

Lee Wetherington Model Wins Prestigious Aurora Award for Green Construction in 2009

SARASOTA, FL - The 2009 SEBC's (South East Builders Conference) prestigious Aurora Award is bestowed upon Lee Wetherington Homes' Serena 2368 model for excellence in Green Construction. "I'm proud to see the teamwork and effort put in to achieve this award and to uphold our commitment to the environment, our customers, and our community," says Lee Wetherington.

Recognized as America's Best Builder by the National Association of Homebuilders & Builders Magazine, Lee Wetherington Homes' most recent achievement adds to the collection of over 350 awards from the Parade of Homes, Aurora, Excel, Pool, and various local and national community honors.

Green Certified and ENERGY STAR® - "Lee Wetherington Homes was the first builder to go Green across-the-board in Sarasota and Manatee Counties," says Drew Smith, LEED AP, GBTB, CHIEQP. Smith is the president of Two Trails, Inc, a third party certifying agent that evaluates buildings for their compliance with Green Building standards set by the Florida Green Building Coalition. He says that although a number of builders observe Green Building standards in select homes, few have matched Wetherington's commitment to include every home his company builds.

This commitment has contributed to Two Trails' title as FGBC's "Certifying Agent of the Year" for the highest number of Green Certified homes in the state of Florida as well as 35 Aurora Awards in conjunction with their builder partners across the state.

Lee Wetherington's vision of constructing breathtaking homes while minimizing the impact on the environment has been a reality since early 2005. This pledge to the environment was then again raised in 2007 when Lee Wetherington Homes became an official ENERGY STAR® partner. "Lee Wetherington Homes is the first builder that's made the commitment to provide only homes that have earned the ENERGY STAR® rating," says Salena Wilson. She is the Energy Rater Division Manager for Florida based Calcs-Plus, which evaluates homes for ENERGY STAR® specifications set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. According to Wilson, "Current ENERGY STAR®-qualified homes in Florida consume, at minimum, 23% less energy than a standard home built in 2008." The last two Wetherington homes tested at 30% and 31% below the 2008 standard in energy consumption.

Additional Standards – While taking leadership positions in Green Certification and ENERGY STAR® Certification among the local building community, Lee Wetherington Homes has not stopped there.

The homebuilder participates in FPL's BuildSmart Program for all homes constructed in the communities that the utility company provides service. "Lee Wetherington Homes has been a participant of our BuildSmart program since 2001 and has led the way in energy conserving building practices in this area." says Paul Messer, FPL's Energy Management Representative.

Lee Wetherington Homes also designs landscapes using Florida Yards and Neighborhoods guidelines and was honored with the Florida Friendly Landscaping Award from the University of Florida. This outreach program utilizes science based, environmentally friendly landscaping practices that conserve and protect water resources, while providing a means of creating beautiful yards utilizing low maintenance Florida Friendly plant materials.