

Sarasota County UF/IFAS Extension and Sustainability

SARASOTA COUNTY EXTENSION

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

- Small- to large-scale commercial agriculture
- Urban and rural agriculture
- Community food systems
- Small Farms and Alternative Enterprises program
- Disaster readiness and recovery



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

NUTRITION / HEALTHY LIVING

- Disaster preparedness/awareness
 - Home-closing education
- Food preservation skills/knowledge
 - Food safety awareness
- Nutrition/aging health and mobility
 - Family Nutrition Program (FNP) food budgeting
 - Financial tools education (FNP)
 - Nutrition exposure (FNP)



4-H / YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

- Group activities, clubs and camps
- Florida 4-H public speaking
- Positive youth development
- Life skills
- STEM education
- Career readiness
- Citizenship, Leadership
- Volunteer training/development
- Experiential learning opportunities



NATURAL RESOURCES

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



GARDENING / LANDSCAPING

- Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ outreach
- Master Gardener volunteer program
 - Community and school gardens
 - Continuing education, licensing for lawn and landscape professionals
 - Homeowner irrigation evaluations
- Homeowner association consultations
 - “Treejuvenation” urban/community forestry program
 - Plant Clinic help desks
- Urban/landscape pest identification



Some of our programs:



An Equal Opportunity Institution. UF/IFAS Extension, University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, Dr. Andra Johnson, dean for UF/IFAS Extension. Sarasota County prohibits discrimination in all services, programs or activities. View the complete policy at <https://www.scgov.net/ADA>

UF/IFAS Extension Sarasota County

Helping clients
is our
most important role.

33,285 clients educated through classes, field visits, phone calls, emails or other direct consultations

747,295 connections through web visits, blog posts, and social media interactions

\$42,000 estimated annual household savings from energy-saving devices and education

868 students received lessons and activities in nutrition, healthy living, and gardening topics

AND

311 area youth received education, experience and expertise through 4-H clubs, programs, and activities

182 rain barrels distributed with Sarasota County partners

capable of diverting

6.2 million gallons of rain annually from storm sewers

11,886 lbs. of food waste diverted from landfills through home composting education/projects

And our latest client survey* shows:

99%
of clients satisfied

95%
Benefited from contact

81%
used Extension information

* UF/IFAS Program Development & Evaluation Center, 2021 data

328

Extension and Sustainability volunteers



provided **12,595** hours of service, worth **\$359,466** 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 »
- « Neighborhood consultations »
- « Free home irrigation evaluations »
- « Volunteer and citizen science programs »
- « Community/School garden expertise »
- « Newsletters and digital publications »
- « Speakers bureau »
- « Sustainable lifestyle/community education »
- « Educational curricula and resources »