


Originally appeared on News-Journal Online at

<http://www.news-journalonline.com/news/local/flagler/2010/04/24/citys-green-efforts-turn-into-gold-certification.html>

| [Print This Page](#)

City's green efforts turn into gold certification

By AARON LONDON, STAFF WRITER 

PALM COAST -- Calling the city the "poster child" for the Florida Green Building Coalition, Palm Coast officials stepped on the podium Tuesday to receive a gold level designation from the state group.

The honor was for efforts to adopt environmentally friendly practices and policies.

In presenting the award to the City Council, Jeremy Nelson from the green building coalition said it was "exciting" to visit Palm Coast.

"As a city it's so exciting to see all your hard work and ongoing efforts to make this a better community every day," he said.

In 2009, the city earned a silver designation from the coalition after receiving a score of 25, Nelson said.

"Then only a year later met their goal and scored a 45," he said. "It was quite a surprise when I got the application for a certification upgrade."

Nelson said the city's effort to achieve the gold designation was impressive.

"It's not only a significant jump but also is the high score for a city to date in our Florida standards," he said. "And the second highest overall."

Nelson cited a variety of efforts as factors in gaining the gold designation, including tracking energy and water use, protecting wildlife, recycling and becoming a Tree City USA from the National Arbor Day Foundation.

"It starts from within and you've demonstrated what it means to conserve and your residents and businesses take notice and they also follow in your footsteps there," he said.

In addition to a framed certificate that acknowledges the city's achievement, Nelson presented the City Council with a Florida Green Building Coalition flag, made out of recycled plastic.

"It's a great honor for the city to receive this recognition," said Mayor Jon Netts. "But the recognition is spread wide. So many of the things that we documented to receive this award were innovations that were started with staff."

Netts also credited city residents for getting on board the "green" efforts.

"If it weren't for our residents actively participating, we wouldn't be able to do these things," he said. "I'm proud to be part of a city that participates and takes this seriously."

Carol Goodwin, a Palm Coast resident and member of the Florida Green Building Coalition board, also was on hand for the presentation.

She said when she and her husband, George, moved to the city, they were impressed with the environmental awareness.

"We fell in love with the city's environmental stewardship," she said. "Thank you to everyone who worked real hard to make this happen."

Goodwin also said that the Flagler/Palm Coast Home Builders Association is having a "Green Building 101" seminar May 24 at the organization's offices on Palm Coast Parkway.

For senior environmental planner Denise Bevan, the timing of the award was particularly satisfying.

"We have Earth Day this week," she said. "This is a really cool opportunity we have."

© 2010 The Daytona Beach News-Journal.

Do not republish or distribute without permission.