Energy Burden: Solutions and Strategies
Sarasota County
Outline

• Equity issues in Sarasota County
• Residential energy/water efficiency and weatherization engagement programs for underserved community members
• Nonprofit energy/water efficiency and weatherization engagement programs
Background

• Lack of funding and support for energy efficiency programs in our community
• Equity issues in Sarasota County
• Existing conservations programs were geared towards middle-income homeowners
Housing Affordability

Studies show that more than 53,000 low-income families in Sarasota County are "cost burdened."

4 out of 10 households in Sarasota County are cost-burdened. (1)

Prepared by: Sarasota County Planning and Development Services
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2005-2009 ACS 5-year estimates and 2012-2016 ACS 5-year estimates
### Household Survival Budget, Sarasota County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>SINGLE ADULT</th>
<th>2 ADULTS, 1 INFANT, 1 PRESCHOOLER</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monthly Costs</strong></td>
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<td>Housing</td>
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<td>Child Care</td>
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<td>Taxes</td>
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<td><strong>Monthly Total</strong></td>
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<td><strong>ANNUAL TOTAL</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Hourly Wage</strong></td>
<td><strong>$11.12</strong></td>
<td><strong>$31.02</strong></td>
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**FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL**

- **SINGLE ADULT**: $11,880
- **2 ADULTS, 1 INFANT, 1 PRESCHOOLER**: $24,300

*SOURCE: UNITED WAY SUNCOAST*
Energy Inequity: Sarasota Co.

Renters

Low Income: Energy Bills 13%
Median Income: Energy Bills 3%

Homeowners

Low Income: Energy Bills 19%
Median Income: Energy Bills 2%

Source: DOE LEAP data
Increased Costs

- Florida Power & Light customers who paid $101.70 last year for a typical monthly bill of 1,000 kilowatt hours of electricity will now be charged $120.67.
- Increase by 18% through 2025
- $6.82 per month adjustment for rising natural gas prices.
- Will continue to increase
Energy Upgrade Program

- Started in 2012 with DOE grant
- Refocused to low-income groups in 2016
- Energy Efficiency workshops (Spanish/English)
- DIY Kits distributed
- Educational materials created (Spanish/English)
- Partners: Sarasota Housing Authority, Salvation Army, United Way, Children’s First, Habitat for Humanity
Energy Upgrade Volunteer Training

• 2018 Started Energy Coach Volunteer Program
• 5 class training series covering:
  • Energy & Water conservation techniques
  • Sarasota County’s ‘Energy Upgrade’ workshop
  • Health impacts
  • Basics of building systems
  • Resources for financial assistance
  • Energy equity
  • Low and no-cost Energy Upgrade strategies
Volunteer Roles: In-home installations and evaluations

Advise clients on energy improvements on-site
- Evaluate home energy use
- Install in-home energy improvements
Volunteer Roles:

In-home installations and evaluations

PHASE 1 – Sarasota Housing Authority

PHASE 2 – non-profit referrals to other low-income homes
Volunteer Roles:

Provide Energy Upgrade Education + DIY kits

Educating on energy improvements and behavioral change in a workshop setting
Volunteer Roles:
Offer 1:1 Consultations + DIY Kits

Advising clients on energy improvement during 1:1 consultations at ‘help desk’ in non-profit partner locations & distributing efficiency devices
Volunteer Roles:
Offer 1:1 Consultations + DIY Kits
2012-2022 Metrics:

- 3,784 residents reached
- $381,160 in utility savings
- 3,457,387 KWh energy savings
ENERGY SAVINGS

Sarasota County households spend an average of $1,200 on energy annually.

TURN IT OFF!
- Turn off lights, fans, and electronics when leaving the room. It adds up.
- Consider air drying your clothes.

BUY SMART, USE SMART
- When replacing appliances and electronics, look for the ENERGY STAR label.
- Set your water heater to 130 degrees F for greater energy savings.

PREP IT
- Replace light bulbs with longer-lasting, higher-efficiency LED bulbs or use up to $75 per year.

STAY SEATED
- Sealing leaks and gaps throughout your home with caulking, tape, or other insulation can save up to $100 a year.
- Close exterior doors.
- Check that your refrigerator has a tight seal.

HEATING/COOLING
- 40% of home energy use goes to air conditioning and heating.
- Set your thermostat to 76-78 degrees F for summer and 60-68 degrees F for winter.
- Maintaining air conditioner filters regularly can lower your energy consumption by 5-15%.
- Close window coverings in the summer to block out heat.

BEWARE VAMPIRE LOADS
- When replacing appliances and electronics, look for ENERGY STAR ratings.
- Set your water heater to 130 degrees F for energy savings.

LEARN MORE

UF/IFAS EXTENSION SARASOTA COUNTY

GET YOUR FREE ENERGY AND WATER CONSERVATION KIT
Kits include LED light bulbs, a smart power strip, faucet aerators, low-flow showerheads, dye tablets, and more!
Customize your kit here: tiny.cc/ufextension_sarasota.
Contact: call 941-861-9829 or email SustainableSarasota@scgov.net

WATER SAVINGS

Sarasota County residents spend an average of $850 on their water annually.

TAKE SHORTER SHOWERS
- Reducing your daily, 10-minute shower to just 5 minutes can save 7,300 gallons of water yearly.
- Use a low-flow showerhead for additional annual savings of 3,650 gallons.

FIX LEAKY TOILETS
- Leaky toilets can waste up to 200 gallons a day.
- Is your toilet running? Put a dye tablet or food coloring in your tank and wait 30 minutes. If you see color in the bowl, you have a leak.

PREP IT
- Replace your toilet flapper in an easy fit for most toilets.

WAIT TO WASH DISHES
- Let your dishes soak in the sink or a dish tub to make cleaning easy and save 1,775 gallons annually.
- Using a dishwasher? Try running it every other day to save about 1,900 gallons a year.

WATCH THE WEATHER, WAIT TO WATER
- Follow Sarasota County’s irrigation restrictions and water your landscape only once per week, providing 1/4 inch of water.
- Every day you do not irrigate your landscape will save you more than 300 gallons per 1,000 square feet.
- Skip weeks where there is a 1/4 inch or more of rain and during the cool weather months in January and February.

DON’T SINK YOUR MONEY
- Shut off the tap when brushing your teeth or shaving.
- Look for the ENERGY STAR label for energy-efficient fixtures.
- A faucet aerator can cut your use in half.

UTILITY BILL PAYMENT ASSISTANCE

2-1-1 Suncoast
211
Get in touch with a multilingual specialist who can direct you to local organizations that provide financial assistance.

Low Income Housing Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
941-556-0234
Federaally funded program that helps low-income families pay home energy bills.

FPL Care to Share
200-226-3544
Receive up to $500 total over 12 months to pay FPL bill.

FPL Budget Billing
800-226-3545
Pay the same amount every month.

Salvation Army
941-556-0234
Receive water service payment assistance, plus help with mortgage, rent, gas, and electric utilities.

Sarasota County Government
utilitybill@scgov.net
Get help paying overdue bills with a 6-month payment plan (while County under State of Emergency).

Jewish Family and Children’s Services - Suncoast
941-366-2224
Utility deposit assistance for veterans.

Cardas Ministry
941-366-5620
Emergency assistance for those with acute financial needs.

Area Agency on Aging
60 or older
866-413-5337
Resurrection House
941-365-3759
Senior Friendship Center
941-955-2122

OTHER FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Weatherization Assistance Program
941-827-9227
Free, low-income qualified energy upgrades up to $5,000.

Office of Housing and Community Development Rehabilitation Program
941-951-5640
Up to $60,000 of 0% interest loans for owner-occupied rehabilitation program.

United Way
941-366-2866
Get connected to financial assistance through a highly trained specialist.

THE GLASSER/SCHOENBOHM HUMAN SERVICES CENTER
941-365-4545
Home to 10-plus nonprofit health and human services agencies that help low-income individuals and families.

VENICE TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN
941-493-0018
Venice Goodwill
941-441-0241
St. Vincent de Paul
941-444-7030
St. Jude’s Catholic Church
941-555-3934
Lutheran Services
941-550-6330

UF/IFAS EXTENSION SARASOTA COUNTY

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AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY INSTITUTION. UF/IFAS Extension. University of Florida. Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences. Tom Glazewski, interim dean for UF/IFAS Extension. Sarasota County prohibits discrimination in all services, programs, or activities. View the complete policy at www.ifas.ufl.edu/ada.
Funding

- Department of Energy – Energy and water efficiency devices for low-income residents
- FDACS- Low Income Residential Energy Efficiency
  - Energy Efficiency appliances and HVAC systems for affordable housing providers
- Barancik- Funding for energy program specialist position, SHA maintenance position, insulation, devices
Partners for Green Places

• Started in 2019 with Partners for Places grant ($350,000)
• Grew to >$1 million
• Collaboration between Sarasota County, City of Sarasota, Gulf Coast Community Foundation, Charles and Margery Barancik Foundation, Community Foundation of Sarasota County, and Selby Foundation
Partners for Green Places

Highlights

• 16 nonprofits
  • Energy, water and solar audits of facilities
  • Implementation projects
• 4 solar PV projects ~167 kW total expected to produce 250,000 kWh annually
• A 5th solar project, ~30 kW, to be installed soon (funded outside of P4GP)
• Roadmaps encompass up to 30% in energy savings and annual savings up to 500,000 kWh
Children First

• Main Campus: 20-30% savings on utility bills
• Sarasota Marieb facility: Solar PV system reduces fossil fuel energy use and emissions by 90%
  ◦ Key Projects
  ◦ 117 kW solar PV system
  ◦ HVAC system upgrades: replaced 2 units, moved thermostat to central location, plan to upgrade 16 more units including programmable thermostats
ENERGY EQUITY RESOURCES

• Sarasota County Blogs:
  ◦ Saving Energy for Those Who Need it Most
  ◦ First Energy Sweeps Successful
  ◦ Energy Savings Program to Help Low-Income Residents
• Southern Alliance for Clean Energy: Energy Justice program
• US Department of Energy:
  ◦ Equity in EnergyTM Initiative
  ◦ Clean Energy in Low-Income Communities
  ◦ Low Income Energy Affordability Data (LEAD) Tool
• US Energy Information Administration: Energy Insecurity Data
• Clean Energy States Alliance: Low and Moderate Income Clean Energy Program
ENERGY EQUITY RESOURCES

EDIS Series- Energy Equity Programming For Extension
• Options for Incorporating Energy Efficiency into Extension Programs: A Menu of Possibilities for Extension Energy Programming in Your Community

• Community-Based Home Energy Tune-Up/Audit Programs: A Step-by-Step Guide to Creating and Implementing Energy Equity Programs in Your Community

• Using Community-Based Social Marketing to Improve Energy Equity Programs

• Developing Extension Programming to Help Low-Income Families Save Money and Energy: The Community Weatherization Coalition Model
Thank You

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