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Sustainable Communities Workshop scheduled for Oct. 31-Nov.1

Planners, builders and developers, engineers, architects and landscape architects, as well as transportation sector representatives, will find a content-rich learning opportunity at the Sustainable Communities Workshop in Sarasota, Oct. 31-Nov.1. Interested citizens, state and local government representatives are also invited to attend the workshop, which will be held at the Gulfcoast Florida Girl Scout Council Headquarters, 4780 Cattlemen Road, Sarasota. Registration is \$100 for professionals and the general public. A special rate of \$25 is available to students.

The workshop will focus on developing sustainable communities. Participants will learn to plan developments that take advantage of natural systems and conserve area water resources; meet resource efficient housing and transportation demands and support economic development as they prepare to give their own organizations a competitive advantage.

Sessions will be led by experts from state university programs and private industry as well as federal, state and local government. The keynote speakers will include Eric Livingston chief of the Bureau of Watershed Management for Florida Department of Environmental Protection. The bureau is responsible for the implementation of the state's watershed management and restoration program.

Other speakers scheduled to present are: Brett Cunningham, Water Resources Discipline Director for Jones Edmunds and Associates, Inc., Clark Hull, ERP Program Director for Southwest Florida Water Management District, Marilyn Kershner of Florida Green Communities, Melanie Simmons, Ph.D. of Healthy Development, Inc.; and Jason Hight of the Florida Department of Health.

Day one of the workshop will focus on sustainable development and health, green affordable housing, transit-oriented development and stormwater reuse, porous concrete and green roofs.

Day two will feature low impact development. With support from representatives from local governments, municipalities, developers and regulatory agencies, participants will learn environmentally functional strategies that can be adapted to their own communities.

The workshop is offering several sponsorship opportunities for businesses and educational institutions. To become a sponsor, or to learn more about the event, contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000 and ask for the Sustainable Communities Workshop, or visit www.sustainablecommunities.scgov.net.

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