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CONTACT: Laura Comer or Elijah Fleishauer, (239) 332-6975
Amy Graham, (850) 245-2112 or (850) 778-7258 (cell)

**OCEANS REACH CONDOMINIUMS RESORT RECEIVES FLORIDA *GREEN*
LODGING PROGRAM DESIGNATION**

-Environmentally-friendly hotel conserves resources, saves money and attracts customers-

SANIBEL - The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) will welcome the Ocean's Reach Condominiums Resort to the Florida *Green Lodging* Program this evening at 5:00 p.m. The property, which operates essentially as a hotel, is the first to be designated on Sanibel Island and the 210th in the state. The voluntary state initiative provides the lodging industry with technical assistance, encouraging hotels and motels to adopt cost-saving "green" practices that reduce waste and conserve natural resources.

"DEP is pleased to welcome Ocean's Reach as the first property on Sanibel Island to participate in the Florida *Green Lodging* Program," said Jon Iglehart, Director of DEP's South District. "Their leadership will hopefully encourage others in the area to make a similar commitment to conserving and protecting the precious resources of the Island while still providing a rewarding experience for their guests."

To become a designated member of the Florida *Green Lodging* Program, hotels must implement a variety of green practices. These practices include, but are not limited to, water conservation measures through low flow plumbing fixtures, a linen reuse program, energy efficiency achieved by installing ENERGY STAR® appliances and programmable thermostats. The waste reduction criteria are met by providing the opportunity to recycle, purchasing items in bulk, purchasing recycled materials and by recycling ink and toner cartridges. All designated members of the Florida *Green Lodging* Program must also use green cleaners and high efficiency air filters.

"Ocean's Reach Condominiums Resort and Sanibel Island are sanctuaries not just for our guests, but also for the plants and wildlife that have lived here for hundreds of years. By recycling and conserving energy, we will keep the area as pristine as possible," said Andy Boyle, general manager. "It's an honor to be part of the Florida *Green Lodging* Program, and we hope every facility on Sanibel joins us."

Recently, Governor Crist hosted the 2008 Serve to Preserve Florida Summit on Global Climate Change, building on the foundation of last year's summit for Florida's energy future. During the 2007 summit, Governor Crist signed three executive orders initiating state energy-use policies, including one that requires state agencies and departments to hold meetings and conferences only at hotels with the Florida *Green Lodging* Program designation as of January 1, 2008, whenever possible. This year's summit explored technologies and strategies to stimulate economic development in clean technologies as well as "green" Florida's business community.

Launched in March 2004, the Florida *Green Lodging* Program establishes environmental guidelines for hotels and motels to conserve natural resources and prevent pollution. As reward for designation, the state is recommending designated properties in the Florida *Green Lodging*

Program to companies and trade organizations seeking environmentally conscious lodging and convention facilities. With the addition of the Oceans Reach Condominiums Resort, the program has 216 designated properties and more than 400 applicants. For more information about the Florida *Green Lodging* Program, visit www.dep.state.fl.us/greenlodging.

DEP's Office of Sustainable Initiatives is comprised of three voluntary, non-regulatory programs that assist Florida industry and citizens in protecting the environment. The *Clean Marina* Program, the Florida *Green Lodging* Program and the Florida Pollution Prevention Program offer a variety of services including on-site assessments, consultations, speakers and workshops, all at no cost to citizens or organizations. The goal of the Sustainable Initiatives programs is to meet the needs of the present population without compromising resources for future generations. To learn more about DEP's Sustainable Initiatives, visit www.dep.state.fl.us/green/.