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Green Business Partnership certifies Mercedes Medical, Inc.

Sarasota County's Green Business Partnership has awarded its newest certification to Mercedes Medical, Inc. The company, which is located at 7590 Commerce Court in Sarasota, is a privately held national medical distribution company that has twice been named to *Inc. Magazine's* list of "Fastest Growing Companies in America."

Owners Noelle and Rob Haft say they made the decision to embrace a green workplace based on the belief that what's good for the environment is good for their business. "Providing a safe work environment, reducing waste, reusing resources all reduces costs," says Carol Anziano, Vice President of Business Development. "It fits right in with the company's fiscally responsible and progressive management style."

According to Anziano, Mercedes Medical's executive team learned of the Green Business Partnership through the Sarasota Chamber of Commerce. Eliminating disposable plastic coffee cups, notifying catalog companies of duplicate mailings and asking customers to allow emailed invoices instead of paper are just some of the ways Mercedes has managed to reduce waste and cut costs.

"Mercedes Medical really jumped into the program with enthusiasm," says Program Coordinator Tom Franklin. "They established a "green team" that installed refrigerator curtains to save energy, replaced toxic cleaners with a healthier alternative and put alarms on refrigeration units to warn of leaks."

Franklin says that the establishment of a green team is a critical component to providing a company with a mechanism to identify areas of environmental impact and risk reduction. "It also gives a company a means to communicate environmental initiatives and measures. It proved to be very effective in identifying key areas for improved performance at Mercedes Medical."

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.

Mercedes Medical is also now 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."