

# PALM BEACH ZOO NEWS

**FOR: IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**FROM: PALM BEACH ZOO**

**RE: Solar Panels Installed on Zoo Animal Care Complex**

West Palm Beach, FL., Sept. 25, 2009 - The Palm Beach Zoo has announced completion of the installation of 80 solar panels on the roof of the newly constructed Melvin J. and Claire Levine Animal Care Complex, which opened in April of this year. The facility houses the Salvatore M. Zeitlin Animal Hospital and the Center for Conservation Medicine. The building was designed and constructed to meet the stringent environmental guidelines of the U.S. Green Building Council Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System™ which is the nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction, and operation of high performance green buildings. Certification at the Gold level is anticipated. Installation of the solar panels is the final step in making the building energy efficient. The solar panels were funded by a major grant from the FPL Group Foundation.

Dr. Terry L. Maple, President & CEO of the Palm Beach Zoo said, "With the installation of our first phase of solar panels, the Palm Beach Zoo has become a sustainability leader among our peers in the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. The generosity and vision of FPL Group will enable us to become LEED certified at the Gold level which is unprecedented among our nation's accredited zoos and aquariums. This step is only the beginning as we aspire to become the greenest zoo in America."

Pam Rauch, Vice President of External Affairs for Florida Power & Light Company said, "With three utility-scale solar installations currently under construction in Florida, FPL is dedicated to a clean energy future. We are pleased to support the zoo's commitment to build a LEED-certified medical facility as together we strive to improve the environment for our children and all of the animals that share this planet with us."

"The Palm Beach Zoo Conservation Committee is proud to be a part of this epic advance in the zoo's conservation vision," said Gary Krieger, Palm Beach Zoo Conservation Committee Chairman and Board Member of the Zoological Society of the Palm Beaches

Photovoltaic panels convert sunlight directly into electricity. The solar panels on the Animal Care Complex will cover nearly 2,000 square feet of roof space and will provide 31,397 kilowatt-hours of emissions-free power annually, offsetting 13.6 percent of the

building energy use, which is estimated at 250,515 kilowatt-hours per year. Sharpe Project Developments, Inc. made a major contribution of professional services to this project. Stiles Corporation and Advanced Roofing, Inc. also contributed a portion of their services.

The achievement of LEED certification for the “green” Animal Care Complex is in keeping with the Palm Beach Zoo’s mission, which is *to protect wildlife and wildlife habitat, and to inspire others to value and conserve the natural world. We advance our conservation mission through programs in field research, endangered species propagation, education, health and wellness, and conservation medicine. Our sustainable and responsible business practices and local, national and global partnerships enable the Palm Beach Zoo to support global conservation, species survival, and habitat preservation.*

LEED promotes a whole-building approach to sustainability by recognizing performance in five key areas of human and environmental health: site planning, water management, energy management, material use, indoor air quality, and innovation in the design process. LEED design offers environmental benefits, economic, community, health and safety benefits, reduces the impact on natural resources consumption, enhances occupant comfort and health, and minimizes strain on local infrastructure.