

2010 Sustainable Florida Best Practice Awards

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2010 BEST PRACTICE AWARDS

Seven winners of best practices unveiled

ST. PETERSBURG, FL. – June 4, 2010

A broad array of environmentally sound business practices was honored Friday (June 4) as seven winners were announced at Sustainable Florida's annual Best Practice Awards ceremony.

From a paper company that never cuts a tree, to a non-profit that gathers surplus materials for use in public schools, to a city that rewards recyclers by saving them money at the mall, the winners of the 2010 Best Practice Awards are finding innovative ways to preserve Florida's natural environment.



The 2010 winners.

This marks the 12th year the non-profit Sustainable Florida, a program run by the Collins Center for Public Policy, handed out Best Practice Awards.

The award honors businesses, organizations and individuals whose work demonstrates that a healthy environment and a healthy economy are mutually supportive.

A record 109 entries were received this year. A panel of leaders in government, business, academic institutions, and civic and environmental organizations evaluated the nominees based on outcomes

achieved, the ability to duplicate the effort, and overall success of the initiative. The winners were culled from among 21 finalists in seven categories.

"It was extremely competitive," said Joe Kilsheimer, board chairman of Sustainable Florida – Collins Center. "Each year it builds on itself. Being stewards of the environment and making a profit – there is no conflict between the two."

The nominees were recognized at a banquet at the Hilton in downtown St. Petersburg attended by more than 100 people. This year also marked the first paperless nomination and judging process as all applications were received online. The winners will be honored by the Governor and Cabinet later this summer.

The seven categories and winners are:

- **Large Business:** [Atlas Paper Mills](#)
- **Green Building:** [St. Johns Housing Partnership, Inc.](#)
- **Leadership:** [Stacy Ranieri](#)
- **Government:** [Hollywood, Fla.](#)
- **Non-Profit:** [A Gift For Teaching](#)
- **Small Business:** [Florida Home Partnership, Inc.](#)
- **Business Partnership:** [Gulf Power Co. & Emerald Coast Utilities Authority](#)

Other finalists make a difference through a variety of initiatives, including educational programs serving small- to mid-size farmers; green building efforts utilizing features such as soy insulation, solar hot water, motion-sensor lighting, and rainwater harvesting; and special events that educate seventh- and eighth-grade students on how to identify, research, and participate in developing practical solutions to important community and environmental issues.

Since 1990, Sustainable Florida has worked to improve Florida's environment and economy. The annual awards program identifies best management practices for sustainability in Florida and encourages their widespread replication.

As an integral part of the Collins Center, Sustainable Florida serves as an independent, non-profit and non-partisan alliance that serves as the primary statewide collaborator on sustainability issues. Its mission is to advance the vision of sustainability by identifying, supporting and communicating best management practices - those which protect and preserve Florida's environment while building markets for Florida's businesses by enhancing their competitive advantages.