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Building Destiny: New eco-sustainable city signs first project

- by [Anjali Fluker](#)

The proposed city of Destiny will be home to one of the first E-stations in the nation – a \$2.5 million-\$3 million, 6,000-square-foot refueling station with traditional and renewable fuels.

It will include five gasoline and alternative fuel and six diesel dispensers, along with a solar- and geothermal-powered convenience store that features an inverted roof to capture rainwater into a cistern. Lake Wales-based [Mid-State Energy Inc.](#) will begin building the LEED-certified, hurricane-resistant concrete station by mid-2009.

The project is in the final design phase, so the final fuel mix is still unknown. But it could include E85, a blend of 15 percent gasoline and 85 percent ethanol, as well as soy- or animal fat-based biodiesel, compressed natural gas and plug-in charging stations for electric or hybrid vehicles.

The project is in line with plans for Destiny, which is being touted as the nation's first eco-sustainable city. Destiny's developer – the Land Co. of Osceola County LLC, founded by Delray Beach developer Anthony Pugliese III and Subway restaurants founder Fred DeLuca – wants to create a 41,300-acre community with a clean-technology cluster, green buildings, energy-efficient homes and more.

[The Land Co.](#) announced Sept. 24 that Osceola County will submit a comprehensive plan amendment to the state by the end of October, signaling the start of Destiny's entitlement process to become an official city.

Meanwhile, Mid-State Energy, which owns 100 gas stations throughout the Southeastern U.S., will forge ahead with its plans for the E-station. Mid-State initially planned to build a traditional station and was days away from starting construction at Yeehaw Junction – a rural outpost in south Osceola County where State Road 60, U.S. Highway 441 and Florida's Turnpike converge – when the Destiny team approached the company.

“We threw away the plans and are looking to have a design that hasn't been out there in the market before,” said Ken Allen Jr., president of Mid-State Energy.

Taos, N.M.-based Living Designs Group LLC, is the designer on the project; Palm Beach County-based Royal Concrete Concepts is the general contractor.

Destiny Chief Operating Officer Randy Johnson said while the company had to take a \$100,000 hit to change the service station project due to work already being under way on it, it could prove to be a pioneering move. “There was some great scratching of the heads at the first conversation, but these are bright, entrepreneurial people,” Johnson said. “These folks have really caught the vision.”

In another eco-friendly move, Royal Concrete Concepts Inc. will build the station in closed-factory conditions at its manufacturing plant in nearby Okeechobee, which means large trucks won’t have to transport supplies to and from the site.

“We’re looking forward to getting involved in Destiny,” said Wally Sanger, president and owner of Royal Concrete Concepts, who expects to do other projects there, as well.

Destiny’s Johnson said he’s also gotten letters of intent from a solar panel manufacturer, a renewable energy plant, a major Fortune 500 company and an automotive-related firm, though he declined to name those companies. Additionally, Destiny has received air space rights from the Federal Aviation Administration for two airports – an executive airport and general aviation airport. The airport plans hinge on approvals at both the state and county levels.

Destiny’s preliminary plans include 40,000 homes, business parks, eco-industrial clusters, a multimodal transportation system, 200 miles of navigable waterways which are expected to feature water taxis, a 1,300-acre freshwater lake and 61 miles of trails and bike paths.

afluker@bizjournals.com | (407) 241-2910

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