

<http://www.dep.state.fl.us/energy/default.htm>

## *The Florida Energy Office*

The Florida Energy Office (FEO) is the state's primary center for energy policy under Governor Charlie Crist. In addition to developing and implementing Florida's energy policy, the FEO coordinates all federal energy programs delegated to the state, including energy supply, demand, conservation and allocation.

Through the FEO, the State of Florida shapes "Florida's Energy Future," focusing on advanced clean energy sources, energy conservation and efficiency. Florida is actively engaged in projects that promote ethanol and biodiesel, hydrogen power, solar energy and energy conservation.

During hurricane season and other natural disasters, the FEO coordinates electricity recovery, fuel supply, and fuel requests by local governments, law enforcement and healthcare facilities throughout the state.

### **Florida Renewable Technologies & Energy Efficiency Act**

Florida's anticipated growth in energy consumption, together with its experiences during the unprecedented storm seasons of 2004 and 2005, underscore the state's vulnerability to interruptions in fuel production, supply and delivery. In response, Florida has enacted the Florida Renewable Energy Technologies & Energy Efficiency Act (The Florida Energy Act) - a four year, \$100 million plan to diversify the state's fuel supply and promote energy conservation and efficiency. By reducing regulatory barriers and providing economic incentives, the Act takes the first comprehensive step toward a diverse, reliable and secure energy future.

To date, under the Florida energy Act, the Florida Energy Office has:

- ◆ Issued 1073 Solar Rebates to Florida residents at a value of \$807,290 deferring an estimated 10,524,970 kilowatt hours per year.
- ◆ Received 183 grant proposals that seek \$215 million in grant funding and provide \$505 million in cost share
- ◆ Implemented Florida sales tax holiday that was in effect between October 5th and 11th, 2006 that enabled consumers to purchase energy star appliances, with a retail cost up to \$1500, tax free.

### **Ethanol and Biodiesel**

The Florida Energy Office manages a number of activities related to biofuel development in Florida, many of which are supported with grant funds from the U.S. Department of Energy. Highlights include:

- ◆ The Florida Biomass Network is bringing together biomass energy professionals from agriculture, industry, academia and government to explore discuss bioenergy projects. An online GIS-based tool has been created to map Florida's biomass resources.

- ◆ Orange County Public Schools are managing a small biodiesel demonstration project that involves producing biodiesel from waste vegetable oil on campus and using it to heat water onsite.

### **Solar**

The Florida Energy Office manages three solar technology programs targeting three primary markets; public schools, new home construction and low income housing.

- ◆ Partnering with the Florida Solar Energy Research and Education Foundation the SunBuilt Program promotes the integration of solar water heaters into new communities. Florida home builders are granted financial incentives by committing to incorporate solar water heaters into new home construction.
- ◆ The Florida Energy Office supports alternative energy awareness and education in Florida schools through the SunSmart Schools Program. By installing 12 solar electric systems in schools throughout Florida, this program will promote a clean energy alternative while enhancing students' education. The program combines state funding with private partnerships to provide clean energy and science education.
- ◆ Low-income neighborhoods participating in the Front Porch Florida initiative can receive the benefits of solar energy through installation of solar domestic water heaters on select homes via Front Porch Sunshine. Florida is providing approximately 100 solar water heaters to residents in underserved communities throughout the state. Florida is the first in the nation to install solar energy technology in weatherized, low-income homes.

## Energy Conservation and Efficiency

The State of Florida is committed to improving the energy efficiency of government and educational facilities throughout the state. In partnership with USEPA, the FEO is supporting the ENERGY STAR Challenge by educating government agencies and schools throughout the state on financial and environmental benefits of energy efficiency. By providing training on ENERGY STAR tools to measure energy use, buildings that offer the greatest opportunity for improvement can be identified. Organizations that improve energy efficiency by ten, twenty or thirty percent are recognized for their achievement. Highlights of the program include:

- ◆ Energy Star Benching Tools: Florida is leading a five-state initiative to promote ENERGY STAR™ benchmarking tools and technical assistance for K-

12 public schools and local governments throughout the Southeast United States. This outreach project builds on Florida's existing SunSmart Schools Program.

- ◆ Rebuild America is a growing network of community-driven voluntary partnerships fostering energy efficiency and renewable energy in commercial, government and public-housing buildings. In Florida, initiatives such as the University of Florida's Program for Resource Efficient Communities and Rebuild Sarasota are educating builders, citizens and local businesses on energy efficiency and clean energy technologies. The Florida Green Purchasing Network is demonstrating the benefits of a multi-county "bulk purchasing" program for energy efficient products. Through the Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP), U.S. Post Offices in Florida and the Kennedy Space Center are becoming energy efficient.
- ◆ The Online Utility Report Cards Program is a web-based energy information system that reports and graphs monthly utility data for schools. Each month, a web-based report is automatically generated and emailed to school principals and staff to compare their school's electricity usage (energy efficiency) and to identify schools with high energy consumption for further investigation. The online system is also intended for teachers and students to use as an instructional tool to learn about school energy use.

## Hydrogen

The State of Florida partners with industry, local governments and universities to showcase hydrogen technologies and educate consumers on the newest hi-tech approach to clean, sustainable energy. Highlights include:

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- ◆ Six hydrogen fuel cell Ford Focus vehicles were provided by Ford as part of the U.S. Department of Energy's Controlled Fleet & Infrastructure Program in Orlando. Through a partnership with BP and Progress Energy, BP is constructing a semi-permanent fueling station to support the vehicles at Progress Energy's Jamestown Operations Center. Vehicles were deployed in September 2005 and will be demonstrated for a 36 month period.
- ◆ In February, 2007, the State of Florida will receive eight hydrogen internal combustion engine Ford E-450 shuttle buses as part of the Demonstration Project for Hydrogen Powered Shuttle Buses. The buses will be used by Orlando International Airport, Orange County and Lynx Transportation. A fueling station to support the vehicles at Progress Energy's Boggy Creek Road will be provided by Chevron. This is a 2 year demonstration project.
- ◆ Two hydrogen baggage carriers have been developed by Ford Motor Company and TugTechnologies as part of the Hydrogen Baggage Carrier Demonstration Project at the Orlando International Airport. The baggage carriers will be used by Delta Airlines at the Orlando International Airport. A mobile fueling station to support the vehicles will be provided by Hydrogenics. Vehicles should be deployed in April 2007 and will be demonstrated for a 12 month period.