



Pinellas County, Florida
Ideal business climate


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FROM PINELLAS COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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Minority Business Enterprise Certification. Pinellas County's Business Development Center partners with USF's Small Business Development Center to present an interactive step-by-step process to become federally certified as a minority business enterprise. This free seminar will take place July 7, from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the EpiCenter, 13805 58th Street N., Clearwater. [Click here](#) or call (727) 453-7332 to register.

2009 Summer Business-to-Business Expo, July 9. One of the largest business-to-business expos in Pinellas County, this event brings together seven area chambers of commerce: Clearwater Regional, Clearwater Beach, Upper Tampa Bay, Tarpon Springs, Dunedin, Safety Harbor, and Palm Harbor. Sponsorship opportunities abound for interested companies, as do vendor opportunities. The Expo will take place from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Ruth Eckerd Hall in Clearwater. [Click here](#) to learn more, or call (727) 784-4287.

SBA Announces the America's Recovery Capital (ARC) Loan Program. ARC Loans are designed to give viable small businesses facing immediate financial hardship some temporary financial relief to keep their doors open. Interest-free, deferred payment loans of up to \$35,000 may allow borrowers to redirect cash flow from making loan payments to investing in their businesses. [Click here](#) to learn more about the program and to find Pinellas County lenders offering SBA ARC loans.

Get Involved with BITT. The Bimolecular Identification and Targeted Therapeutics Center (BITT), a state-supported biotechnology research center located at the University of South Florida, is focused on developing technologies and therapeutic techniques to detect and identify cancerous, genetic or cell-based diseases with specific targeted treatment protocols. Through a partnership with St. Petersburg College, the Florida Technological Education Center, and Hillsborough Community College, BITT aims to create job opportunities through educational programs that include re-training existing workforce and educating potential recruits. To provide feedback and learn more about BITT in Pinellas, contact Brad Jenkins at (727) 341-4378.

Save the Date: Tech Jam 2009, Aug. 6. The annual Tech Jam raises funds for the Tampa Bay Technology Forum through sponsorships, ticket sales and a silent auction. The event offers networking opportunities in a unique setting; Tech Jam 2008 received more than 1,400 attendees and raised over \$100,000. Learn more [here](#).

Monthly Hazardous Waste Collection for Businesses: July 8. Dispose of unwanted hazardous electronics and chemical waste at the EnviroBusiness collections, scheduled for the second Wednesday of each month. Collections will be taken from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., at the Household Electronics & Chemical Collection Center, 2990 110th Ave. N., St. Petersburg. Any Pinellas County business may drop off its hazardous electronics. To drop off chemicals, businesses need to qualify as small waste generators, (producing less than 25 gallons, or 220 pounds, of chemical waste per month). About ninety percent of all the electronic equipment brought in is either reused or recycled. Visit www.pinellascounty.org/bizwaste to learn more.

[July 2009 Pinellas County Success Story](#)

EI: Defense Sector Superstar. Susan Englander knows something about finding and utilizing business development resources; her company, EEI Manufacturing Services, has been a long-time client of Pinellas County Economic Development (PCED) and has benefitted greatly from that relationship. "My involvement with PCED, as a client and as a community partner, is an essential element in EEI's success today," explains Englander. Awarded as the U.S. Small Business Administration's 2009 Small Business Subcontractor of the Year, EEI symbolizes the type of business excellence and community involvement fostered by Pinellas County. As President and founder of EEI, Englander has worked directly with PCED staff to locate and secure economic incentives to move her company ahead. In 2005, EEI applied for and received \$43,000 in Incumbent Worker Training grant funds to accelerate the skills of 22 employees, and recently received an additional \$49,888 in IWT funding to continue employee training programs. In addition to incentive assistance, PCED has also helped connect Englander to area industry groups and events that promote networking and support among Pinellas businesses. Englander says, "Serving on the Pinellas County Economic Development Council (PCEDC) has allowed me to be an active participant in the steering and guidance of Pinellas' future. It's not merely a tagline; Pinellas *is* the 'ideal business climate' and we want to make sure it stays that way." In addition to her PCEDC service, Englander is also a founding member of the Pinellas Area Federal Contractors Association (PAFCA) and serves on its Board of Directors, and she routinely participates in PCED-sponsored events.

Read more [here](#).

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