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Sustainable Communities Workshop scheduled for Dec. 12-13

Sarasota County has announced the dates for its 2008 Sustainable Communities Workshop. This year's workshop will take place from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12, and Saturday, Dec. 13. For its third consecutive year, the workshop will be held at the Girl Scouts of Gulfcoast Florida Event and Conference Center, 4780 Cattlemen Road, Sarasota. Participants may register for one or both days. Registration will open soon for professionals and the general public.

This popular two-day interactive workshop draws leaders from industry, government, and university programs to share their expertise and strategies for climate change solutions, saving energy and water in homes and businesses, sustainable transportation and land use choices and how these relate to the community's health and economic future.

Of particular note this year is the workshop's focus on developing renewable energy sources as part of creating sustainable communities, and the dedication of one workshop day to cost saving energy solutions for individuals and homeowners.

"With rising gas and electric costs, our community is looking for ways to save energy and money," said Sarasota Sustainability Manager Lee Hayes Byron. "This workshop will provide detailed suggestions for citizens and businesses from experts in a variety of fields."

The workshop is open to professional planners, builders and developers, engineers, architects and landscape architects, small business owners and government representatives, as well as citizens, homeowners, neighborhood associations and community advocates.

Day one will focus on professional and commercial strategies to reduce energy and water use, develop sustainable business models, take advantage of green building technologies, and incorporate societal considerations in response to a changing climate.

Day two will feature ways that individuals, homeowners and neighborhood representatives can implement energy, waste and water conservation strategies that save money and improve quality of life.

Both days will provide an overview of available programs and incentives for adopting renewable energy and energy efficiency solutions.

Sponsorship and exhibitor opportunities are available. To learn more about the event, or to become a sponsor or exhibitor, contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000, or visit www.scgov.net/SustainableCommunities.

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