UF/IFAS Extension and Sustainability delivers valuable programs and resources across core areas to help people, businesses, and neighborhoods in Sarasota County solve problems, develop skills, and build a better future.

AGRICULTURE
- Sustainable agriculture and agroecology
- Community food system
- Sarasota Food Policy Council
- Small Farms and Alternative Enterprises program
- Urban agriculture
- Disaster readiness and recovery

NUTRITION / HEALTHY LIVING
- Nutrition education
- Food budgeting
- Cooking classes/education
- Aging health and mobility
- Gardening experiences
- Healthy food exposure
- Financial tools education
- Storm readiness/awareness

NATURAL RESOURCES
- Florida Master Naturalist Program
- Florida Microplastics Awareness Project
- Florida Water Stewardship Program
- Backyard Landscaping for Wildlife Program
- STEM education and outreach
- Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture
- Recycling and waste reduction education
- Composting education and awareness
- Water resource/quality education
- Mangrove, coastal conservation

GARDENING / LANDSCAPING
- Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ education and outreach
- Master Gardener volunteer program
- Community and school gardens
- Continuing education, licensing for lawn and landscape professionals
- "Treejuvenation" urban/community forestry program
- Homeowner irrigation evaluations
- Homeowner association consultations

SUSTAINABILITY
- Energy efficiency
- Solar technologies
- Electric vehicles
- Green building
- Green living
- Universal design, visitability
- Sustainable events
- Sustainable economic development
- County sustainability commitments
- County employee education

Sarasota County
UF/IFAS Extension and Sustainability

2017 Focus

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Helping clients is our most important role.

Through classes, field visits, phone calls, emails, or other direct consultations, 71,492 households provided Energy Upgrade information and free upgrade kits, for total annual savings of $36,072.

Individuals who received conservation and/or irrigation education saved a combined 164,400 gallons of water.

Nutrition, healthy lifestyle, and gardening lessons and activities delivered to 34,059 students.

Designed and delivered a hands-on, field-based series of STEM training activities to 2,334 Grade 8 students.

And our latest client survey* shows:

- 94% of clients were satisfied with their experience.
- 89% benefited from their experience.
- 77% who received information said it solved their issue.

Average number of times contacted by client: 4

* UF/IFAS Program Development & Evaluation Center, 2016 data.

198 Extension and Sustainability volunteers provided 11,818 hours of service, worth $285,285 in labor.

SARASOTA COUNTY EXTENSION partners the resources of Sarasota County, the University of Florida, and the United States Department of Agriculture to provide a wealth of information through myriad opportunities, including:

- Classes, workshops and events
- Plant Clinic plant and pest advice
- Free home irrigation evaluations
- Master Gardener training
- Community/School garden expertise
- Newsletters and digital publications
- Speakers bureau
- Educational curricula and resources