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## **Four new members join Sarasota County's Green Business Partnership**

Sarasota County's Green Business Partnership has added four new members to the more than 100 certified companies that are demonstrating their commitment to a healthy environment for employees and the community at large:

### **Mr. Sandless of Sarasota**

This small business specializes in wood floor refinishing. It uses non-toxic chemicals made from renewable resources for stripping floors. The company is also a diligent recycler and has installed a solar water heater to reduce energy consumption.

### **Sarasota Animal Hospital**

Sarasota Animal Hospital is a full-service, small animal veterinary hospital providing comprehensive medical, surgical and dental care. The practice offers a broad spectrum of diagnostic procedures through in-house testing and the use of external laboratories. The facility includes a well-stocked pharmacy, in-hospital surgery suite, digital dental radiography and modern dental equipment, in-house X-ray capabilities, a closely supervised hospitalization area, and indoor boarding kennels with outdoor walking areas. The office has achieved substantial paper waste reduction measures by evaluating its form usage, eliminating duplicative or unnecessary documents, and double-sided copying and printing. The office has also eliminated all hazardous waste associated with X-ray film development by moving to digital radiograph technology.

### **Sarasota County Health Department**

The Sarasota County Health Department provides health care, human services and environmental services to residents of Sarasota County. It offers health clinics with doctors and nurses, immunizations for school and travel, STD and pregnancy tests, dental, HIV / AIDS services, wellness programs in the community, and much more. The department's 200-plus employees established a "green team" that has increased recycling rates while reducing garbage costs, created a comprehensive program to reduce energy use, and developed a process to expand Green Business Partnership

principles to other county facilities. These efforts have not only reduced the department's environmental impacts, they have also saved taxpayer dollars.

### **Wilbur Smith Associates**

Wilbur Smith Associates is a full-service transportation and infrastructure consulting firm providing planning, design, tool, and economic and construction-related services to clients around the world. Completely employee owned, Wilbur Smith Associates employs more than 1,000 associates in 56 offices in eight countries. Since its founding in 1952, the firm has completed projects in all 50 U.S. states and 117 countries on six continents. The company's staff has applied its engineering design philosophy to office and field administration activities to reduce environmental impacts. It has reduced paper use, reuse paper for draft printing, and replaced a full-size pick-up truck with a more fuel-efficient hybrid compact SUV.

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 four businesses and organizations 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."