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- Gulf Coast Signs of Sarasota, Hidayet Kutat, 941-355-8841

Three new members join Sarasota County's Green Business Partnership

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

Absolute Pay Trust Two, Inc. — Locally owned and operated Absolute Pay Trust offers the convenience of a Florida payroll service, workers' compensation insurance policies, general liability coverage, group health plans, commercial auto and more under one roof. It has focused its efforts on reducing the environmental impacts resulting from their traditional paper-oriented payroll services. The company e-mails reports and check stubs to clients, which not only reduces paper usage, but also the air quality impacts caused by using traditional delivery methods.

Mirasol FAFCO Solar — Mirasol is a 30-year-old, Nokomis-based provider of innovative energy-efficient solar electric, pool heating, water heating and pool automation equipment. The company is in the business of green power, but used the Green Business Partnership to guide it in improving day-to-day environmental performance. The company aggressively instituted recycling and waste reduction practices that have resulted in its cutting garbage service costs in half. It is also applying fuel-efficient criteria to future vehicle purchases.

Gulf Coast Signs of Sarasota, Inc. — Gulf Coast Signs has integrated environmental stewardship into how it does business. The company uses only natural lighting in its office areas during the day, and conscientiously reuses paper, cardboard boxes and residue from its sign manufacturing. It has also switched to a new painting method that greatly reduces air pollutants. Gulf Coast Signs engages its employees in its environmental goals and policies at weekly meetings and all other forms of company communications.

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 stationery 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.

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 and click on the link entitled, "Participating Businesses."