



# Green Party of Florida

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Office of Governor Charlie Crist  
State of Florida  
PL-05 The Capitol  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

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To the Honorable Governor Crist,

The Green Party of Florida commends you for initiating improved environmental policies for our state. Your proactive and inclusive approach is a refreshing departure from previous short-sighted state and national energy policies. We hope that your actions will lead to a new direction of long-term investment in the health and safety of our society and our planet.

Florida Greens applaud your formation of a high quality climate action team. We urge you to follow up on the Miami Climate Change Summit by taking more bold steps in the direction of clean energy. We hope that you and your teams will thoroughly examine all available options before investing in a new Florida energy policy.

We are encouraged by the promises you made at the Florida Climate Change Summit to “engage state, regional, national and international leaders, as well as significant members of the business and environmental communities...” Florida Greens appreciate your willingness to open the doors to broader public discussion of the challenges facing our state and we are calling upon our constituents to participate. We hope that besides input from local political and business leaders, you will continue to engage academics, scientists, engineers and most importantly, the public. Now is the time for open debate on energy issues.

A first priority for Florida’s state energy plan must be to implement significant conservation measures to reduce energy consumption across the board, from mass transit to local agriculture, to strong growth management. Without this commitment, we fail to protect Floridians from the impacts of both the energy crisis and climate change.

Florida Greens hope to see organizational changes such as increased public control and ownership of our natural resources and utility plants, and distributed (decentralized) energy generation. Public control is one best way to ensure construction of safe, clean, renewable energy plants with communities in mind.

While we agree in large part on the direction for energy production, we are concerned that corporate biotechnology is being promoted as a harmless and sustainable means of energy production. We are wary of corporate farming

## THE TEN KEY VALUES

- *Ecological Wisdom* • *Social Justice* • *Grassroots Democracy* • *Nonviolence* • *Decentralization* • *Community-based Economics* • *Gender Equity* • *Respect for Diversity* • *Future Focus / Sustainability* • *Personal and Global Responsibility*

designed to produce agri-fuels. The amount of energy required for its production, and negative societal consequences of monocultural, genetically-engineered farming make agri-fuels impractical to meeting our energy needs.

We most diverge from your program, however, when you portray nuclear power as a “green energy” option. Nuclear plants such as those at Hutchinson Island, Turkey Point and the one proposed at Crystal River produce radioactive emissions and dangerous, difficult to dispose of toxic waste even as they usurp public subsidies. We hope that you will soon take a strong stand to protect Floridians from the massive water consumption, public safety hazards, carbon emissions and fiscal burden that will result if Florida’s largest proposed fossil fuel power plant, the West County Energy Center, is built.

Now is the time to stop subsidizing and promoting historical polluters such as oil, gas, coal and nuclear power as solutions to our long-term energy needs and to start serious funding of sustainable technologies that will free us from dependence on toxic fossil fuels and dangerous nuclear energy. Florida could and should help lead the way in public and private investments in clean, safe energy projects that provide sound economic development models and employment opportunities while offering economic incentives for large-scale conversion to renewable energy production.

As Governor of Florida, you will need to quickly take decisive steps to deal with the reality of climate change. We hope you will take your lead from the scientists, engineers, and grass roots innovators who are making great strides and who have the knowledge to help government create and implement policies that will quicken the pace of your efforts.

We urge you to use your time in the Office of the Governor to focus your attention on this challenge. By partnering with local communities you can help Florida to become a leader in developing strong, practical solutions to meet our energy needs and protect our environment. With your leadership and with full public participation, Florida could end our dependency on fossil fuels and nuclear power plants, forging the path to a truly forward-looking, safe and sustainable energy future.

Respectfully,

Michael Canney,  
Co-Chair, Green Party of Florida

Cathy Gilbert,  
Co-Chair, Green Party of Florida