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Media contact: Pat Haire; 941-861-5104; cell 941-650-2850; phaire@scgov.net

Project contact: Tom Franklin; 941-861-6218; cell 941-232-6761, twfrankl@scgov.net

Company contacts:

- Arrow Environmental Services, Inc., Eddie Tanguay, 941-377-0888
- Namack Portfolio Professionals, LLC, Wendy Namack, 941-429-3055
- Suncoast Communities Blood Bank, Marty Martin, 941-485-4800
- Suncoast Communities Blood Bank, Scott Bushm 941-954-1600
- Tri-County Air Conditioning, April Griner, 941-485-2222

Four new members join Sarasota County's Green Business Partnership

Sarasota County's Green Business Partnership has added four new members to a community of companies that are demonstrating their commitment to a healthy environment for employees and the community at large:

Arrow Environmental Services, Inc.

Arrow Environmental is a leader in sustainable solutions for pest control and lawn care in Southwest Florida and operates in more than 100 local communities. It is ranked in the top 100 pest control firms nationally. The company used the Green Business Partnership program as the template for its environmental program. The company reduced its garbage volume and cost by 50 percent through recycling and waste reduction measures, and implemented measures to reduce energy consumption recommended by its Florida Power & Light audit. Its newly established "green team" is finding new areas to improve its environmental performance, and is effectively communicating the company's environmental goals.

Namack Portfolio Investment Professionals, LLC and Mike Low, CPA

Namack is an independent financial consulting firm. It offers tactical asset analysis and management services and strategic financial planning. The company scans documents and e-mails them to reduce printing and mail costs. It also uses reusable plates, cups and flatware instead of disposable items and purchases recycled content legal pads and copy paper. These measures, along with the energy and water conservation measures they implemented, demonstrate the company's commitment to doing everything it can to reduce its environmental impact.

Suncoast Communities Blood Bank

Suncoast Communities Blood Bank is a registered 501 (c) (3) not-for-profit corporation supported by hundreds of individuals, corporations and foundations. It provides a reliable supply of quality blood products and services to hospitals and health centers in need. Suncoast is simultaneously reducing its environmental impacts and overhead costs. By reducing waste, they save money on garbage service and office materials. The

organization switched from T-12 lighting to T-8, which uses less energy and cut their electric bill. They also converted to low-flow toilets that reduce their water consumption and water bill.

Tri-County Air Conditioning & Heating, Inc.

Tri-County is one of the largest air conditioning service and replacement companies in Florida. Its 37,800 square-foot facility is equipped with 11 fully operational air conditioning systems for customers to try out. Their newest facility incorporates a state of the art air conditioning system training facility. Tri-County's electricity needs are met entirely through solar energy. The company recycles aggressively, has instituted measures to reduce paper use, and regularly communicates good environmental stewardship practices with staff and customers through newsletters and staff meetings.

The Green Business Partnership was initiated under a Florida Department of Environmental Protection grant and is open to all businesses in Sarasota County that implement required resource conservation measures and pass an on-site certification assessment. Each certified business receives a Green Business Partnership certificate and seal they can display to demonstrate their commitment to a healthy environment. They also receive an electronic logo that can be used on company stationary and promotional items.

These four businesses and organizations are now part of a Green Business Partnership directory that is available online at the Green Business Web site, www.scgov.net/greenbusiness.

The Green Business Partnership is actively seeking other participants. For more information, or to request a Green Business Partnership packet, contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000.

For more information on the businesses currently certified under the program, visit www.scgov.net/greenbusiness and click on the link entitled, "Participating Businesses."

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