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## **FLORIDA'S SHOWCASE GREEN ENVIROHOME (FSGE) - 1ST PERMITTED PASSIVE NITROGEN & PHOSPHORUS REMOVAL SEPTIC TANK & DRAINFIELD SYSTEM IN ALL OF FLORIDA**

**Brevard County – Indialantic, Florida – July 17, 2009**

Thanks to letters of support from U.S. Congressman, Bill Posey, State Senator, Mike Haridopolos, State Representatives, John Tobia and Scott Randolph, and Brevard County Commissioner, Andy Anderson, as well as a majority vote at a Florida Department of Health (DOH) Variance Board Hearing, expert engineering efforts by Morris Smith, P.E., funding for test data from Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), and direction by Gerald Briggs, Chief of the DOH Bureau of Onsite Sewage Programs, FSGE is now the very first permitted passive nitrogen and phosphorus removal septic tank and drainfield configuration for field evaluation in all of Florida and the first of its kind in the world.

Mr. Briggs stated: "FSGE is the first field test of the University of Central Florida's (UCF's) patent-pending passive nitrogen reduction onsite sewage treatment and disposal system at an actual home site. The system [Bold & Gold™ Septic] is currently under evaluation at a test site at the UCF and sampling of the FSGE system will provide data to validate the system nitrogen and phosphorus reduction potential. Onsite systems have been identified as a significant source of nitrogen and phosphorus to Florida's ground and surface waters."

Eric Livingston, Bureau Chief for Watershed Restoration at DEP, which helped fund installation and monitoring of innovative technologies at FSGE stated: "FSGE is an excellent example of how we can foster better stewardship and sustainability of Florida's natural resources, especially its water resources, at an individual home. The low impact design practices at FSGE include the greenroof/cistern system, pervious pavement, stormwater landscape retention, and Florida-friendly landscaping. In addition, the passive nutrient reducing septic tank, which was developed and tested at the UCF under a contract with the DEP, provides much higher removals of nitrogen and phosphorus with less cost and maintenance than the performance-based systems currently being permitted in Florida. Together, these innovative best management practices will greatly help to reduce nonpoint source pollution from existing land uses and help minimize such pollution from new developments."

The Environmental Protection Agency in 1997 in a U.S. Congressional report declared onsite septic systems to be a necessary and permanent part of our wastewater infrastructure, which provide low risk options that recharge groundwater, preserve wetlands, provide base flow to streams and rivers, and are an important component of "smart growth" initiatives.

Traditional drainfields and Aerobic Treatment Units (ATUs) are estimated to remove ~20% and ~75% of nitrogen, respectively. Thanks to UCF's Dr. Martin Wanielista, "Grandfather of Stormwater Management" and inventor of UCF's passive and biomimetic Bold & Gold™ Septic requiring zero electricity, FSGE's drainfield plans to prove an ~90% removal of nitrogen compounds as well as ~100% removal of phosphorus compounds, which can contaminate groundwater with nitrates and algae blooms, respectively. Groundwater typically moves about 3 feet per year compared to a river at 3 feet per second. Given that Florida is in a water crisis and groundwater is ~90% of Floridians' potable water source, FSGE's achievement brings awareness to the value of proper decentralized wastewater management.

UCF students will be at FSGE on Friday, July 17, 2009 from 8AM to 5PM to help Advanced Wastewater Engineering install its septic innovation with Low Impact Design utilizing: Infiltrator Systems, Inc.'s patented, ~80% recycled 4' septic drainfield chambers that are proven to extend a typical drainfield life and offer superior root protection; a SCADA system from DataFlow Systems, Inc., a national leader in water and wastewater utility management, to help FSGE log and monitor ~100 points of data, including waste data; Polylok, Inc.'s advanced filtration, safety "kid catchers", and effluent measurement device; Lowe's sewer piping; Plastic-mart.com's container; and Green Seasons Nursery's true native paspalum grass with an irrigation solution by Sandberg Irrigation Water & Supply and Grundfos Pumps USA. For more info, see [www.FSGE.net](http://www.FSGE.net).