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Children's supply company finds uniform ways to be green

Sarasota County has awarded its newest Green Business Partnership to Children's World Uniform Supply of 4525 Bee Ridge Road, Sarasota. The company, which has been in business since 1964 and now offers uniforms for schoolchildren, took the opportunity of a relocation to evaluate everything it does to be more environmentally friendly.

"We reduced our waste, began reusing items when we can and recycling everything we are able," said Children's World's Tim Holliday, whose store serves 27 schools with school uniforms. "We replaced paper towels with cloth towels in the employee restrooms and kitchen, so they can be washed and used continuously, and we replaced paper plates and cups with ceramic.

Sarasota County Recycling Coordinator was most impressed by the company's staff. "They've engaged their staff to implement a vigorous recycling program," said Franklin. "One of the most inventive things they've done is to plant a Florida-friendly landscape that requires no watering."

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.

Children's World Uniform Supply is now listed in 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 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 and click on the link entitled, "Participating Businesses."