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USGBC Awards Columbia Parc at the Bayou District LEED Silver Certification



March 18, 2011 – (New Orleans, Louisiana) Today, Columbia Residential, developer of Columbia Parc at the Bayou District, was awarded LEED Silver certification by USGBC for achievement in green homebuilding and design. LEED for Homes is a green home certification program that rewards homes that are designed and built to be energy- and resource-efficient and more healthy and durable for the occupants. LEED-certified homes complete a technically rigorous process that often includes a home energy (HERS) rating and onsite inspections to verify that the home is built to be energy and water efficient, environmentally sound, and a healthier place to live.

Located in the Gentilly area of New Orleans, Columbia Parc is four blocks east of City Park. The community was constructed with high efficiency lighting fixtures, compact fluorescent and pin based bulbs, and a highly efficient building envelope. Other energy efficiency upgrades include programmable thermostats, Energy Star appliance packages, and high efficiency HVAC equipment. Water conservation measures include a highly efficient engineered drip irrigation system, drought-tolerant and native plantings, and low flow plumbing fixtures. The use of high albedo concrete drives and parking areas along with a significant number of preserved and new shade trees will help reduce the heat island effect.

“LEED certification is a realistic way to tackle the ever-rising energy costs by cutting a home’s energy usage by as much as 60%, our case studies have shown,” said Nate Kredich, Vice President, Residential Market Development, USGBC. “Residents of Columbia Parc will be saving money year-round by living in a LEED-certified home.”

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About USGBC

The U.S. Green Building Council is a nonprofit membership organization whose vision is a sustainable built environment within a generation. Since USGBC’s founding in 1993, USGBC has grown to more than 18,000 member companies and organizations and a comprehensive suite of LEED green building certification systems. Its membership includes corporations, builders, universities, government agencies, and other nonprofit organizations all sharing USGBC commitment to a prosperous and sustainable future for our nation through cost-efficient and energy-saving green buildings. Visit www.usgbc.org for more information.

About LEED for Homes

LEED for Homes is a third-party certification system for building and designing high-performance green homes that are energy-and-resource-efficient and healthy for its occupants. Developed and administered by USGBC, LEED for Homes awards points to projects in eight categories of environmental performance: Innovation & Design Process, Location & Linkages, Sustainable Sites, Water Efficiency, Indoor Environmental Quality, Energy & Atmosphere, Materials & Resources, and Awareness & Education. To date, more than 5,000 homes have achieved certification with LEED for Homes program, and over 20,000 have registered and are in process. For more information, visit www.usgbc.org/homes.