

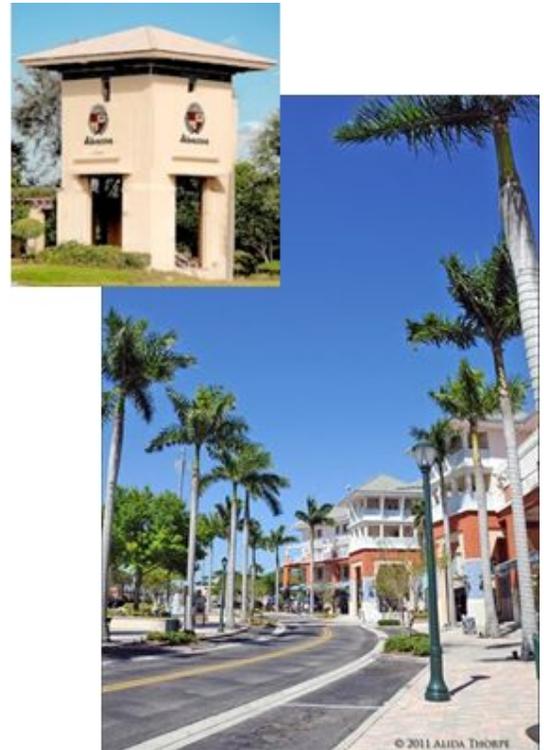
Abacoa Achieves ‘Florida Green’ Land Development Certification

Certified: October 11, 2013
 Points Achieved: 210
 FGBC Version 2
 Project Evaluator: Rob Vieira

The Florida Green Building Coalition (FGBC) has recognized Abacoa as a ‘Florida Green’ Land Development after it successfully met the sustainability standards established in the FGBC Green Land Development certification program.

The standard requires substantial environmental stewardship beyond typical development practices and requires careful planning through knowledge of the site as well as applying best management practices regarding wildlife preservation, stormwater, transportation, landscaping, and utilities.

Abacoa achieved **210** points for the designation, which has a minimum 200-points requirement.



The FGBC Land Development Standard includes program criteria addressing:

- Protection of Ecosystems
- Conservation of Natural Resources
- Creation of a Green Circulation System
- Incorporation of Green Utility Practices
- Creation of Community Amenities
- Promotion of Green Building Practices through Covenants and Deed Restrictions
- Development of Green Education Programs and Demonstration Projects



Abacoa excelled at protecting its natural resources and created a great walkable community where nature can coexist with residents. Part of the efforts in protecting ecosystems includes a 260-acre greenway that serves as habitat for gopher tortoises and provides stormwater management. The traditional neighborhood design of the development, combined with incorporating a University campus, stores and parks, have the potential to greatly reduce vehicle use compared to that in typical developments. Signage within the development about the nature in the area provides valuable educational information to residents and visitors.



Some of Abacoa’s green achievements include:

- Conducted tree, topographical, soil and wildlife surveys prior to design
- Created conservation areas and nature parks
- Preserved the most valuable spaces for biodiversity
- Restored native wildlife habitat, provided wildlife corridors, and developed a management plan for wildlife habitats
- Preserved or provided aquifer recharge areas in uplands
- Reused or recycled materials on site
- Preserved upland buffers to enhance preserved wetlands
- Minimized land disturbance due to utilities
- Supplies irrigation system with storm or reuse water
- Sub-metered parcels by end user to encourage conservation
- Installed sidewalks and trails so as to make a continuous transportation route for pedestrians and cyclists
- Road design self-enforces speed limits of 25 mph or less in residential areas
- Planted native shade trees along streets for neighborhood aesthetics, traffic calming and to provide shade to pedestrians utilizing sidewalks
- Shade trees were incorporated into parking areas
- Provides ample public space and amenities that are available to residents and within safe walking distance
- Community amenities include a tennis center, golf course, a community pool and clubhouse, a tot-lot, walking trails, preservation areas, a theater, and stadium
- Environmental education signage throughout the community, in sales center, and on website
- Website contains links to green resources and educational material



The designation demonstrates exemplary leadership by the Abacoa Property Owners Association who recognized the value of green development to community residents and who moved forward with the certification process.

“Their leadership in this effort will help protect and conserve the community’s natural resources, enhance the efficiency of community operations thus reducing the costs to property owners, and raise public awareness about the benefits of environmental stewardship,” stated FGBC Executive Director Suzanne Cook.

A goal of the program is “lead by example” to encourage the private sector to apply the same principles through the creation of green homes, green commercial buildings, and green living practices. Bringing together community businesses and residents with common objectives and overlapping interests can lead to integrated environmental solutions to local issues.