ENVIRONMENTAL PRESERVATION

Our citizenry owns and consistently advocates a substantial environmental ethic. The best evidence of this is the two referenda passed to support the Environmentally Sensitive Lands Protection Program. We consistently receive comments from outside the organization and throughout the state regarding how progressive Sarasota County is relative to resource protection.

The environment chapter of the Comprehensive Plan sets clear expectations regarding the preservation of natural resources. The county commission and community echo these messages through their deliberations and communications with program staff.

Players	Citizens, municipalities, NGOs, Southwest Florida Water Management District, Florida Park Service, Florida Communities Trust, Florida Division of Forestry, Fish and Wildlife Commission, Department of Environmental Protection, UF/IFAS Sarasota County Extension, local farmers and growers, Sarasota, Manatee and Charlotte County school boards, industry, regulatory agencies, the public, private environmental and health-oriented organizations, environmental consultants, planners, attorneys, developers, homeowners associations, environmental organizations, Planning, Land Development Services, Zoning, Transportation, History Center, Sarasota County Natural Resources, Resource Protection, Parks and Recreation, OCA, Public Works, Emergency Services, Solid Waste, Utilities and Water Resources

LAND PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT

Goal	Protect priority native habitats and wildlife identified under the Environmentally Sensitive Lands Protection Program, manage all county conservation lands, and manage and maintain a flexible, productive and sustainable urban forest that provides optimal social, environmental and economic benefits
Outcome	Ensure sustainable lands and habitat for the resources and nature-based recreation that is a catalyst for health, the environment and local economy
Timeline	Ongoing with ad valorem funding available through 2029 and management plans being developed based on the adopted Land Management Master Plan and Public Use Plan to be completed in 2007

Land management and public use on these conservation lands will need additional funding sources to adequately address the best management practices. Implementation of green design will be an important component. Public use policies are needed for private interests and public entities.

Golf course design standards control landscape design to promote minimal environmental impact and proper plant selection and establishment.

Sustainable agriculture programs provide research-based information, education, on-farm trails and demonstrations and technical services on sustainable farming practices, while farm-to-school programs bring locally grown foods to children in the school lunch program.

Metro-forestry initiatives hope to counter urban heat island effects, enhance air quality and surface water runoff moderation and filtration, enhance economic development and reduce energy consumption.

AIR QUALITY	
Goal	Ensure Sarasota County's air quality is maintained and improved
Outcome	Minimize regulatory exceedence rates and unhealthy air quality days as development progresses within the county
Timeline	Ongoing

Sarasota County has established programs to monitor and limit negative impacts to the environment from various potential air emission sources at stationary facilities and construction projects throughout the county.

In concert with the locally-administered program, aggressive state and federal restrictions on significant pollutant sources including power plants, passenger vehicles and heavy diesel equipment have been implemented as a measure to ensure the sustainability of air quality on a regional basis. More rigorous restrictions are mandated well into the next decade.

Sarasota County has taken proactive steps to maintain a sustainable air resource, including requiring the recovery of vapors during tank fueling operations at retail gas stations and integrating hybrid buses into the public transportation system.

RESOURCE PROTECTION	
Goal	Sustain a high quality and amount of natural resources, maintain quality-of-life goals and ensure functional ecosystems
Outcome	Sustainable land and habitats for future generations and community aesthetics
Timeline	Ongoing

WATER CONSERVATION	
Goal	Ensure that the "right" water is matched to the "right" water use, by protecting ground and surface water resources, and ensuring adequate future water supplies.
Players	Southwest Florida Water Management District, Peace River Water Supply Authority, IFAS/County Extension Service, private sector fertilizer vendors, homeowner associations, real estate developers, building contractors, architects, Florida House Learning Center, Sarasota County Water Core Service

Water supply watershed management	
Goal	Protect ground and surface water resources, and ensure adequate water supplies for the future
Outcome	Sustainable water supplies and protected water resources
Timeline	The Dona Bay Watershed Plan will be completed in 2006. By 2007, changes to the Land Development Regulations will be proposed that will encourage

	low-impact development designs.

Provisions such as protection of native landscapes, use of cisterns and green roofs will aid water conservation. Stormwater captured in cisterns can be used for flushing toilets and irrigating landscapes, preserving highly treated water for drinking and cooking. Reuse of stormwater for irrigation will reduce flooding potential and pollutant loading while supplementing water supplies.

The Dona Bay Watershed Plan will conserve water through the construction of reservoirs that capture and store excess runoff water for reuse as water supply.

The Florida House Learning Center demonstrates indoor and outdoor water conservation in a residential setting.

Golf course design standards promote water conservation, proper fertilization, reduced pesticide use, reduced stormwater runoff and increased groundwater recharge.

Florida Yards & Neighborhood principles targets large water users. There is a proposal to partner and collaborate with the Science and Environment Council (SEC) to promote many of the sustainability issues but with a focus on water resources The SEC is a non-profit organization that started as a networking organization of the Science and Environmental Organizations that educate the community. Membership includes Selby Gardens, Mote Marine, the State Park System, Crowley Museum, the Sarasota Conservation Foundation, Spanish Point, among many other organizations that touch our community. SEC completed a Watershed Leadership Development Program and Watershed video last year and is well situated to promote sustainable principles with the county.

Fertilizer reduction and proper use	
Goal	Protect ground and surface water resources through training and education to the commercial and private sector about fertilizers and landscape management.
Outcome	Reduce nutrient pollution to waterways improving water clarity and juvenile fish habitat.
Timeline	Report on results of stakeholder meetings May 2007

Proper training and education concerning the proper landscape management and fertilizer use will help with both the commercial fertilizer applicators and homeowners, homeowner associations, condominium associations and others to minimize misuse of fertilizers. This will begin with proper plant selection and installation, and then use of proper fertilizer blends such as slow release nutrients, time of application, and setbacks from roadways and water courses. A model contract for use of homeowners and associations that ensures the proper use of fertilizers will be developed to ensure that the users of commercial services will be adequately prepared to demand that sustainable techniques be used on their property.

Sarasota County will be a positive role model in the proper use fertilizers and will provide demonstration projects which show citizens these techniques.

Integrated pest management	
Goal	Reduce pollution to waterways in the most environmentally sound and effective pest control practices that emphasize proven, effective least-toxic and non-toxic practical practice; control vegetative and insect nuisances
Outcome	1. Utilize IPM for protection of health and safety in our public, focusing on prevention or suppression of pest problems with minimum impacts on human health, non-target organisms, the environment, and surface and groundwater. 2. Reduce the amount and toxicity of pesticides being applied, reduce the potential for human exposure, reduce economic and environmental costs associated with traditional pest control, and maintain or improve the health and vitality of our public landscaping. 3. Prevention or elimination of mosquito breeding sites 4. Elimination of mosquito larvae before flying, biting adult mosquitoes emerge, using the least toxic, most precision targeted approach available. Control of adult mosquitoes according to state guidelines and only when necessary to protect the health and well-being of the public
Timeline	Ongoing, Advisory Board sunsets in June 2012

Training and education of commercial applicators of pesticides as well as homeowners, homeowners associations, and condominium associations will help ensure proper use of pesticides. Proper plant selection, installation, and irrigation will minimize the need for pesticide use.

Low-impact development and design	
Goal	Promote environmental sustainability through proper landscape practices, building construction and real estate development to minimize environmental impacts
Outcome	Appropriate design strategies, methods and materials for sustainable living
Timeline	First draft of LID manual winter 2007

Recommendations for revisions to the land development regulations (LDR) will be made to facilitate and encourage the use of Low Impact Development techniques. Since many diverse provisions on the LDR including such things as requirements for parking spaces, road widths, stormwater drainage, landscaping, and open space requirements affect the volume of stormwater runoff, these will all be reviewed for impacts on fostering LID. An LID technical manual will be developed to provide guidelines for use of the techniques.

We will work with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the Southwest Florida Water Management District to ensure that their regulatory programs allow and encourage use of LID designs in order to minimize the volume and pollutant load from stormwater.

Water-efficient landscape ordinance	
Goal	Establish requirements for both Sarasota County and the community to maximize water conservation with efficient watering methods, such as limiting irrigated sod to no more than 50 percent of the total irrigated landscape area

	and requiring the use of low-volume micro irrigation in landscape beds.
Outcome	Low-volume irrigation reduces run-off and conserves water
Timeline	Ongoing

WASTE REDUCTION

Over the next five years, Solid Waste will reduce commercial and residential waste and increase recycling, explore alternative methods of waste disposal and storage, and develop ways to gain value from landfill gas produced.

Players	Citizen direct participation, homeowner associations, municipalities and county contractors, Communications and Solid Waste staff, Sarasota County Health Department
Outcome	Reduced waste stream and reduced greenhouse gas emissions

Residential recycling

Goal	Make recycling easier for residents and reduce the amount of waste entering the landfill to extend its life
Timeline	Out to 2012

We will explore the expansion of residential recycling by:

- adding more materials to our list of program recyclables
- exploring single stream recyclables collection, by providing customers a single bin that combines all recyclables, which would later be separated at the materials recovery facility
- pursuing a pilot program considering organics (food waste) recycling, first at the commercial level and then possibly on the residential level. Food waste currently constitutes more than 17 percent of the waste stream entering the landfill.

We will also continue to explore ways to:

- reduce the toxicity of the waste stream and
- expand education efforts to increase participation in the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program

Participation in the household hazardous waste collection has increased 169 percent over the past five years, largely due to increased educational efforts. We also offer medical waste disposal assistance and disposal of old flares and ammunition. Many options for reuse and disposal are currently offered and will be expanded. These include mobile collection events, the Re-Uz-It Shop, additional collection locations and citizen community assistance/collection/hauling programs.

Commercial recycling

Goal	Reduce waste volume entering the landfill for burial; extend life of the landfill and pursue greenhouse gas emission reduction measures
Timeline	Out to 2012

Our expansion efforts include:

- maintain and increase institutional recycling in schools and county facilities
- recycling/reuse programs for large and small businesses countywide
- increase construction and demolition debris recycling along with expanding

markets for those materials
- approach School Board to add a School Re-Use Center for classroom materials
- further develop and publicize the Green Business Certification Program continuing to offer small quantity generator commercial hazardous waste collection service through our Project Green Sweep Program

Methane gas recovery	
Goal	Explore ways to gain value from landfill gas produced
Outcome	• A State Energy Grant application to construct a facility that would utilize ground yard waste and landfill gas to power sludge-drying equipment • Pursuit of additional opportunities to utilize landfill gas from the Bee Ridge and Central County landfills for useful purposes and reduce greenhouse gas emission
Timeline	Currently in the study phase

ENERGY REDUCTION	
Reduce and eventually eliminate the use of fossil-fuel, greenhouse gas-emitting energy sources in all county government facilities	
Players	ENERGY STAR, U.S. Green Building Council, LMOP, Florida Power and Light, PVOne, Green Mountain, UCF – Storm water Academy, FSEC, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, hydrogen fuel providers, renewable energy credit merchandisers, county staff
Energy management master plan	
Goal	County policy that ensures efficient use of energy; standards for energy efficiency in building construction, renovation, and operation; standards for county vehicle acquisition and operation; utilization of renewable resources, bio-fuels and technological advances to reduce the use of fossil fuel
Outcome	Reduced fossil fuel energy use in county buildings and vehicles
Timeline	2007 - 2008
Energy use and cost will be tracked. Energy utilization goals will be established in accordance with building type using ENERGY STAR national standards when possible. Each energy user will define their operation in terms of energy use and opportunities for reduction.	
FPL franchise agreement	
Goal	Allow FPL access to the county's right-of-way for transmission of electricity to the unincorporated areas of the community.
Outcome	An agreement in the form of an ordinance that stipulates compensation for the use of county infrastructure while protecting the resources and habitat for the community.
Timeline	The current 30-year franchise agreement terminates April 2007. The new

	agreement is in the development process. A policy package will be presented to the negotiating team by the end of October 2006

This agreement will allow electrical construction and maintenance by providing the nonexclusive right, privilege or franchise to construct, maintain, and operate in, under, upon, over and across the present and future streets, alleys, bridges, easements and other public places throughout all the unincorporated areas of Sarasota County.

FPL solar/photovoltaic program

Goal	Demonstrate the principles of renewable energy resources in the form of solar PV technology by hosting the site for FPL's Sunshine Energy program
Outcome	Extensive use of solar energy in the community and partnerships with FPL to make renewable energy resources available locally.
Timeline	Start 2007-8 host contract is for eight years

Sarasota County petitioned FPL to become a host site for their Sunshine Energy program. Solar energy in the form of photovoltaic is used as the renewable energy source. This demonstrates electrical power can be produced without using fossil fuels or generating emissions, the system has no moving parts and makes no noise. Rothenbach Park was selected as site to utilize the closed landfill. As the park is developed we will utilize interpretative signs to inform the public of the benefits of solar energy.

Green roof program

Goal	Design, construct and monitor the area's first green roof to demonstrate energy efficient and low-impact development strategy of green roofs.
Outcome	Reduced storm water run-off, extended roof life, and reduced energy use
Timeline	2007/8

The concept of green roofs (vegetative covered roofs) have proven effective in many cities in the U.S. and Europe. The first green roof was approved for the New Osprey Library with DEP funding. The benefits of the roof will be documented and should include stormwater retention, energy savings, rainwater harvested for irrigation, performance and extended life of roof.

Hydrogen fueling station

Goal	Make property available to the state for a hydrogen fueling station that would accelerate the commercialization of hydrogen technologies and provide infrastructure necessary to fuel hydrogen vehicles.
Outcome	Participation in the development of "Florida's Hydrogen Highway" to spur hydrogen energy investment in our community, increase economic security, reduce reliance on foreign oil and maintain clean air and provide our community with the infrastructure necessary to fuel hydrogen vehicles.
Timeline	Future. State of Florida has two hydrogen fueling stations in Orlando: one for hydrogen ICE buses and one for fuel cell cars. Florida's Hydrogen Program identifies hydrogen fueling station in Tampa for 2007.

During the Fruitville Corridor transportation review, a parcel of land conducive to a fuel

station was identified to the state as a future site for a hydrogen fueling station supporting the county's goal of utilizing alternative fuels and environmental awareness.

Renewable energy credits	
Goal	Promote the development of renewable energy systems (RECs)
Outcome	Purchase RECs in conjunction with new construction LEED rating to obtain certification points, and to support 2030 carbon neutral challenge
Timeline	Ongoing

Renewable energy credits (RECs), also known as green tags or tradable renewable energy credits, provide financial incentive to developers of renewable energy facilities.

One REC represents the non-power attributes made available by the generation of one-megawatt –hour from one or more eligible renewable energy facilities. Non-power attributes means the fuel, emissions, or other environmental characteristics of a specified resource deemed of value to the REC purchaser. Non-power attributes include, avoided emissions of pollutants to the air, soil or water and the reporting rights to the emissions.

Plug-In hybrid electric vehicle resolution	
Goal	Establish Plug-in Sarasota County as a partner in the Plug-in Partners National Campaign to create the demand market for manufacturing plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEVs). BCC designated this effort as a Top 20 Issues Priority.
Outcome	1. PHEVs will reduce emissions; reduce fossil fuel use and costs 2. Commercialization of PHEV through soft fleet orders, local petition drives 3. Help Sarasota County to meet its 2030 Challenge targets
Timeline	Ongoing

2030 Challenge (carbon neutral)	
Goal	Establish Sarasota County as an energy leader; extend our commitment beyond green building; promote use of clean energy by developing building design standards to eventually eliminate the use of fossil fuel energy.
Players	Sarasota County, national and local AIA , International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI), USDOE
Outcome	1. By the year 2030, all new county buildings will be designed to not use fossil fuel, greenhouse gas-emitting energy to operate. 2. Improved quality of life for community by reducing negative environmental, economic and social impacts of burning fossil fuels. 3. Reduction of greenhouse gases and mitigation of climate change 4. Avoidance of the escalating cost of dwindling fossil fuels. 5. Greater energy independence
Timeline	Immediate improvement in new construction to be 50% more energy efficient than the average building type as defined by the USDOE and reduce use of fossil fuels using the following benchmarks: • 60% in 2010 • 70% in 2015 • 80% n 2020

- 90% in 2025
- 100% in 2030

Zero energy buildings	
Goal	Design and construct county buildings that produce as much energy as they consume. Opportunity for Sarasota County to show leadership again in environmentally responsible building construction with this emerging energy conservation initiative being promoted by USDOE that utilizes use of renewable energy with building design that minimizes energy use.
Outcome	1. Reduced dependence on fossil fuels, measure of protection against increasing cost of utility provided energy, 2. Outcomes will help Sarasota County meet its 2030 Challenge targets.
Timeline	Future

Zero energy homes for affordable housing demonstration project	
Goal	Opportunity for Sarasota County to partner with USDOE Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) to design and construct ZEHs for the affordable housing market that utilize energy efficient building technologies and renewable energy to generate as much power as they consume . Will serve as an affordable housing model and provide ORNL with continued research data as a result of their monitoring to assist with project development.
Outcome	Truly affordable housing with continued reduced monthly energy costs.
Timeline	Future

Renewable Community demonstration project	
Goal	Opportunity for Sarasota County to be an energy leader, leverage partnerships to achieve energy independence, and create a new and better sustainable housing/transportation model for our community and beyond. A Renewable Community puts together renewable energy to power homes and advanced vehicle technologies to power cars. Flexible fuel Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicles (PHEV) and Zero Energy Homes (ZEH) are the key components of this integrated ecologically sustainable development model.
Players	Sarasota County, USDOE NREL, Steven Winter Associates, Florida Power and Light, Florida Department of Environmental Protection/Florida Energy Office, Florida Solar Energy Center, Global Electric Motorcars, Florida Home Builders Association, Economic Development Corporation of Sarasota County, Florida Green Building Coalition, HomeFront Inc., Hymotion, Energy CS, Kimal Lumber Company, Eco-$mart Inc., Lee Wetherington Homes, Plug-In Partners, School Board of Sarasota County, Sarasota Home Builders Association, Sarasota County Openly Plans for Excellence, SDC Communities, LWR Communities, Vision Homes, Topaz Studios, Waterford Companies and WCI Communities Inc.
Outcome	1. Renewable energy generation technologies and advanced vehicle technologies combined in a Renewable Community will protect the environment and reduce our dependence on fossil fuels. 2. Demonstration project(s) will serve as a model and catalyst for future Renewable Communities and provide NREL with information resulting

	from their monitoring to assist with project development.
Timeline	2007

TRANSPORTATION

The quality of life of our citizens depends on many factors, such as clean air, efficient mobility options, and economic conditions. Transit and sustainable human populations require that we consider the current and long-term impacts of all our actions.

Players	Citizens, municipalities, Florida Department of Health, Florida Department of Transportation, and Sarasota County Area Transit

Sarasota County Area Transit (SCAT)

Goal	Improvement of transit services in Sarasota County by identifying: 1. route improvements that will provide a positive impact on our environment and quality of life 2. new technologies that will improve our service and decrease our high demand of fossil fuels
Outcome	Healthy, safe, sustainable environment with a cost-effective transit system maximizing new technologies and continually seeking ways to become more effective to the community. Relieved road congestion, emission of fewer pollutants and reduction in overall dependency on crude oil.
Timeline	Ongoing, although several new initiatives such as ultra-low sulfur diesel and diesel-particulate filters are being utilized prior to the EPA-mandated compliance deadline. Ten hybrid buses for 2006 and planning to order 20 more for 2007

SCAT is working towards building a system that will move more people to their desired destinations quicker than before. SCAT already has purchased hybrid buses to alleviate the use of fuel and is continually looking into the future at newer technologies and fuel modifications that may help us in our overall goals.

County green fleet

Goal	Purchase of alternative fuel vehicles (AFVs) and use of biofuels provides an opportunity for Sarasota County to show energy leadership, reduce fossil fuel use and associated fuel costs for its fleet and improved air quality.
Outcome	1. Reduced vehicle emissions and improved air quality. 2. Reduced fossil fuel consumption 3. Reduced fuel costs 4. Less use of fossil fuels will help us meet our 2030 Challenge and Clean Cities Coalition Partnership goals
Timeline	Ongoing

Countywide residential / commercial use of alternative fuel vehicles

Goal	To reduce fossil fuel use and fewer vehicle emissions by building local demand for alternative fuel vehicles (AFVs) and alternative fuels
Outcome	1. Improved local air quality by reduced emissions 2. Reduction of transportation's contribution to climate change

	3. Reduced dependency on foreign fossil fuel sources. 4. Reduced community ecological footprint. 5. Build the market for AFVs and biofuels such as biodiesel and ethanol 6. Increase opportunities for local farmers to grow energy crops 7. Support for a USDOE Clean Cities Coalition
Timeline	TBD

FACILITIES/CONSTRUCTION	
Players	Citizens, builders, developers, environmental consultants, engineering and planning firms and county staff, developers, commercial builders

Fast track permitting for green construction	
Goal	Increase number of buildings constructed to green standards, including United States Green Building Council Leadership in Environmental and Energy Design Standards, and / or the Florida Green Building Coalition Green Development Standard, Green Residential Home Designation Standard or the Green Commercial Standard
Outcome	Higher number of green buildings in the community by expedited permitting. Sustainable buildings that protect the public health, safety, welfare and natural resources
Timeline	Ongoing

The Green Building Program allows expedited processing of permit applications where the builder has agreed to build a building that meets one of the above mentioned green standards.

Green building development incentive program resolution	
Goal	Encourage more sustainable and green developments, protecting the health, safety, welfare and natural resources of the county. To provide incentives for the construction of green buildings, both commercial and residential.
Outcome	Sustainable lands through green buildings.
Timeline	Ongoing, policies have been incorporated into the Comprehensive Plan.

The Green Building Development Incentive Program encourages sustainable development and green buildings by expediting the rezone, special exception, land development and building permit processes.

Green affordable housing	
Goal	Incorporate green building practices into the design, construction, operation and maintenance of affordable housing in our community to reduce utility bills, improve health and safety, and improve indoor air quality, county staff.
Players	Gulf Coast Foundation, Enterprise Florida, City of Sarasota, EDC, local builders, local businesses/employers, Habitat for Humanity, community at large.

Outcome	Produce economic and quality-of-life benefits for homeowners/tenants by improving the financial bottom line for occupants with green homes that cost less to operate and live in and generate economic and environmental benefits for our local community by reduced demand on infrastructure for energy, water, and waste water.
Timeline	2007 and ongoing

COMMUNITY DESIGN AND PARTNERSHIPS

Sarasota County must share ownership/responsibility for designing, developing and delivering a successful sustainable community. Through widening concentric circles, we start with local community partners and expand to state and national organizations. Much successful networking has been done within the existing Sustainable Sarasota structure. Those networking connections are essential to optimizing the county's efforts. County staff will facilitate the early conversations that launch and optimize the partnerships; our vision is that ownership will extend broadly throughout the community.

Players	Economic Development Council, local building community, local universities, SCOPE, Sarasota Convention & Visitors Bureau, area marine research programs, Cooperative Extension programs, Neighborhood Environmental Stewardship Team, USDOE Rebuild America, USEPA, National Renewable Energy Labs, Austin Energy, the Rocky Mountain Institute, Florida Power and Light, citizens, municipalities, health Consultants, NGOs, Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Florida Department of Health, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, SWFWMD, Sarasota County Health Department
Community design	
Outcome	Increased awareness and practices that progressively reduce reliance on non-renewable resources, reduce waste and safeguard water resources
Timeline	External partnership dialogue initiated, action plan launched in Q2 FY2007
Sarasota 2050 Plan	
Goal	1. To accommodate expected growth in a compact master-planned form, preserving tens of thousands of acres of open space 2. To focus on the revitalization of existing urban commercial centers into mixed-use activity centers by using New Urbanism tools
Players	Sarasota County, local builders/developers, FL Green Building Coalition, US Green Building Council
Outcome	1. Preservation of Sarasota County's natural, cultural and physical resources and making all neighborhoods, both established and new, more livable. 2. Incentive-based and voluntary, not regulation-driven, grants density bonuses (increased number of dwelling units allowed) to landowners who preserve open space, agriculture and environmentally sensitive land and build new, compact, mixed use, walkable developments in appropriate areas 3. Outcomes will help Sarasota County to meet its 2030 Challenge targets.
Timeline	2050

Partnerships	
Outcome	Expansion of the concept of sustainability throughout the community
Timeline	Ongoing. Most of these programs are well-established. Some, like 2050 and transit-oriented design, are in their infancy but moving forward.

USDOE Rebuild America Partnership	
Goal	Sarasota County joined as a USDOE Rebuild America Community Partner in 1998 to develop partnerships with government agencies, community groups and businesses to promote energy efficiency and renewable energy in government and commercial buildings. Sarasota County's Rebuild Partnership works to increase community awareness of resource and energy conservation, promote the benefits of utilizing energy conserving products, technologies, and renewable energy
Outcome	1. Rebuild America partnership efforts conserve energy, accelerate use of the best energy technologies, reduce air pollution, lower reliance on energy imports, help aging buildings be more energy efficient 2. Save money for Sarasota County 3. Outcomes will help Sarasota County to meet its 2030 Challenge targets
Timeline	Ongoing

EPA ENERGY STAR® Partnership	
Goal	Sarasota County became an ENERGY STAR® Partner in 2004, committing to continuous improvement of our organization's energy efficiency with programs like the ENERGY STAR® Million Monitor Drive
Players	EPA ENERGY STAR®, Florida Energy Office, county staff
Outcome	1. Measuring, tracking, and benchmarking our energy performance will reduce environmental impacts of energy use, cut energy costs 2. Outcomes will help Sarasota County to meet its 2030 Challenge targets
Timeline	Ongoing, more county buildings need to be benchmarked for possible ENERGY STAR® label

Community health and well-being	
Goal	Improvement and maintain the health and well being of Sarasota County's citizens through: • the careful identification and tracking of links between our environment and human health, and links between the built environment and transit oriented design and community health • the integration of principles of health promotion and disease prevention with respect to the creation of a sustainable system of health and medical care
Outcome	A healthy, safe, sustainable environment and a cost-effective system of health and medical care that maximizes evidence-based prevention and health promotion to reduce disease and disability and create a community where individuals can thrive and prosper
Timeline	Ongoing, although several new initiatives such as Protocol for Assessing Community Excellence in Environmental Health and Health Impact Assessments

are being established
The health of our citizens depends on many factors, such as clean air and water, appropriate working conditions, social harmony and support, preservation of cultural values and lifestyles, environmental conditions, and economic conditions, which is why the link between health and sustainable human populations requires us to consider the current and long-term impacts of all our actions. Toward this end, a Community Health Improvement Partnership (CHIP) was established to engage and support citizens and agencies to positively impact the physical, mental, social and environmental health of their community through research, planning, implementation and evaluation. A CHIP Health Scorecard was developed by the Health System Collaboration Committee to guide and monitor efforts to improve health in Sarasota County. The scorecard now includes 33 indicators in different categories of the social and physical environments, health care, health behavior, and well-being. The CHIP Health Scorecard will interface with the Sarasota County Balanced Scorecard and the Human Services Advisory Council Policy Framework. CHIP and the SCHD are working to improve the local health care system through partnership, improved case management, prevention and health promotion for the uninsured. CHIP and the SCHD are also supporting the implementation of Healthy People in Healthy Places principles across Sarasota County, which includes promotion of policies and built environmental changes that support active living and healthy eating. This work has begun with worksite wellness campaigns at local hospitals and the health department, and community-initiatives such as Pathways to Health and the CHIP Health and Wellness Centers. The PACE EH initiative is a process designed to improve decision making by taking a collaborative community-based approach to solving the environmental health concerns of the community. Information gathered from the PACE EH process will be used to enhance the CHIP Health Scorecard as we monitor the health status of our community. The Health Impact Assessment initiative is an effort to develop a local process to consider the health impacts local policy decisions. An HIA is defined by the World Health Organization as a “combination of procedures or methods by which a policy, program or project may be judged as to the effects it may have on the health of a population.”