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U.S. Chamber of Commerce and Siemens Corporation honor Sarasota County for accomplishments in sustainability

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce Business Civic Leadership Center (BCLC) and Siemens Corporation named Sarasota County as a leading example of a sustainable community. Today on Earth Day, Sarasota County joins Anaheim, Calif.; Corvallis, Ore.; Fayetteville, N.C.; Green Bay, Wis.; and Santa Clara, Calif., as the midsize-community honorees in the 2009 Siemens Sustainable Community program.

“American communities are showing ingenuity and leadership in how they plan for their futures,” said BCLC Executive Director Stephen Jordan. “We congratulate Sarasota County for its commitment to sustainable growth.”

Sarasota County and community partners were honored for their commitment to sustainability as evidenced in the 2006 Roadmap to Sustainability, the Green Business Partnership certification program, and the tremendous momentum in promoting sustainability within the community. The Greater Sarasota Chamber of Commerce, Economic Development Corporation and Sarasota Convention and Visitors Bureau have all embraced sustainability as critical to their own missions and initiated programs for connecting like-minded businesses and showcasing green businesses within Sarasota County.

“We are so proud to be recognized as a leading community in promoting the link between environmental and economic sustainability,” said Sarasota County Commissioner Shannon Staub. “By bringing attention to green businesses and sustainability principles, we are laying the foundation for future sustainable growth and cutting-edge economic development right here in Sarasota County.”

The Siemens Sustainable Community program, now in its second year, recognizes outstanding public-private sustainability initiatives. On May 4, 13 communities of all sizes will be recognized in Chicago at BCLC’s National Conference on Corporate Community Investment.

“In the current economic situation, it would be easy to lose sight of the important issue of sustainability, but these communities have commendably stayed focused on safeguarding their future by implementing innovative environmental and energy-related

programs today,” said Siemens Foundation President Jim Whaley. “Siemens is proud to be honoring them today, and we will look forward to continue working with many communities across the USA to help create a sustainable future through innovation.”

To learn more about Sarasota County's sustainability program, contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000. For information about all 13 communities in the 2009 Siemens Sustainable Community program, visit www.uschamber.com/bclc/sustainablecommunity.