

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NOVEMBER 19, 2008

CONTACT: GOVERNOR'S PRESS OFFICE

(850) 488-5394

Governor Crist Joins Governors, International Leaders to Address Global Climate Change

~ Co-hosts climate change summit with California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger ~

LOS ANGELES – Governor Charlie Crist, continuing his leadership role in addressing global climate change, joined California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in co-hosting United States governors and international leaders in calling for collaborative action across the globe in the fight against climate change. The Governors' Global Climate Summit, held in Los Angeles on November 18 and 19, focuses on creative, collaborative actions to advance the global climate agreement to reduce greenhouse gas. The summit also provides an opportunity for states and provinces to partner to reduce emissions and grow our green economies.

"Florida's rapid progress has been possible only through partnership agreements with the United Kingdom and Germany, and with the help of my good friend, Governor Schwarzenegger," Governor Crist said. "This progress does not come at the expense of future economic growth, but rather as a necessity to the future prosperity of our nations and states."

Governor Crist has hosted Serve to Preserve Florida Summits on Global Climate Change in 2007 and 2008. Since signing three executive orders in 2007 to reduce Florida's greenhouse gas emissions, increase energy efficiency, and remove market barriers for renewable energy technologies such as solar and wind energy, Florida has stepped onto the world stage as a major marketplace for advanced energy technologies.

About Florida's Energy Future

Over the last two years, Florida has provided more than \$52 million in grant funding to encourage investment in the state as well as promote and enhance the use of alternative and renewable energy technologies. In the program's first year, Fiscal Year 2006-07, the state awarded \$15 million in grant funding to eight organizations; another \$12.5 million in grant funding was awarded in 2007-08. In addition, \$25 million in grants also were awarded during Fiscal Year 2007-08 through the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' Farm to Fuel program to stimulate investment in projects that produce bioenergy from Florida-grown crops or biomass.

Florida continues to encourage the development and usage of renewable and alternative energy in Florida, including ethanol-blended fuels. This summer, Governor Crist signed House Bill 7135, a comprehensive energy and economic development package aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions as well as encouraging investment in alternative and renewable energy technologies. The legislation created an alternative fuel standard of "10 in 10," requiring that 10 percent of transportation fuels in Florida are from alternative sources by 2010. House Bill 7135 also authorizes the development of a cap-and-trade regulatory program, which gives businesses flexibility in meeting greenhouse gas reduction standards; creates a renewable portfolio standard; and provides grants and incentives to promote and enhance the use of alternative and renewable energy technologies. In addition, the legislation creates the Florida Energy & Climate Commission, a central office for state energy and climate change programs and policies.

For more information, please visit www.MyFloridaClimate.com.

###