

PARTNERS FOR GREEN PLACES

- [Overview of Partners for Green Places](#)
- [About the community-wide initiative](#)
- [Read partner stories](#)
- [Become a Partner and Showcase Your Story](#)

YOUR NEXT STEPS

- **MAKE A COMMITMENT**
- **UNDERSTAND YOUR BILL**
 - [How to Read Your Bill \(FPL\)](#)
 - [Understand Your Bill – Demand Charges \(FPL\)](#)
 - [Understanding Your Water Bill \(EPA – WaterSense\)](#)
- **WHERE IS ENERGY USED?**
 - [Use of Energy in Commercial Buildings \(EIA\)](#)
 - [Energy Use in Buildings and Benefits of Energy Efficiency \(Alliance to Save Energy\)](#)
 - “The average commercial building wastes 30 percent of the energy it consumes.” – [Resources for Businesses to Save Energy \(ENERGY STAR\)](#)
- **GET AN AUDIT**
 - To find an energy auditor, go to: www.hersindex.com/find-a-hers-rater/
 - Free Business Energy Evaluation and Manager (FPL): www.fpl.com/business/save/bus-energy-manager.html
 - For the home (FPL): www.fpl.com/save/programs/onsite-energy-survey.html
 - Do-It-Yourself Energy and Water Audit Kit (Sarasota County): scgov.net/EnergyUpgrade
 - Assess how your building performs compared to similar buildings in your region.
- **SET GOALS AND MAKE A PLAN**
- **SEEK FINANCING**
 - [ENERGY STAR Rebate Finder](#)
 - [Property Assessed Clean Energy \(PACE\)](#)
 - [Database for State Incentives for Renewables & Efficiency \(DSIRE\)](#)
 - [FPL programs, incentives, and rebates for businesses](#)
 - [FPL Energy Savings Programs & Rebates](#)
 - [USDA funding programs for rural small businesses](#)
 - [DOE’s Better Building Financing Navigator](#)
 - [Capital grants for nonprofits \(William G. and Marie Selby Foundation\)](#)
 - [GoodUse - funding for nonprofit energy and water efficiency projects \(Southface Institute\)](#)
 - [NEWE: Nonprofit Energy and Water Efficiency Initiative \(Southface Institute\)](#)
 - [Find Funding \(Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy\)](#)
- **IMPLEMENT YOUR PLAN**
 - Start with no- and low-cost improvements with the highest ROI
- **BENCHMARK YOUR ENERGY AND WATER USAGE**
 - Track your usage over time and determine if you are meeting your goals.
 - [ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager](#)



➤ SOLAR

- Once you have seen measurable savings from energy and water efficiency upgrades, consider investing in solar for your business. Allow a portion of your energy usage to come from a clean, renewable source.
- [FAQ: Solar Photovoltaic Technology \(UF/IFAS Blog\)](#)
- [Florida Solar Energy Center](#)
- [Solar United Neighbors](#)
- [FPL SolarTogether](#)

RESOURCES

➤ RESOURCES TO HELP YOU GET STARTED

- [Ways to Save - FPL resources](#)
- [ENERGY STAR Resources for Existing Buildings, commercial new construction, small businesses, and congregations](#)
- [WaterSense for Commercial Buildings \(EPA\)](#)
- [WaterSense at Work Guidebook \(EPA\)](#)
- [Florida-Friendly Landscaping](#)
- [Maximizing Energy Savings for Small Businesses \(NREL\)](#)
- [Small Businesses: An Overview of Energy Use and Energy Efficiency Opportunities \(ENERGY STAR\)](#)
- [Increase the Bottom-Line Using Energy Efficiency \(NREL\)](#)
- [Take Action to Save Energy in Commercial Buildings \(Energy.gov\)](#)
- [State and Local Energy Efficiency Programs by State – Small Business Administration](#)

➤ CERTIFY YOUR ORGANIZATION

- [Sarasota County Green Business Partnership](#)
- [ENERGY STAR Partner](#)
- [ENERGY STAR certified building](#)
- [Florida Green Lodging Program](#)
- [Florida Clean Marina Program](#)
- [Florida's Green Building Rating Systems and Certifications](#)

➤ OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

- [EPA Power Profiler](#) – Learn about the emissions associated with your home/business energy use
- [AirNow](#) – Learn about local air quality
- [EPA MyEnvironment](#) – Access local environmental quality

➤ TAKE A CLASS

- [Recorded webinars offered by ENERGY STAR](#)
- Sarasota County offers [Energy Upgrade Workshops](#) – energy and water savings for the home
- For all other upcoming classes: [uf Sarasota ext. eventbrite.com](https://www.ufsarasotaext.eventbrite.com)
- View recordings of UF/IFAS Extension Sarasota County classes at: www.youtube.com/channel/UCVdCNqe0zthjBhvsKIJ2xSQ/videos

CONTACT US

For more information and to help start your journey, reach us by email to SustainableSarasota@scgov.net or phone at 941-861-5000.

