

Town of Harmony Named 2006 WCI Green Building Award Winner by Council for Sustainable Florida

HARMONY, FL - July 1, 2006 - Lieutenant Governor Toni Jennings joined the Council for Sustainable Florida recently in Tallahassee to honor business, non-profit, educational and individual leaders committed to preserving the environment while creating a healthy economy for Florida.

The recipient of this year's WCI Green Building Award was the Town of Harmony. A Promising Practice recipient in 2004, General Partner Jim Lentz, Conservation Director Greg Golgowski, Planning Director Kent Foreman, and the rest of the team from Harmony, were recognized for doing a tremendous job of implementing a development plan that protects the natural resources and an education program that promotes an environmental ethic among its residents.

Harmony was selected for the following reasons according to the Council: Harmony represents itself as an "environmentally intelligent" community, meaning many of the measures taken do not cost more to implement but do require some forethought to determine whether improved practices can achieve the needed results.

From the development side, Harmony promoted natural resource protection through measures such as prohibiting private development on either of two 500-acre natural lakes; retaining 70 percent of the community's 11,000 acres as open space; full shielding of outdoor lighting to control light pollution; requiring all homes meet Energy Star standards; and promoted walking, alternative transportation and on-site capture of trips.

The Harmony Conservation staff and the non-profit Harmony Institute created programs to encourage resident involvement with habitat management, trail development, data gathering and wildlife appreciation that goes beyond the green design base and promotes long-term sustainability.

Harmony is the first community in Osceola County and only the third in Central Florida to be recognized by the Council for Sustainable Florida.

In addition to the WCI Green Building Award, the Council presented awards in several categories including Leadership, Small Business, Non-Profit, and Business Partnership. Award winners also received a resolution from the Governor Bush and the Florida Cabinet.

The Council is an independent, non-partisan program of the Collins Center for Public Policy. The Council has been defining excellence for Florida's economic, environmental and social future since 1990. Since initiating the Best Practices Awards program in 1998, the Council has recognized and honored more than 100 businesses, non-profit organizations, governmental

groups and individuals whose work is committed to the future success of Florida.

For more information on all the winners, please visit www.sustainableflorida.org.

To find out more about the Town of Harmony, visit www.harmonyfl.com or call 407-891-8358.

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