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**Contact:** Julie Platt, APR  
W: 941-954-1600 ext 1024  
C: 941-302-3429  
[jplatt@scbb.org](mailto:jplatt@scbb.org)

## **Suncoast Communities Blood Bank Becomes First Blood Center in Florida To Earn Green Business Certification**

**Sarasota, FL-** Suncoast Communities Blood Bank (SCBB) becomes the first blood center in Florida to earn a green business certification. The designation is granted by the Green Business Partnership of Sarasota County.

SCBB is committed to providing a healthy environment for employees and blood donors, and joins nearly 100 other Sarasota County businesses and organizations that are now green certified. In order to achieve green business status, SCBB had to voluntarily apply for the program, pledge to implement required environmental standards, and participate in an on-site audit. From January 2008 to present date, SCBB has put into place more than 40 green initiatives to reduce waste and conserve energy.

“I am a big believer in conservation and I am proud of our efforts as an organization. The blood bank is setting a positive example to our staff and donors by showing that we care about the environment in which they donate and work,” says Scott Bush, Chief of Technical Operations for SCBB.

“SCBB used the Green Business Partnership program to establish comprehensive environmental stewardship programs in their Sarasota and Nokomis facilities, and are realizing the business sense it makes to be green,” says Tom Franklin, Recycling Program Coordinator for Sarasota County. “By reducing waste, the blood bank saves money on garbage service and purchase of office materials. They are using less energy and have reduced water consumption, which cuts their bills. By implementing more efficient and environmentally focused practices throughout their facilities, SCBB is simultaneously reducing their environmental impacts and their overhead costs.”

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Listed are just a few of green initiatives implemented by SCBB:

- Converted all old lighting to new energy efficient light bulbs, which is predicted to annually reduce the electric bill by 30 percent.
- Installed automatic light sensors and thermostats to further reduce energy use by an estimated 10 percent.
- Replaced landscape with Florida friendly plants.
- Installed rain sensors on irrigation system to prevent irrigation on rainy days.
- Added recycle bins on every bloodmobile and at every donor center to promote recycling.

SCBB plans to make further environmental changes including: the “Adopt-A-Road” program; window tinting the donor center buildings in order to block out about 80 percent of the sun’s heat, and possibly adding diesel particulate filters on the bloodmobiles to lessen the impact on the environment.

### **About SCBB**

For 60 years, Suncoast Communities Blood Bank has been saving lives by providing blood collection and transfusion services to our community. Much has changed in medicine since 1949, revolutionizing how we save lives. What remains the same is the need for human blood. There is no viable substitute for the selfless act of donating it. Now as then, we can't operate without you.

For more information about The Green Business Partnership visit [www.scgov.net](http://www.scgov.net).

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