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Sarasota County sets gold standard with prestigious Green Local Government designation

Sarasota County has achieved the Florida Green Building Coalition's (FGBC) Green Local Government designation, earning the highest certification of any local government to date with a score that met the coalition's Gold level. Terry Janssen, FGBC Board Member and Florida Green Local Government Co-Chair, presented the award to Commission Chair Shannon Staub during an Oct. 7 County Commission workshop.

"Sarasota County sought this certification because we understand its importance as a tool to guide local governments along the road to sustainability," said Staub. "This tool allows local governments to rate themselves, like builders do for green buildings, to determine how green they really are."

The coalition cited numerous county initiatives that helped Sarasota County earn the prestigious designation, including internal operating practices and ordinances that support private sector green building.

"Sarasota County is recognized as a leader in the 'greening' of local government," said Jeremy Nelson of the Florida Solar Energy Center. "The county has led by example by adopting its own green cleaning and maintenance practices and making the FGBC, LEED green building standards and the 2030 Challenge energy efficiency standard the official minimum criteria for future government buildings."

The county also encourages green building in the commercial and residential sector by offering incentives for buildings and developments that meet the FGBC and LEED standards.

"We're proud to be a leader in the state and look forward to pursuing an even stronger rating with future sustainability improvements," Staub said.

To learn more about Sarasota County's sustainability initiatives, contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000.

Media note: A low-resolution image is attached of Commission Chair Shannon Staub receiving the Florida Green Local Government Designation. A high-resolution image is available upon request.

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