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For Immediate Release

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Hollywood 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 Hollywood, Fla. a certified Florida Green Local Government after it successfully met the sustainability standards established in the FGBC Green Local Government Certification program. Hollywood achieved 26 percent of the 350 applicable points, earning it a bronze-level designation.

Suzanne Cook, FGBC Executive Director, said the designation demonstrates exemplary leadership by Mayor Peter Bober 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 City of Hollywood’s dedication and commitment to the important ideals outlined in this program.”

In order to achieve the FGBC Green Local Government Certification, Hollywood staff, led by Lorie Mertens-Black, Director of Parking and Intergovernmental Affairs, 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 Hollywood,” 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 Hollywood, Cook listed just a few of the significant accomplishments that were achieved:

- Adopt green standards as the official minimum criteria for new and renovated government buildings
- Construct or renovate buildings to either the FGBC or LEED green certification standards
- Purchase Alternative Fuel Vehicles and maintain green fleets
- Employ green cleaning and maintenance practices
- Utilize renewable energy in government buildings
- Offer free or discounted green products to the public
- Enact a septic system replacement ordinance
- Enact and enforce a Florida Friendly landscaping ordinance for new construction
- Develop an historic preservation ordinance and develop a funding mechanism to aid in historic preservation
- Firing ranges utilize non-lead bullets or trap and collect fragments
- Fire departments review training operations for implementation of water conservation measures
- Remodeling of affordable housing mandated to incorporate green building
- Minimize heat island effect and stormwater runoff of recreational areas through trees, highly reflective materials, or pervious surfaces.

- Implement energy-efficient lighting and controls for outdoor courts, parks and play fields
- Create a reclaimed water infrastructure
- Offer rebates for low-flow plumbing fixtures

Since the FGBC Green Local Government Certification program was launched, 41 Florida local governments have achieved certification, with 17 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 Hollywood officials will be held at 1 p.m. on September 5, 2012, during the city commission meeting in the City Commission Chambers located at 2600 Hollywood Boulevard, Room 219 in Hollywood.

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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Complete List of Green Achievements

- Adopt green standards as the official minimum criteria for new and renovated government buildings
- Construct or renovate buildings to either the FGBC or LEED green certification standards
- Purchase Alternative Fuel Vehicles and maintain green fleets
- Employ green cleaning and maintenance practices
- Maintain an office or dedicated staff to coordinate green activities
- Enact green landscaping ordinance for local government buildings
- Utilize renewable energy in government buildings
- Organize green building education for local government staff

- Offer free or discounted green products to the public
- Enact a septic system replacement ordinance
- Enact and enforce a Florida Friendly landscaping ordinance for new construction
- Publicize and provide case studies for green building
- Team with tourism department on eco-tourism campaign and track amount of tourism that takes part in eco-related activities
- Develop an historic preservation ordinance and develop a funding mechanism to aid in historic preservation
- Use alternative fuel vehicles and/or bicycle patrol for urban and neighborhood areas.
- Firing ranges utilize non-lead bullets or trap and collect fragments
- Fire departments review training operations for implementation of water conservation measures
- Create an education campaign for mitigation
- Police trained in crime prevention through environmental design
- Remodeling of affordable housing mandated to incorporate green building
- Provide alternative commuting incentives to city employees
- New employee orientation includes city's commitment to environment
- Operate website dedicated to city's green program and provide environmental education
- Enact open burning regulations
- Enact sea turtle ordinance for coastal areas and enact a manatee protection plan
- Post water quality testing results on website
- Minimize heat island effect and stormwater runoff of recreational areas through trees, highly reflective materials, or pervious surfaces.
- Public beaches adhere to Blue Wave Campaign criteria
- Implement recycling stations for plastic, glass and aluminum in all areas
- Implement energy-efficient lighting and controls for outdoor courts, parks and play fields
- Encourage mixed-use zoning and development
- Organize green building seminars and training for city staff and elected officials
- Participate in Florida Clean Marina program
- Offer tax incentives for lands qualifying as historic, high-water recharge or greenbelt
- Provide public transportation route searching and alternative commuting information via the internet

- Use LED traffic lights
- Utilize solar or other energy efficient streetlights and crosswalk lights
- Become a Tree City USA
- Train and certify select staff as certified arborists
- Provide community stormwater education campaign
- Involve students in green projects within and outside the school
- Provide city-wide chemical/hazardous waste collection
- Offer recycled paint back to the community
- Implement closed landfill management
- Seek Florida Department of Environmental Protection plan operations excellence award
- Create a reclaimed water infrastructure
- Utilize water rate structures based on consumption
- Offer rebates for low-flow plumbing fixtures
- Utilize informative billing,
- Distribute printed material and provide website content detailing water wastewater source
- Create an education campaign for water use reduction methods (Florida Friendly landscaping, rainwater harvesting, etc.)
- Maintain an on-call water quality program