

**Oct. 30, 2009**

**Media contact:** Susan Walsh, 941-861-5504; cell 941-650-4791; [swalsh@scgov.net](mailto:swalsh@scgov.net)

**Project contact:** Nina Powers, 941-650-0876; [npowers@scgov.net](mailto:npowers@scgov.net)

## **National energy expert to address Sustainable Communities Workshop**

National energy expert Misty Conrad will be the keynote speaker at the Sarasota County 2009 Sustainable Communities Workshop, scheduled Nov. 3 at the Girl Scouts of Gulfcoast Florida Event and Conference Center, 4740 Cattlemen Road, Sarasota. The workshop will be from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

This year the workshop's focus is on making the "Drops to Watts" connection. The daylong workshop will offer attendees specific ideas for greening homes and yards, developing sustainable development models and implementing water conservation methods that save money and energy.

Conrad will discuss the connection between water and energy, which are closely linked because the production of energy requires large volumes of water and the treatment and distribution of water is equally dependent on readily available, low-cost energy. Conrad is the senior project leader and technical assistance program manager with the U.S. Department of Energy National Renewable Energy Laboratory.

Preregistration is required for the workshop. Registration is just \$30 per day, including a continental breakfast, lunch and afternoon snacks. All registered attendees will receive a 15-watt compact fluorescent light bulb and low-volume sink faucet aerator to help save energy and water. There also will be exhibits and raffle prizes, including native plants, kayak rentals and a rain barrel. Attendees must be present to win.

Other scheduled speakers are:

- Jim Beever, Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council
- Ben Sasse, Willis A. Smith Construction
- Angela Maraj, Southwest Florida Water Management District
- Dr. Pierce Jones, University of Florida Program for Resource Efficient Communities
- Chuck Henry, Sarasota County Health Department
- Jack Burden, Raindrops Cisterns
- Tim Rumage, Ringling College of Art and Design.

Representatives of Sarasota County Water Resources and Environmental Services also will participate.

The 2009 Sustainable Communities Workshop is a rich learning opportunity for planners, builders and developers, engineers, architects and landscape architects, as well as businesses, homeowners and neighborhood associations. This popular interactive workshop draws leaders from industry, government and university programs to share their expertise and strategies for saving energy and water in homes and businesses with green building and land use choices.

Topics such as green infrastructure, low-impact development and residential water savings, including landscaping choices and rainwater harvesting, relate to our community's water resource protection, economic future and quality of life.

Conrad has more than 15 years of experience in analyzing policy and environmental impacts. She has extensive experience in collaborating with states and communities to promote coherent, tangible clean energy programs. She currently manages project teams in energy planning and policy, environmental impacts, agricultural applications, small-island sustainability and rural development.

Her previous work included the water/energy nexus, environmental remediation and water reclamation for the Colorado Department of Natural Resources. She has a bachelor of science degree in land use and environmental resources and a master's degree in environmental policy and law.

To learn more about the event, contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000 and ask for the Sustainable Communities Workshop, or register now at [www.scgov.net/SustainableCommunities](http://www.scgov.net/SustainableCommunities).

-end-