

Nov. 14, 2007

Sarasota County to honor Gov. Charlie Crist Nov. 19

Gov. Charlie Crist will visit Sarasota County on Monday, Nov. 19, to receive a special award honoring his initiatives to assure Florida's leadership on global climate change and renewal energy. The governor is scheduled to join Sarasota County commissioners and guests at 12:15 p.m. at Twin Lakes Park, 6700 Clark Road, Sarasota. The public is invited to the event, which also will feature displays by eco-friendly merchants and members of Sarasota County's Green Business Partnership.

"We are especially proud to honor Gov. Crist, since our community shares his vision of sustainability," Commissioner Shannon Staub said. "Sarasota County has been at the forefront of this movement, because our administration is committed to sustainable governance, and our community is engaged in sustainability initiatives."

Earlier this year, Gov. Crist signed groundbreaking executive orders that established the Governor's Action Team on Energy and Climate Change. He directed this diverse 21-member group to create and achieve comprehensive targets to reduce greenhouse gases and to increase the use of renewable energy. It also has been directed to strengthen existing public-private partnerships and voluntary industry participation through programs such as DEP's Green Lodging Program.

On his MyFloridaClimate Web site, Gov. Crist says that he expects his team to explore groundbreaking strategies to put Florida at the forefront of a growing worldwide movement. "Florida not only will provide the policy and technological advances," Crist said, "but also the moral leadership to allow us to overcome this monumental challenge."

At the Serve to Preserve Summit on Global Climate Change in July, Gov. Crist called for developing a carbon scorecard for all state agencies and making state buildings and vehicles more energy efficient. The governor has set maximum greenhouse-gas emission levels that will, by the year 2050, reduce emissions by 80 percent of 1990 levels. To achieve these reductions, Florida will adopt current California motor vehicle emission standards and develop maximum allowable greenhouse-gas emissions for electric utilities. Florida also will require a 15-percent increase in energy efficiency for new building construction and appliances sold in the state. Gov. Crist, in addition, has urged the Public Service Commission to focus on solar and wind energy.

Staub said numerous public and private organizations will be represented at the ceremony on Nov. 19 to demonstrate that sustainability encompasses more than just the environment. Among them will be members of the Sarasota County Economic Development Corporation, State Health Department and green developers and builders.

For more information about the visit, contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000 and ask about the Sustainability Event for Gov. Crist.