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U.S. Green Building Council honors South Florida projects

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South Florida's commercial real estate community turned out in force Saturday for the annual banquet of the U.S. Green Building Council's South Florida chapter.

About 400 of people mingled, ate dinner and watched as awards were handed out. The chapter had a lot to celebrate: There are now 109 Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) projects certified in the region.

All of those projects were certified in the last four years.

"We are well on our way to changing the way things are done in South Florida," said chapter President Robert Cannellos, an architect. The keynote speaker was attorney and former Miami Mayor Manny Diaz.

Diaz delivered what sounded like a warm-up for a stump speech and touted his own environmental record.

"At the local level, the environment is not a partisan issue," he said.

Local sponsors included Coastal Construction, Siemens, Trane Air Solutions, Crossroads Architecture, Abney & Abney Green Solutions, JM Family Enterprises and E3 Building Sciences.

The big winner of the night was Weston-based Spinnaker Group, a LEED consulting company that was named 2011 Outstanding Green Business. Principal Robert Hink was named 2011 Outstanding Community LEEDer for his work as a LEED professional and volunteer with the chapter.

The awards were wooden plaques made of maple certified by the Forest Stewardship Council.

Other awards:

- LEED for new construction: Florida Atlantic University College of Engineering and Computer Science
- LEED for commercial interiors (tie): Lexus Florida Training Center in Miramar and DHL Global Forwarding Center in Plantation
- LEED core and shell (tie): 1450 Brickell and Wells Fargo Center office towers in downtown Miami
- LEED for existing buildings: 110 Tower in Fort Lauderdale



- LEED for schools: St. Stephen's Episcopal Day School, Coconut Grove
- LEED for retail: Pizza Fusion, Weston
- LEED multifamily: Northwest Gardens Apartments, Fort Lauderdale
- LEED for homes: Glass House by Zahn Development, Lighthouse Point
- Outstanding green government: City of Boynton Beach
- Outstanding green elected official: Broward County Commissioner Kristin Jacobs

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