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Retrofit green home open to the public on May 15

Going green also can mean keeping green in your pocket. That's the message being delivered by Sarasota County officials as they get ready to unveil the county's first retrofitted green home at 1352 Hartsdale St., North, in North Port, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Saturday, May 15.

Purchased in foreclosure for \$75,753 by a partnership of the Community Housing Trust, Florida House, Florida Solar Energy Center and other organizations specializing in energy and water efficiencies, the retrofit project cost \$49,000.

All funds used to purchase and retrofit the home came from the Sarasota County Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP), a federally funded initiative to provide emergency assistance for the redevelopment of foreclosed and abandoned homes. Sarasota County government received an allocation of \$7.1 Million for the program.

The goals were to bring the home into compliance with building codes while building green, to lower energy bills and to ensure the home is a healthy place to live. More than 30 local contractors were hired to install some of the latest energy saving technologies into the 15-year-old home.

By installing energy efficient technologies and using green building materials and techniques, the structure's Home Energy Rating System (HERS) number was reduced from a score of 100 to 66. The HERS scoring system, established by the Residential Energy Services Network, ranks a building compared to a base score of 100.

The lower a home's HERS score, the more energy efficient it is. The green building materials when combined with the latest energy saving technologies are expected to lower the cost of operating and maintaining the home by more than 40 percent.

Project partners included:

- Sarasota County's Office of Sustainability
- The Office of Housing and Community Development
- The Florida House Foundation of Sarasota, Inc.
- The Community Housing Trust
- Dale Lewis Construction
- The Florida Solar Energy Center
- Southwest Water Management District
- The University of Florida IFAS Extension
- DwellGreen

For more information, contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000 or visit www.scgov.net.

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