

Commissioner Doug Coward named "Most Outstanding Green Elected Official"

Erick Gill, a member of the Treasure Coast community. This story is neither endorsed by nor affiliated with this site. Originally published 04:46 p.m., September 1, 2010

FORT PIERCE — St. Lucie County Commissioner Doug Coward was named "Most Outstanding Green Elected Official" Saturday by the South Florida Chapter of the United States Green Building Council.

At the group's 2010 GalaVerde awards ceremony in Fort Lauderdale, the council recognized Commissioner Coward for his work with numerous green programs, including the green collar apprenticeship and training facility; the clean energy hub at the Treasure Coast Research Park and adjacent green jobs corridor; the \$23 million Solar and Energy Loan Fund; selection by the U.S. Department of Energy as one of the top 20 most innovative solar programs in the nation; and the sustainability demonstration project with Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

Commissioner Coward said: "The collaboration, teamwork, and partnerships have made all of these programs possible in St. Lucie County."

Commissioner Coward emphasized the important contribution of the Board of County Commissioners, the Project Energy team, and most notably, Larry Pelton, president of the Economic Development Council, City of Fort Pierce Commissioner Eddie Becht, Dr. Ed Massey, president of Indian River State College, and Dr. Calvin Arnold, executive director of the USDA lab. Commissioner Coward spoke to the crowd of 500 people at the GalaVerde event and encouraged all of the local governments in South Florida to work together to help create a green jobs corridor from the Keys to Cape Canaveral.

"We are fortunate to have such a forward-thinking community that is able to come together to help create economic development opportunities and much-needed jobs," said Pelton. "The green sector is one of the fastest growing segments of the national economy and can provide tremendous benefit to St. Lucie County and the Research Coast."

Additionally, St. Lucie County was among the finalists for the "Most Outstanding Green Government," which went to Miami-Dade County.

Commissioner Chris Dzadovsky, who was also in attendance, said: "It was an honor to attend the USGBC Awards and for St. Lucie County, and Commissioner Coward, to be nominated in their categories. As a long-standing champion for the clean energy economy and green jobs, Commissioner Coward certainly deserved to win the Outstanding Green Elected Official Award. His tireless efforts and recent ground-breaking initiatives for economic recovery with green technology and energy sustainability measures will serve us well into the future."

The U.S. 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.

The volunteer-governed Chapter has more than 1,000 passionate members and 3,000 friends providing educational programs and services to the South Florida community. From its newest addition, the Treasure Coast Branch; to the Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade and the Keys Branch the group offers educational meetings each month somewhere near you. Please visit www.usgbcfs.org.

The U.S. Green Building Council is committed to a prosperous and sustainable future for our nation through cost-efficient and energy-saving green buildings. With a community comprising 78 local affiliates, more than 20,000 member companies and organizations, and more than 131,000 LEED Accredited Professionals, USGBC is the driving force of an industry that is projected to soar to \$60 billion by 2010. The USGBC leads a diverse constituency of builders and environmentalists, corporations and nonprofit organizations, elected officials and concerned citizens, and teachers and students.

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