



Legislation Text

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City of Gainesville recognition as a Florida Green Building Council (FGBC) Certified Green Local Government at the “Silver” Level (B)

The Florida Green Building Council, Inc. (FGBC) is a non-profit corporation whose primary mission is to develop and maintain Green designation standards for Florida and to promote cost-effective, sustainable environmental improvements. The Council will recognize the City of Gainesville as a FGBC Certified Green Local Government at the “Silver” level.

In addition to certification standards for green homes, commercial buildings, high rises, and developments, the FGBC certifies Green Local Governments for outstanding environmental stewardship. The FGBC expects that "certified green city and county governments will not only gain recognition and publicity, but also function in a more efficient manner through better internal communication, cost reductions, and effective risk and asset management." This is the premier local government certification process, and the only one that is specifically developed for the Florida context.

The City of Gainesville participated in pilot testing of the standard in 2002 and since this time, some level of certification (from pre-application to full certification) has been achieved by approximately 50 Florida cities and counties.

Certification involves meeting and documenting criteria from a variety of Departments, including Gainesville Regional Utilities, Communications/Marketing, Recreation and Parks, Fire Rescue, Public Works, Information Technology, Planning and Development Services, GPD, Economic Development, and Human Resources. Staff has collected input regarding the current level of participation in various "green" activities, and has found that each department of General Government and GRU has already implemented some portion of the criteria listed in the FGBC Green Local Government standard. Staff believes that the certification will help to structure the response of various departments to the City's energy efficiency needs, as well as provide excellent marketing potential.

The provision of this certification marks the culmination of a ten year pilot, pre-application and application process performed by various organizational staff and authorized by the City Commission. This recognition sets the baseline for further efforts on the City sustainability front as recently contemplated by the City Commission with regard to its Strategic Plan and supporting initiatives.

None.

City Commission: (1) hear a brief presentation on the Florida Green Building Council and the Green Local Government Certification process; and, (2) accept the Florida Green Building Council Green Local Government Certification at the “Silver” level.