



**Helen Rake of Collins Capital Management, Inc Instrumental in Bringing Green Chamber to Jacksonville**

*The Northeast Florida Green Chamber to be the first to focus on green business*

**JACKSONVILLE** – January 21, 2011 – The Northeast Florida Green Chamber is painting the town green! Jacksonville is launching The Green Chamber of the South's first chapter through the efforts of Helen Rake and a group of dedicated sustainable business leaders. The Chamber plans to make a huge impact on area businesses while preserving the city's delicate eco-system.

While Jacksonville companies strive to decrease their environmental impact and improve their green practices, they also have been in need of help to reach their goals. This new chapter will continue the [Green Chamber of the South's](#) mission of supporting sustainability in businesses and innovation and adoption of clean technology.

The Northeast Florida Green Chamber will further develop the strategies used by its parent organization to reach out to potential members. Local monthly events will establish relationships and create a positive environment. Presiding over the Northeast Florida Green Chamber will be Helen Rake, a principal & investment advisor representative at Collins Capital Management, Inc. Ms. Rake believes that the new chapter will fill a much-needed role in the area.

"It's unlike anything the state of Florida has ever seen and we are proud the River City is setting the example. It's about time a group of concerned citizens joined forces to put Jacksonville on the fast-track towards sustainability and improving our air and water quality. Our goal is to spread the word about how this chapter will reshape the city's skyline with cleaner, more eco-friendly business," said Ms. Rake.

When Ms. Rake decided to green her office, she found there were many initiatives underway locally to create a more sustainable community, but very few resources for building a green business. The Northeast Florida Green Chamber will provide local business owners with education, networking and an easily accessible green supply chain to promote their green business and create a permanent shift toward making the area a hub for sustainable business.

“The addition of the Florida chapter gives us an even greater opportunity to make the Southeast the center of sustainable business in the United States,” said Ofra Tessler – president, Green Chamber of the South. “Based on interest and a passionate set of volunteers like Helen Rake, we hope to launch more Southeastern chapters this year.”

Any business interested in joining the Northeast Florida Green Chamber may contact [Helen Rake](#) or visit the [Green Chamber of the South](#). Members can connect on [LinkedIn](#), and members and prospective members can join [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Founded in 2008, the Green Chamber of the South is headquartered in Atlanta and serves green businesses throughout the Southeast. The success of the organization lies in its ability to foster connections and partnerships through networking opportunities, collaborative projects, workshops and seminars. Members have access to monthly events, like Green Wednesdays, as well as seminars and mixers where the focus is education and networking. Often, these collaborative events result in new ideas. For example, in 2010, the Great Chamber of the South created the “Greenhouse Accelerator” program, which helps green initiatives access the resources necessary to succeed.

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**NORTHEAST FLORIDA**  
**green chamber**