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Four new members join Sarasota County's Green Business Partnership

Sarasota County's Green Business Partnership has added four new members to the more than 100 certified companies that are demonstrating their commitment to a healthy environment for employees and the community at large:

All Faiths Food Bank

All Faiths Food Bank works with 160 non-profit agency partners to distribute food to more than 32,500 people in Sarasota and DeSoto counties every day. It reduces waste by collecting unordered food from restaurants that might otherwise go into local landfills, and provides leadership and education to the community on issues related to food, nutrition and hunger. All Faiths Food Bank reduced the amount of garbage it generates by finding sources to take materials not typically recycled, such as shrink wrap and large plastic containers. It has also instituted facility-wide energy conservation measures that will reduce its electric bills.

Beechwood Builders Inc./Beechwood Green Solutions, Inc.

Beechwood Builders specializes in all levels of home building and remodeling. The company has reduced paper waste by double-sided printing and using scrap paper for scratch paper. It ensures unnecessary lights are turned off, and is committed to keeping its facility grounds litter-free.

Jansen Shutters and Specialties

Jansen Shutters and Specialties is a family-based business that has been providing external storm protection to homeowners for more than 30 years. The company has used the Green Business Partnership to enhance its existing environmental program, which includes a robust recycling program, and is always looking for ways to reduce waste and recycle more materials. The company is disciplined in its energy use and uses natural light in its warehouse whenever possible.

Simply Gourmet Caterers

Simply Gourmet Caterers is a full service catering company that specializes in fine dining, business luncheons and weddings. The company has markedly improved its

office and kitchen recycling, identified areas to reduce its energy and water consumption, and is researching replacing traditional cleaners with more environmentally-friendly ones.

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 stationery 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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