



**USGBC South Florida**

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## News Release

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For Immediate Release

### HGTV Green Giveaway Home Also Platinum LEED

Lake Worth, FL (July 17, 2009) -- A "completely overwhelmed" Kari Coffey shook with joy when she learned she was the winner of the second annual HGTV Green Home located in Tradition, Florida. Coffey, a 37-year old laboratory assistant from Saginaw, Michigan, won the 2009 HGTV Green Home Giveaway grand-prize package valued at approximately \$750,000.

Coffey, whose name was drawn from nearly 17 million entries, was the recipient of a grand-prize package that included a new, eco-friendly and fully furnished contemporary Spanish-style home situated in Tradition, Florida and a 2009 GMC Sierra Hybrid. Located near Port St. Lucie, Florida, the HGTV Green Home includes three bedrooms and two-and-a-half baths and features both construction and design elements that are known to contribute to an energy efficient, cleaner and healthier living environment. The home received a Platinum LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Certification from the U.S. Green Building Council.

"The overall level of detail and number of green features incorporated in this home is very impressive," said Kyle Abney, CGC, LEED AP, President of the U.S. Green Building Council South Florida Chapter, who presented the prestigious USGBC Platinum LEED plaque to HGTV President Jim Samples. "Carlson Studio Architecture and Core Communities did an incredible job."

The U.S. Green Building Council's LEED green building certification system is the foremost program for the design, construction and operation of green buildings. More than 35,000 projects are currently participating in the LEED system, comprising over 7.1 billion square feet of construction space in all 50 states and 91 countries.

"Environmentally conscious designs that embrace stringent LEED-certification requirements utilize particulars such as insulated concrete form exterior walls, energy-efficient mechanical systems, ENERGY STAR appliances, daylighting, drought-tolerant landscaping, a green roof, harvested rainwater for irrigation, low-flow faucets, dual-flush toilets, renewable energy systems, salvaged and recycled-content building materials, and many other environment-friendly initiatives. Also, what most consider as the most important aspect, the home's orientation, was considered from the beginning and was a design driver", said Abney.

"Design that is truly sustainable considers a structure's long-term operating costs, and strives to minimize energy consumption and incorporate renewable resources. In essence, a green building struggles less and performs

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better, and that saves monies for families, businesses and taxpayers; reduces greenhouse gas emissions; and contributes to a healthier environment for residents, workers and our community as a whole. In essence, it's the right way to build, and we're thrilled that HGTV chose to build this magnificent green home in South Florida," concluded Abney.

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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 EcoCentre in Lake Worth, Florida, the Chapter's nearly 800 passionate members and 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@usgbcfsf.org](mailto:lcooke@usgbcfsf.org), [www.usgbcfsf.org](http://www.usgbcfsf.org).*

Below, HGTV President Jim Samples and USGBC South Florida Chapter President Kyle Abney with the USGBC LEED Platinum plaque.

