

Oct. 1, 2007

Ringling Museum of Art joins the Green Business Partnership

One of Sarasota's premier attractions and cultural icons is Sarasota County's newest Green Business Partner. The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art, 5401 Bay Shore Road, Sarasota, will now be recognized not only for its spectacular collection of baroque art, but also for its environmental stewardship.

Ringling's Chief Operating Officer Chip Willis immediately recognized that the museum had already enacted many of the requirements to become a partner. "Angie Apple, who heads our custodial department had already been researching 'safe' cleaning products and sources for recycled paper, and had implemented them prior to learning about the Green Business Partnership," said Willis. "Her efforts not only allowed the museum to be better stewards of our environment, they also resulted in a reduction in costs for paper and cleaning products."

According to Willis, Grounds Superintendent Kevin Green was also following water and fertilizer management practices. The museum's lush grounds are sprinkled with classic statuary and host many of Sarasota's most glamorous galas and fundraisers, but few are aware that the landscaping is comprised of Florida native plants that require far less water.

The museum has also engaged an outside firm, Johnson Controls, to perform a complete energy audit of the estate, and is exploring ways to engage their food vendors in the museum's recycling efforts.

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.

The Ringling Museum is also listed in a Green Business Partnership directory that is available online at the Green Business Web site, <http://greenbusiness.scgov.net>.

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 and ask to speak with the county's Recycling Coordinator.

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