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## Coppola Realty Group is Sarasota's newest Green Business Partner

Sarasota County's Green Business partnership is expanding into real estate with new member Coppola Realty Group. The group, located at 8792 S. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, specializes in European clients. Its realtors speak German, Polish, Swedish, and now, the language of being green.

Our official company stationery and business cards are printed on 100 percent recycled paper and have been reconfigured to reduce waste during the printing process, " said Coppola Environmental Programs Coordinator Bernii Coppola. "We set our thermostat to 80-82 degrees whenever the office is empty and try to keep it at 78 degrees while occupied. After we brew our morning coffee, it goes into a thermal carafe that keeps the coffee hot for hours while saving the energy used by plugged-in coffee makers."

"This firm exemplifies what a smaller business can do to reduce its environmental impacts," said Sarasota County Recycling Coordinator Tom Franklin. "It has a comprehensive recycling program and has implemented measures to reduce waste by replacing Styrofoam cups with reusable mugs and used office furniture. To reduce energy use, they've applied window tint, set thermostats to 82 degrees and minimized the number of lights used for nighttime security."

"We are seriously attempting to reduce the generation of office paper waste by use of e-mailing scanned legal documents and contracts, instead of faxing, whenever possible," said Coppola. "We also use non-toxic biodegradable cleaning products, purchase only refillable pens and mechanical pencils, non-disposable coffee cups, utensils and dishware, and also save and reuse any scrap paper for note pads."

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.

Coppola Realty is now listed in a Green Business Partnership directory that is available online at the Green Business Web site, [www.scgov.net/greenbusiness](http://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 and ask to speak with the county's Recycling Coordinator.

For more information on the businesses currently certified under the program, visit [www.scgov.net/greenbusiness](http://www.scgov.net/greenbusiness) and click on the link entitled, "Participating Businesses."