

Sept. 29, 2010

Sustainable Communities Workshop is scheduled Oct. 7

Sarasota County will hold its fifth annual Sustainable Communities Workshop from 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 7. The workshop will be at the Girl Scouts of Gulfcoast Florida Event and Conference Center, 4740 Cattlemen Road, Sarasota. Registration is open to the public.

This year's theme for the popular, interactive workshop is "Bringing It Home." Expert speakers will cover resource conservation solutions for existing homes, sites and developments, and what can be done at the community, neighborhood and individual level. The keynote speaker will be Katherine Hallett from the US Department of Energy National Renewable Energy Laboratory. Hallett will speak on "The Energy-Water Connection," bringing attention to the fact that managing energy resources requires understanding water issues, while managing water resources requires understanding energy issues.

"This year's Sustainable Communities Workshop will provide citizens with information on one of the hottest topics in the area of green building, retrofitting existing homes and sites with energy efficient improvements. Property owners, developers, planners, landscape architects and others will hear about ideas and solutions to save water, energy, resources and money. Workshop speakers will address several aspects of the building-energy-water connection throughout the day," said Nina Powers from Sustainable Sarasota.

Attendees will learn about the choices they can make to benefit their homes, neighborhoods, businesses and community, such as low-impact development, green infrastructure, land use strategies that reduce emissions, home and landscape water conservation, green cleaning, electricity as an alternative transportation fuel, green homes, and rainwater harvesting.

The cost of the workshop is \$30 or \$20 for students, and includes a continental breakfast, lunch and an afternoon refreshment break. Preregistration is required. All registered attendees will receive an ENERGY STAR light bulb and WaterSense faucet aerator to help save energy and water. Exhibits include solar, water and energy saving products, how to make water from air, and the new EPA Change the World, Start with ENERGY STAR at Home interactive display highlighting simple energy-efficient actions that can help save energy and save money. Food, fun, and chances for raffle prizes, including a rain barrel. Winners must be present.

To register visit www.scgov.net/SustainableCommunities or to learn more about the event, contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000.