

Jan. 26, 2009

**Media contact:** Pat Haire, 941-861-5104; cell 941-650-2850; [phaire@scgov.net](mailto:phaire@scgov.net)

**Project contact:** Tom Franklin, 941-861-6218; cell 941-232-6761, [twfrankl@scgov.net](mailto:twfrankl@scgov.net)

**Company contacts:**

- Gulf Pride Paint and Decorating Co.: John Schnackenberg, 941-460-0469
- Jon F. Swift, Inc.: Ross Russo, 941-951-6100
- SCOPE: Kate Irwin, 941-365-8751

## Green Business Partnership adds three new members

Sarasota County's Green Business Partnership has added three new members to its growing roster of companies that are demonstrating their commitment to a healthy environment for employees and the community at large:

**Gulf Pride Paint and Decorating Co.** — This is a home-based business that has designated its own "green team" to plan and monitor environmental programs. The company has implemented several measures to minimize waste. Paint leftover from a job is either used as a primer for the next job or is recycled. The company uses only paints that are low in air-polluting organic compounds, and it solicits only work that is located close to its office locations, to minimize fuel consumption.

**Jon F. Swift, Inc.** — This is a contractor of non-residential buildings, other than industrial buildings and warehouses. The company has incorporated environmental stewardship into all phases of its business. It has a comprehensive recycling program and reused light fixtures from a demolition project in its own building. The company landscape is Florida friendly, and the company has instituted policies to save energy.

**SCOPE** — SCOPE is a community organization that brings people together to build a shared understanding of the qualities that make Sarasota a good place to live, work, and raise a family. This private nonprofit organization is dedicated to engaging the community in planning for excellence through a process of open dialogue and impartial research, to establish priorities, propose solutions and monitor change to enhance the quality of life in Sarasota County. SCOPE reuses paper to reduce consumption and save money, and has removed one of every three fluorescent light bulbs to conserve energy.

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.

These three businesses are now part of 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.

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."

**Media note:** A JPEG image of the Green Business Partnership logo is attached.

-end-