

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HCG Provides Planning and Design Services for Eco Center

HCG's "Green" Site Plan and Landscape Design Targets LEED Gold

Stuart, Florida - November, 2009

HCG recently provided planning and landscape architectural design services for what will become the City of Stuart's first LEED certified building, a 6,045 sq. ft. commercial/office building located atop an abandoned landfill on 2.88 acres. The project is registered with the U.S. Green Building Council as a LEED project with the target of Gold certification. The first phase of a two-phase project, the Eco Center will feature the latest green construction techniques in a commercial office building setting. The client, Eco Ventures LLC, expects to begin construction in early 2010.

HCG prepared the site and landscape design which included utilizing the building footprint of an existing miniature golf course and practice facility. As a member of the project's design team, HCG worked closely with the client, architect, and civil engineer to develop elements of the site and landscape that emphasize the synergy of distinct practices working together. As a result, the site will be highly efficient in capturing stormwater for use in grey water systems within the building, as well as for providing landscape irrigation. The project will incorporate numerous other energy-saving elements, transportation amenities, and environmentally-friendly design features including bike storage and changing facilities, preferred parking for low-emitting vehicles, a porous concrete drive to increase stormwater infiltration, and a reduced heat

island effect through the use of shade trees and covered parking stalls. The landscape is designed to replicate a Floridian upland environment with native species providing lower maintenance and minimum water requirements.

HCG was also responsible for coordinating governmental approvals for the land use change and rezoning of the property.



Situated atop an abandoned landfill, the site plan and landscape design for Phase I of The Eco Center commercial / office building in Stuart, FL, is designed to help the project achieve a USGBC LEED Gold rating.

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*Upon completion, The Eco Center will be the City of Stuart's first LEED certified building.
Building elevation: Crossroads Architecture, Inc.*

U.S. Green Building Council

The U.S. Green Building Council is a non-profit community of leaders working to make green buildings available to everyone within a generation.

The Eco Center Design Team

The Eco Center design team consists of the following local professionals:

- Ocean Gate General Contractors, Inc.
- Crossroads Architecture, Inc.
- Abney + Abney Green Solutions
- Summit Engineering, Inc.
- Fort Pierce Engineering, Inc.
- Creech Engineers, Inc.
- Houston Cuozzo Group, Inc.

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Founded in 1993, HCG is a land planning and landscape architectural firm committed to designing sustainable projects that meet community needs, produce balanced growth, are financially feasible for our clients and create positive economic value for their community. The firm is experienced with the nationally known rating system LEED developed by the U.S. Green Building Council, as well as green rating standards recognized by the NAHB National Green Building Program, Florida Green Building Coalition and Audubon International.