



# PRESS RELEASE

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **CITY ATTAINS GOLD LEVEL STATUS GREEN LOCAL GOVERNMENT CERTIFICATION**

CITY OF WINTER PARK

401 Park Avenue South

Winter Park, Florida

32789-4386



**WINTER PARK, Fla., an internationally recognized ICMA Excellence Award winner with accredited fire, police and parks & recreation agencies (September 21, 2011) –**

The City of Winter Park has been designated a certified gold level Green Local Government by the Florida Green Building Coalition (FGBC). The certifications will be presented at the City Commission meeting on Monday, September 26, at 3:30 p.m., in City Hall Commission Chambers located at 401 Park Avenue South. The FGBC presentation will be followed by the Keep Winter Park Beautiful annual Green, Beautification and Volunteer Awards presentation.

In order to achieve the certification, Winter Park staff undertook an extensive audit of the functions performed by every department within their government. The criteria included evaluations of energy, water usage, air quality, health issues, land use, recycling and waste disposal, maintenance policies, educational programs, purchasing practices, regulatory policies and many others.

In 2008, Winter Park adopted a resolution to pursue Green Local Government certification. A Sustainability Program was then developed as a means of coordinating the city's green efforts. New projects and policies implemented to increase sustainability include: adopting the United States Green Building Coalition's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards for new public buildings; retrofitting existing buildings with federal stimulus dollars to reduce energy and water usage and greenhouse gas emissions; passing a Complete Streets resolution to design future street projects that accommodate various modes of transportation including pedestrians and bicyclists; installing LED street lights; adopting an Environmentally Preferable Purchasing policy; preserving green spaces; and promoting community gardening and local food programs.

The FGBC Green Local Government rating system consists of certified silver, gold and platinum levels. The city's Sustainability Program led by Public Works Director Troy Attaway, Keep Winter Park Beautiful Director & Sustainability Coordinator Tim Maslow, and the Environmental Review and Keep Winter Park Beautiful boards has begun developing a plan to assist in achieving the coveted platinum level certification. Currently, no other Florida city or county has achieved the platinum level certification.

According to Suzanne Cook, FGBC executive director, "Our membership applauds the municipality's dedication and commitment to the important ideals outlined in this program."

The FGBC is a membership-based, non-profit organization that administers certification standards and provides education to promote sustainable building, development and business practices. The FGBC is endorsed by the Florida Legislature, Florida League of Cities and Florida League of Mayors. For more information regarding the FGBC, please visit [www.floridagreenbuilding.org](http://www.floridagreenbuilding.org).

For more information regarding the City of Winter Park's Sustainability Program, please visit the city's official website at [www.cityofwinterpark.org](http://www.cityofwinterpark.org). ###