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Green Key Village Home Takes Highest Honors in FGBC Annual Green Building Awards

Tallahassee, FL – The Florida Green Building Coalition (FGBC) recently announced winners of its annual “Florida Green” Achievement Awards in sustainable construction and operations excellence. Green Key Village walked away with highest honors among 2,393 entries in the residential category for its home located at 1107 Sugar Loaf Key Loop in Lady Lake, Fla.

The home achieved 211 points within a minimum program requirement of 100, thus earning it a platinum-level designation. FGBC Certifying Agent Nate Ritter with GreenBuilt Solutions in Orlando worked with the project to verify compliance to the FGBC Standards.

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.

FGBC-certified homes 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.

Green certified homes may have substantially lower utility bills, and may qualify for advantageous financing, lower insurance rates and government incentives. Through its commitment to green homebuilding, Green Key Village is helping to keep homeownership affordable.

“As an FGBC-certified home, 1107 Sugar Loaf Key Loop serves as a model of sustainability for Lake County residents,” said Suzanne Cook, Executive Director for the FGBC. “The home sets the example of how our individual choices impact the ecological balance of our community, while also providing a healthier home for our families.”

Solar panels, Energy Star qualified appliances, a compact hot water distribution system, advanced framing techniques to improve insulation performance, and an efficient building envelope design (including large overhangs) all helped to reduce the energy requirements of the home and resulted in it achieving a Home Energy Rating Score (HERS) of negative 17 (-17), making this a zero energy home.

In the water category, the home achieved the maximum allowable points for that category by installing low-flow plumbing fixtures such as faucets, showerheads, and toilets, connecting a water-saving clothes washer with a 4.3 water factor, and by using reclaimed water for irrigation. Other water conserving measures included the use of drought-tolerant turf and landscape plants, applying mulch in landscape beds to retain moisture, and installing innovative irrigation technology. All of these efforts also earned the home a Florida Water Star certification.

To ensure a healthy indoor environment, all slab penetrations were sealed and a capillary break used between the foundation and framing to block moisture from entering the home through the floor. Zero VOC paints, low VOC sealants and adhesives, healthy flooring materials and limiting the use of carpet helped to ensure improved air quality. A controlled mechanical ventilation system, Energy Star bath fans, and an efficient HVAC filter will make sure that adequate fresh air is circulated within the home.

During the building process, Green Key Village took several steps to reduce their impact on the environment, which included separating the recycled material from general construction waste in order to minimize the amount of waste sent to the landfill, and using engineered lumber for roof and floor components.

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.

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