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**For Immediate Release**

## **Ormond Beach Attains Green Government Certification** *FGBC Designation Confirms Environmental Stewardship*

Tallahassee, FL—January 10, 2011 – The Florida Green Building Coalition (FGBC), a membership-based non-profit organization that promotes sustainable building, development and business practices, has designated the City of Ormond Beach a Florida Green Local Government after it successfully met the sustainability standards established in the FGBC Green Local Government Certification program. Ormond Beach achieved 24 percent, earning them a Silver-level designation.

Suzanne Cook, FGBC Executive Director, said the designation demonstrates a strong commitment by Ormond Beach elected officials to embrace the tenants of sustainability, while also helping manage better 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, Ormond Beach staff 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 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 CO<sub>2</sub> reductions, and identification of programs that will improve community involvement and enhance sustainability throughout the city of Ormond Beach,” Cook noted.

FGBC’s Green Local Government Certification program is the only one of its type in the 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 Ormond Beach, Cook listed just a few of the significant accomplishments that were achieved:

- Incorporated an environmental commitment into the local government comprehensive plan
- Develop a system of sustainable community indicators related to local government planning
- Created processes to monitor government energy and water use
- Offer recycling programs and education to businesses and residents
- Created a reclaimed water infrastructure
- Implemented water conservation measures that included rebates for installation of low-flow fixtures, an on-call water quality program, and educational materials for community residents on how to reduce water use
- Require mitigation for consumption of natural habitat or resources
- Enacted ordinances for tree preservation, rain sensor irrigation, septic system replacement, and historic preservation to protect natural resources
- Developed environmental educational information for the city’s website
- Enacted sea turtle and manatee protection programs along with a boat facility siting plan
- Implemented advanced stormwater controls and waterfront considerations
- Provides web-based information on public transportation routes and alternative commuting
- Operates a public reuse and swap store

Since the FGBC Green Local Government Certification program was launched, 26 Florida counties and municipalities have achieved certification, with 28 others registered and in the process. 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 city officials will be on January 18, 2011 at 7 p.m. during the city Commission meeting in the Chambers located at 22 S. Beach Street, Ormond Beach, Fla.

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 Green Governments program visit [www.floridagreenbuilding.org](http://www.floridagreenbuilding.org).

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