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County asks citizens to join the ‘Community Conversation on Energy and Climate’ April 22

Sarasota County is partnering with local governments and community organizations to host a Community Conversation on Energy and Climate as part of the International Council on Local Environmental Initiatives’ (ICLEI) “National Conversation on Climate Action.” Sarasota County was one of only 10 U.S. communities nationwide selected to participate in the conversation, which takes place locally from 1-5 p.m. Wednesday, April 22, at the Venice Community Center, 326 S. Nokomis Ave., Venice. The public is encouraged to attend and admission is free.

The event coincides with Earth Day to encourage citizens nationwide to drive substantive, solutions-oriented dialogues about energy and climate action at the local level. In Sarasota County, community input from the event will be incorporated into a cross-jurisdictional Community Energy and Climate Action Plan to achieve energy savings and greenhouse gas emissions reductions.

Joining Sarasota County in the effort are the cities of Sarasota, North Port and Venice, SCOPE and New College of Florida.

“We look forward to supporting these 10 Spotlight Conversation communities on Earth Day,” said Michelle Wyman, executive director of ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability USA. “This will be an opportunity for the communities to advance their local climate protection goals and feed into a crucial national dialogue on the imperative of local climate action.”

As a membership association of 500 U.S. local governments advancing climate protection and sustainability, ICLEI worked directly with the local Spotlight Conversation communities to build the event into an ongoing climate action plan. The 2009 National Conversation will build off the success of past events and the rapidly growing demand from citizens for clean energy solutions.

For more information about the national event, visit www.climateconversation.org. To learn more about the local event, contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000 or visit www.scgov.net/Sustainability/EnergyConversation.

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