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‘Get Energy Smart’ program closes with \$1 million in home energy efficiency rebates achieved

Sarasota County officials have announced that the application period for the “Get Energy Smart” program has closed since the program funding has been expended. Since August 2010 Sarasota County’s grant funded Get Energy Smart program has resulted in more than \$1 million in rebates for to local homeowners who installed energy efficient upgrades. The program provided energy improvement rebates to eligible homeowners in unincorporated Sarasota County and the cities of North Port, Sarasota and Venice.

“The Get Energy Smart program has been a huge success when it comes to creating opportunities for citizens to increase the energy efficiency of their homes and also in demonstrating to the community the benefits of saving energy,” said Amy Meese, General Manager, Sarasota County Natural Resources. “It has been a winning formula. The program enabled homeowners to make energy efficient upgrades and lower their utility bills, hiring area contractors and supporting local jobs in the process.”

Local homeowners who used Get Energy Smart program participating contractors to install program approved energy efficient products including HVAC systems, insulation, solar hot water heaters and ENERGY STAR appliances received rebates that helped cover some of the cost of the energy improvements. According to Meese, the rebates helped make possible more than \$4.1 million in unincorporated Sarasota County since the program’s inception.

“Not only are homeowners saving money because of the “Get Energy Smart” program, but the availability of the rebate funds benefitted the area Sarasota business community as well. Participating contractors saw an increase in their business helping to retain jobs and keep money in our community,” said Meese.

Because of the success of the “Get Energy Smart” program, Sarasota County has launched a continuing community energy education initiative, “Energy Upgrade Today,” designed to keep homeowners informed on how they can lower their utility bills in five easy steps and access other available incentives. Homeowners can learn more by visiting www.energyupgradetoday.com.

The Get Energy Smart program received funding from the U.S. Department of Energy’s American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program.

For more information, contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000, or visit www.scgov.net, keyword search Energy Upgrade Today.

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