



Encouraging resource conservation and recognizing businesses that operate in an environmentally responsible manner.

About the program

The Green Business Partnership is a collaborative effort of businesses, business organizations and county government. It was initiated through an innovative grant awarded by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to Sarasota County.

The program is open to all businesses in Sarasota County, regardless of type or size, that implement resource conservation measures and demonstrate a culture of environmental awareness in their business practices. An on-site certification assessment will be conducted to verify the performance of applicant businesses to the Green Business Partnership standards. Certification is valid for three years, after which a recertification process will be required. Certification may be revoked if a later site assessment or other circumstance reveals that a business no longer meets the certification standards or the spirit of being a Green Business Partner.

Becoming a green partner

To become a certified Green Business Partner, your company must:

- Commit to the program by agreeing to display the program seal and adopting the following Green Business Pledge:

[Name of business] believes that a successful business is dependent upon a healthy environment. We pledge to demonstrate our environmental stewardship by reducing waste and conserving natural resources, and by operating an environmentally responsible business.

- Implement the required environmental standards, as indicated on the application and checklist.
- Participate in an on-site visit to verify that your business meets the required standards.

Then enjoy the environmental and business benefits of being a Green Business Partner.

How can your business benefit?

Cost savings

Implementing the program's waste reduction and water and energy conservation measures can save you money!

Market exposure

The Green Business Partnership will be promoted through a marketing plan that includes advertisements and news releases in the local media.

Increased sales

Businesses with a green ethic can use this distinction to achieve a marketing edge over the competition by offering customers more environmentally sound alternatives.

Green Business Partnership directory

Certified businesses will be listed in an online directory that will give consumers the opportunity to patronize businesses demonstrating their commitment to the environment.

Healthy work environment

Implementing many of the program standards will create a safer, healthier working environment.

Fact sheet
www.scgov.net/greenbusiness



Fact sheet
www.scgov.net/greenbusiness

Increased productivity

Caring about employees' well-being can improve morale and increase productivity.

Free site assessments and product rebates

Sarasota County can help with a free waste assessment. A fresh perspective may help you discover cost-saving measures you'd never considered. Florida Power & Light (FPL) offers free energy assessments and rebates for certain types of high-efficiency cooling systems, energy recovery ventilation units and insulation.

Resource information

Find a list of available resources to help you implement environmentally sound business practices at <http://greenbusiness.scgov.net>.

Additional benefits:

Green Business Partnership seal

Certified businesses may display the program seal prominently in their businesses and include it on printed materials and advertisements.

Recognition as a community leader

Demonstrating your company's commitment to a healthy environment demonstrates your community goodwill and can gain you recognition as a community leader.

Peer-to-peer networking

Green Business Partners will be encouraged to share their experiences with each other.

Conservation Awards

Sarasota County annually acknowledges businesses that demonstrate outstanding contributions to resource conservation. Certified businesses will be eligible for consideration for these awards.

Did you know ...

- For every 8-yard garbage dumpster that is converted to an 8-yard recycling container for mixed paper, you can save as much as \$170 per month in garbage fees.
- Compact fluorescent bulbs last 10-13 times longer and use a quarter of the energy of incandescent bulbs.
- Remanufactured toner cartridges for printers and copiers cost about a third the price of new cartridges.
- By switching to a rag-cleaning service, Palm Beach, Fla.-based Tropical Shipping saved \$2,500 per year and reduced the amount they paid previously for hazardous waste disposal.
- After replacing a chemical cleaner with a citrus-based cleaner, Edgewater, Fla.-based Waco Manufacturing reduced annual cleaning solution purchases by \$10,000 and hazardous waste disposal costs by \$12,000.

For additional information or assistance:

Call 941-861-5000 and ask for the

Green Business Partnership Coordinator or

e-mail us at greenbusiness@scgov.net