

**HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY
BUILDING SERVICES DIVISION**

Policy No. 02-002
Issue Date: May 14, 2007
Effective Date: May 14, 2007
Supersedes: May 2, 2007

Residential Green Homes Policy

Subject: Residential Green Homes Policy

Purpose: The Tampa Bay Builders Association, local architects and designers, and representatives from the private sector have expressed an interest in “advocating” the use of green building practices in the construction of projects in Hillsborough County. The primary goal of this advocacy is to promote green building practices by the Building Services Division through the expediting of green building permit applications. Several jurisdictions in the State have adopted ordinances requiring all new government facilities to conform to minimum green building standards. As part of these measures, the expedition of qualifying permit applications is a primary tool for encouraging green building practices.

The U.S. Green Buildings Council (USGBC) has developed the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating system that is a voluntary, consensus based certification program. The Florida Green Building Coalition (FGBC) has developed the Florida Green Home Standard checklist that is used to certify proposed homes as meeting the requirement of the Green Home Designation standards. Either standard may be used to certify all green home applications in unincorporated Hillsborough County.

Policy Statement:

It shall be the policy of the Building Service Division to perform the flood and zoning, the Single family Landscaping Permit, and the building plan reviews in five working days or less to act as incentive for builders in Hillsborough County to construct green homes. The process time for the issuance of qualifying applications will be included in the five days if all development and building code regulations have been met. Each application must include a preliminary green home score supplied by a Certifying Agent. A Certified Agent shall be a qualified third party who has been trained and certified as a Green Home Certifying Agent, a qualified third party of an equivalent Green Home certifying Program or a LEED Accredited Professional.

In order to facilitate these reviews, all applications must include signed and sealed building plans submitted consistent with the Division’s electronic plan submission policy. Using electronic submittal and review of building plans will provide more efficient permit processing and plan review, enabling staff to meet the expedited timetable for issuing green residential permits. Staff will provide the electronic submission of building plans procedures and assist prospective applicants prior to the initial submittal of a green application upon request.

It shall also be the policy of the Division to prioritize the inspections of residential building permits process under this policy and making every effort to perform next day inspections.

Approved:

Mike Allgire


Manager, Permit Intake & Processing

May 14, 2007

Date

Approved:

Jerry Sparks


Building Services Division Director

May 14, 2007

Date