



News Release

For Immediate Release

Staples Biscayne Boulevard Store Receives Coveted US Green Building Council's LEED Gold Certification

Miami, FL (February 2008) -- Staples, the world's largest office products company, announced that the Staples store in Miami, located at 2121 Biscayne Boulevard, is the first store in Miami-Dade County and in the Staples chain to be awarded Gold Certification by the US Green Building Council's (USGBC) Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED). City of Miami Mayor Manny Diaz joined Staples General Manager Ulysses Perez, developers Michael Katz and Bill Biondi, and USGBC South Florida Chapter President Olga G. Alvarez for a dedication ceremony on February 24, honoring this achievement in environmental sustainability.

"This certification is truly momentous and serves as an inspiration for other building developers to see how it is possible to make a difference while growing our city," said Mayor Diaz, an active champion for sustainable development in Miami.

LEED is a voluntary, independent green-building rating system and is the recognized standard for high-performance buildings. Buildings meeting LEED certification minimize negative environmental impacts and maximize energy efficiency and sustainability. Previously, Staples announced that its Biscayne Boulevard store was the first-ever green retail building to be LEED registered in Miami, which has since prompted other retailers to register and seek certification.

"This is a historical event and it shows the commitment being made by private industry and the partnerships being formed with local governments to support sustainable development," said Alvarez, USGBC South Florida President. "In the future, we hope such projects will be the norm as we continue to address greenhouse gas reductions, in which buildings play a major role."

"From day one, our customers have praised our store's efforts to deliver office products, technology and services in an environmentally friendly way," said Perez, Staples Biscayne Boulevard General Manager. "Achieving LEED Gold Certification from the USGBC is a testament to the team's efforts and our commitment to making a difference in communities where our customers and associates live and work."

(cont.)

The project's development team included: Architects -- Hamed Rodriguez and Michael Figuero; General Contractor -- Link Construction Company; MEP Engineers -- Finline Engineering; Civil Engineer -- EDC Corp.; Structural Engineer -- Tain Engineering; and Landscape Architect -- Mariano Corral.



L-R: Mayor Manny Diaz; Olga G. Alvarez, USGBC South Florida Chapter President; Andy Garcia, Staples District Manager; Bill Biondi and Jason Biondi, Lead Developers. Photo: Jorge R. Perez/City of Miami

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The US Green Building Council South Florida Chapter, a nonprofit (501[c][3]) organization, embraces the adoption of innovative building practices that conserve land, energy, water, resources and materials. Its mission is to transform the way buildings and communities are designed, built and operated, enabling an environmentally and socially responsible, healthy and prosperous environment that improves the quality of life. Headquartered in the EcoCenter -- The Living Building, in Lake Worth, Florida, the Chapter's nearly 800 passionate volunteers provide programs and services to the South Florida community from its Broward, Miami-Dade and the Keys, and Treasure Coast and Palm Beach Branches. To learn more: Lee Cooke, Executive Director, 561-373-7367, lcooke@usgbc.org, www.usgbc.org.