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## 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:

**CMO Alliance, LLC:** CMO is a manufacturer and distributor of electronics accessories. The company has used the Green Business Partnership application process to help it consider its environmental impacts. It saved energy by using natural light where possible and opening its doors on cool days, instead of using air conditioning. It is also aggressively pursuing feasible options to reduce its negative environmental impacts on current packaging methods.

**Eric-John Claessens, DDS:** Dr. Eric-John Claessens offers reconstructive and aesthetic dentistry from his office in North Port. Claessens has implemented several recycling and energy conservation measures to improve the environmental performance of his office. Through investment in new software, he is quickly moving to a patient record system that will dramatically reduce the office's power consumption.

**Willis A. Smith Construction, Inc.:** In January 2009, the company occupied a new LEED standard building. The company's management realized that even though they had a "green" building, they needed to ensure that their business practices were green. They have since instituted measures to reduce their environmental impacts to include: installing a cistern to collect rainwater that is used to flush toilets; increasing the use of natural lighting; reducing consumable material use; and recycling aggressively. They have taken steps to ensure that their green practices become part of the employee culture by establishing written environmental policies and procedures, discussing green practices at staff meetings and including those policies in new employee orientations.

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."