



Building a Future That Works For All

Bowie Urban Planners Business Profile

How can green products and services be mainstreamed in a community?

How can the Earth Charter, a mission statement of sustainable values and principles developed over a 12-year period by thousands of people from 75 countries, be championed?

Urban planner Mary Anne G. Bowie, FAICP, has accomplished these goals in Sarasota, FL by creating easy-to-use directories of green products and services and by hosting over 5 years of monthly community eco-forums.

The concept of promoting a green marketplace as an economic redevelopment strategy was developed by Mary Anne G. Bowie, FAICP, in the Bowie Urban Planners 2001 Sustainable Smart Growth national award winning Vision for Venice. Bowie has addressed national conferences regarding sustainable planning and economic development approaches since 1994. In 2002, Bowie made the commitment to deliver local sustainable solutions. Sarasota's most dedicated environmentalists were invited to discuss two critical questions: "How can we maintain green?" and "How can we promote the Earth Charter?"

The Sarasota Green World Café eco-forum was created in 2003. Each meeting is hosted by Bowie and uses the interactive world café technique of facilitating powerful and meaningful discussions that are often "outside the box." Free and open to the public, The Sarasota Green World Café features presentations by local speakers who are committed to sustainable principles and practices. A discussion follows concerning one principle from the Earth Charter that particularly "speaks" to the presenter. Two questions are addressed: "How can I live that principle?" and "How can I promote that principle to my larger community?" Through the Sarasota Green World Café, Bowie has been able to create and foster community while teaching about the Earth Charter and providing sustainable business owners a venue to share their passion.

Bowie has been able to spotlight the increasing demand for green products and services through the visibility provided by the *Sarasota Green Marketplace™ (SGM)*, a retail store (initially 18 months of outside vendor events), *Sarasota Green Connection Approved Businesses (SGCAB)*, a clearinghouse for businesses selling environmentally preferable products and services, an on-line SGCAB directory of over 200 local businesses, and the *Sarasota Green Pages™*, the first local green pages licensed by Co-Op America. Through a partnership with Natural Awakenings, the Sarasota Green Pages™ is scheduled for republication in March 2008.

Incorporated in 2004 (initially under the name Sarasota Green Connection, Inc.), Sarasota Green Marketplace, Inc.™ is a Green Spec listed green building store containing both green living and green home and building products. Building on Bowie's philosophy and practice of providing viable choices to encourage positive change, Sarasota Green Marketplace™ enables customers to find environmentally preferable building products and supplies that meet the green building rating systems of both the U.S. Green Building Council (LEED) and Florida Green building Coalition. Sarasota Green Connection is a division of the Sarasota Green Marketplace, Inc.™

The leadership, commitment and dedication of Mary Anne G. Bowie, FAICP, has helped deliver the vision for Sarasota Florida of "creating a future that works for all"!

For more information, please visit:
Bowie Urban Planners, www.bowieurbanplanners.com
Sarasota Green Connection, www.sarasotagreenconnection.com
Sarasota Green Marketplace, www.sarasotagreenmarketplace.com