



Brian U. Stratton
Mayor

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MAYOR STRATTON ACCEPTS U.S. MAYORS NATIONAL
ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR SCHENECTADY

City's Universal Design/Green Affordable Homes Program Wins
"2009 City Livability Award for Outstanding Achievement"

Schenectady Among Nation's Cities Honored at U.S. Conference of Mayors
Annual Meeting in Providence, RI

SCHENECTADY – Mayor Brian U. Stratton has accepted a national achievement award for Schenectady's Universal Design / Green Affordable Housing Program, which is replacing blighted and abandoned housing in the city's most distressed neighborhoods with new, affordable, highly energy-efficient homes for low-income, first-time buyers.

The presentation was made in Providence, Rhode Island on June 13, during the 77th Annual Meeting of the United States Conference of Mayors (USCM). It is the third time the city's innovative green housing program has received national or statewide recognition for excellence.

"It is a great honor for the City of Schenectady to be highlighted before the nation's mayors as a model of effectiveness in addressing the very same challenges mayors from across the country face every day in their communities: saving energy, reducing our carbon footprint, stabilizing neighborhoods and encouraging home ownership," Mayor Stratton said.

The USCM City Livability Award Program, sponsored by Waste Management, Inc., honors mayors and their city governments for developing programs that enhance the quality of life in urban areas. The program focuses on mayoral leadership, creativity, innovation, and broad impact on the lives of city residents.

Established in 1979, the City Livability Awards are given annually to 10 mayors of large and small cities from throughout the country. A first-place award and four Outstanding Achievement Awards are presented to cities with populations under 100,000 (small cities), and a first-place award and four Outstanding Achievement Awards is given to cities with populations of 100,000 and above (large cities). There are also ten "Honorable Mention" awards given.

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Mayor Stratton said Schenectady's program was selected for Outstanding Achievement from among a pool of more than 200 applicants.

Tom Cochran, Executive Director and CEO of the U.S. Conference of Mayors commented, "Our City Livability Awards Program gives the Conference a chance to highlight mayoral leadership in making urban areas cleaner, safer and more livable."

Funded primarily by the City of Schenectady with U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) HOME funds, this program works to stabilize neighborhoods by demolishing blighted and abandoned properties and replacing them with new, "green," energy-efficient, affordable homes.

The homes are designed to meet United States Green Building Council (USGBC) Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Standards, are super energy efficient and reflect the historic character of Schenectady. The program's prototype home at 1005 Glendale Place in the city's Mont Pleasant neighborhood, is the first home in New York State to receive LEED – Platinum designation, the nation's highest energy-efficiency rating.

Other homes are located at 845 Grant Street and 301 Victory Avenue. A total of 10 more homes are planned for construction so far.

A high priority for the program is to reduce energy use and monthly utility costs for low-and moderate-income families. The homes are Energy Star-rated with typical utility cost savings of \$200 per month. Solar systems provide more than half of electric and hot water needs. Construction materials were selected to be environmentally friendly with a high recycled content. Water efficient fixtures and dual-flush toilets save thousands of gallons of water each year. The homes have superior indoor air quality and are universally designed for everyone and allow residents to "age in place."

Thinking "Green," Mayor Brian U. Stratton along with non-profit affordable housing and community partners initiated this program to build new, green, super energy efficient homes for sale to low- and moderate-income, first-time home buyers in Schenectady.

Mayor Stratton praised the contributions of the city's 10 community partners who work with the city to make the program possible. "This is truly the product and achievement of community partnership, only made possible by the outstanding work of our community partners; a true test of collaboration," Stratton said.

Community Partners:

- Better Neighborhoods, Inc. (BNI)
986 Albany St., Schenectady, NY 12307
(518)-372-6469
Affordable housing partner

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- Community Land Trust of Schenectady, Inc. (CLTS)
1677 Van Vranken Ave., Schenectady, NY 12308
(518)-372-7616
Affordable housing partner
- The City of Schenectady
Department of Development HOME Program
(518)-382-5147
Leveraged funds for housing development
- Dave Sadowsky, Architect, P.C., LEED AP
Award winning affordable housing design
- J. Luk Construction Company, LLC
General Contractor
- Michael P. Stangl, P.E.,
NYSERDA Home Energy Rating System Representative
- New York State Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA)
Provided credit for photovoltaic system installation
- Capital/Saratoga Energy \$mart Communities Coordinator
Education and Outreach
- Re-Tree Schenectady
Donated trees for home sites
- Schenectady County Cornell Cooperative Extension - Horticultural Center
Donated gardens for home sites
- Community Development Resources, LLC, Sue Lombardi, President
Provided grant-writing services

The Schenectady program, which began in 2007, has been featured in the national trade publication Professional Builder. In addition to the U.S. Mayors City Livability award, the Schenectady program has also received the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's "Best in American Living Award," as well as HUD's regional "Community Planning and Development Award for Emerging Leaders in Green Housing."

The U.S. Conference of Mayors is an official nonpartisan organization of 1,201 cities with populations of 30,000 or more.

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Attachment