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City of Tamarac Certified as a Florida Green Local Government

The City of Tamarac was recently certified as a Florida Green Local Government by the Florida Green Building Coalition (FGBC). Tamarac is the first municipality in South Florida and Broward County to be awarded the distinguished Silver-level certification.

Almost every function of a local government has an impact on the environment and thus this certification program has far-reaching effects. Within the FGBC Standards is a comprehensive list of criteria, organized by 19 local government department functions, such as administration, agriculture and extension service, building and development, utilities, solid waste, public transportation, water and wastewater, school board, and natural resources management. The criteria focus on improving environmental performance through a number of mediums, such as energy, water, air quality, health issues, land use, and waste. Silver certification is earned when a government achieves a specified percentage of points assigned to the criteria.

The FGBC has recognized Tamarac's commitment to outstanding environmental stewardship for its environmentally friendly achievements. These achievements include: Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) training; citizen education programs on water source, water quality and water conservation; and new bicycle racks at all public amenities in an effort to encourage biking over driving.

Additionally, many of Tamarac's medians, streetscapes and facilities have been certified as Florida Friendly landscapes, and Tamarac is working on programs that will offer affordable green housing to all public employees.

"The Green Local Government Standard acknowledges governments who choose to encourage a successful future for Florida by implementing green practices and educational tools," said Suzanne Cook, Executive Director of FGBC. "More and more, local governments are encouraging citizens to make environmentally friendly choices — we commend the governments who lead by example and become role models for their citizens."

Although, Tamarac's FGBC certification is a first for the community and South Florida, this isn't the first time Tamarac has "gone green." Tamarac was awarded the 2000, 2003 and 2006 Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Plant Operations Excellence Awards for public water supply and domestic wastewater facilities.

"We're committed to excellence in Tamarac," said Mayor Flansbaum-Talabisco. "We'll continue to strive for the best in green techniques and technologies because we recognize that these are good for government and the community."

For more information on FGBC Standards, visit www.FloridaGreenBuilding.org

About FGBC: The Florida Green Building Coalition is an independent non-profit organization that was established in 2000 to promote green building in the state of Florida through the development of voluntary green building standards. FGBC's membership is comprised of individuals and businesses from all areas of the building industry — including research, design, materials, products, construction, inspection, marketing, financing, sales, and government. For more information visit: www.FloridaGreenBuilding.org