

Dear Friends,

As our economy continues to grow, renewable energy can help us sustain its growth. That is one reason I want to increase our use of solar power, wind energy and ethanol.

This week we celebrated the opening of the largest solar energy system for a single Florida building. The headquarters for Advanced Green Technologies will be completely powered by solar power. Any energy they do not use will be used by residents and businesses in the area.

I met with Louisiana's Governor-elect, Bobby Jindal, to discuss various issues important to both of our states. We talked about hurricane preparation and recovery, property insurance, and the production of ethanol from sugarcane waste.



Thursday, I hosted a roundtable discussion with four other Governors who are interested in increasing our use of renewable energy. We discussed alternative fuels such as ethanol and how we can encourage alternative transportation policies in our states. Florida has a lot of sugar and a lot of citrus, and they can be more efficient in producing ethanol than corn.

Two events this week remind us to continue supporting those communities recovering from natural disasters. First, we dedicated the new I-10/Escambia Bay Bridge that was destroyed by Hurricane Ivan in 2004. Today, I joined Pastor Larry Lynn at the Lady Lake Church of God for the groundbreaking of the new building that replaces the one destroyed by tornadoes in February. It is good to see these communities rebuilding for the future.



May God bless you and the great state of Florida,

*Charlie Crist*