

Press Release

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U.S. Green Building Council Chapter Opens in Ft. Myers
*-- New chapter advocates green building issues
to build local consumer awareness --*

Fort Myers, FL: (August 7, 2008) . . . The U.S. Green Building Council today announced the opening of its 81st chapter in Fort Myers, Florida.

According to newly elected Chapter Chairman Lynn Murtagh, CEO of Meridian Construction and Development and USGBC LEED accredited professional, the new chapter will be named the Southwest Florida Branch of the Gulf Coast Chapter, a branch of the established Florida Gulf Coast Chapter, headquartered in Tampa, Florida.



According to the organization's website <http://www.usgbc.org>, "the U.S. Green Building Council is a 501(c)(3) non-profit community of leaders working to make green buildings available to everyone within a generation." The organization was established in 1993 to promote sustainable building and construction through educational resources and committee forums. In 2000, the USGBC developed the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) accreditation system as an independent benchmark for rating high-performance green buildings. The organization also offers professional LEED certification to individuals who demonstrate expertise in green building practices and principles.

Builders are beginning to look at new alternatives when it comes to conserving energy and recycling; thus, promoting the trend of "building green". The new chapter will provide local companies with the ability to share ideas, plans and efforts to give local home and business owners in Southwest Florida what they are looking for when it comes to going green. "Today it makes economical sense to be environmentally sensitive as building green is proving to be a cost effective incentive," reports Murtagh, "Cities must take responsibility for their sustainable growth, future generations depend upon it".

Plans for the Southwest Florida Branch, located in Fort Myers are underway to host monthly meetings, semi-annual programs, and guest speakers. The chapter will also provide continuing education in the field of green building including LEED accreditation. Meeting locations and a fall membership drive to be announced.

Members of the local chapter of USGBC will have access to green building resources and training programs as well as opportunities to network with individuals from the more than 15,000 member organizations representing the building and construction industry. According to Membership Committee Chairman Butch McGovern, of Nu Cape Construction, "Our goal is to bring USGBC awareness to our newly dedicated Fort Myers Branch". In

addition, by becoming a member of the Florida Gulf Coast Chapter in Tampa, you are automatically a member of the Southwest Florida Branch in Fort Myers. The committee members would like to urge the community, both individuals and companies, to become a member in an effort make Fort Myers a better place to live and work.

Newly elected officers for 2008-09 include:

Chairman	Lynn Murtagh of Meridian Construction & Development
Vice Chairman	Chris Ressler of Architecture Incorporated
Secretary	Casey Neurock of Neugreen Company
Treasurer	Chris Walczak of Wright Construction
Programs Committee	Lauren Horowitz of McGarvey Development
Membership Committee	Butch McGovern of Nu Cape Construction
Collaborative Committee	Heidi Von Korff of Hole Montes Associates
Branch Advisor	Ken Buschle of Gora McGahey Architects
LEED for Schools Committee	David Hamera of TLC Engineering
LEED for Homes Committee	Carol Newcomb-Jones of Kitson and Partners

To join the chapter, apply directly online www.FGCC.RoundTableLive.org or contact Chairman Lynn Murtagh at (239) 936-3005, Lynn@meridiancd.com or Membership Committee Chairman, Butch McGovern at (239) 542-0073, BMcGovern@owen-ames-kimball.com.

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