA
- Certified the community under the National Wildlife Federation Wildlife Habitat program
- Purchase of alternative fuel vehicles

- Utilize alternative fuel vehicles or bicycle patrol for urban and neighborhood areas
- Maintains an office, person or group to coordinate future green activities
- Enacted green landscaping practices for government buildings and applies Florida Friendly Landscape Principles at public amenities
- Offer incentives to create organic farms or sustainable, water-efficient agriculture
- Maintains organic community gardens and operates an environmental demonstration/learning center
- Provide green building education to industry professionals and community residents
- Adopted FGBC or LEED green building standards as official green standards for the Town
- Firing ranges utilize non-lead bullets or trap and collect fragments
- Police are trained in crime prevention through environmental design
- Became an Energy Star ally
- Offers energy audits and established a utility rate structure based on consumption
- Implemented energy efficient lighting and controls for outdoor courts, parks and playfields
- Established an end-of-life recycling program for computer equipment
- Provide air quality index and water quality test results to the community via the Davie website
- Provides public transportation route searching and alternative commuting information on the community website

Since the FGBC Green Local Government Certification program was launched, 30 Florida local governments have achieved certification, with 24 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 Davie officials will be held on July 27, 2011, during the Town Council meeting in the Town Council Chambers, 6591 Orange Drive, Davie, FL 33314.

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.

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