



For Immediate Release

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Florida Renewable Energy Grant, Loan and Finance Workshop to be held in Orlando

Tallahassee- The Florida Renewable Energy Producers Association (FREPA) will hold a Florida Renewable Energy Grant, Loan and Finance Workshop at the Rosen Plaza Hotel in Orlando on December 16, 2008.

The workshop will focus on financing Florida green industry opportunities ranging from biofuels production projects and project funding for wind, solar and biomass, as well as funding for renewable R&D and clean tech startups. There will be representatives from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), along with scheduled representatives from the United States Department of Energy (DOE), the investment banking community and Florida's economic development community. All will provide insight into funding for Florida universities and other research labs for renewable energy research initiatives.

"Florida is well positioned to lead the southeast in renewable energy production, and the stars seem to have become aligned just right, given the commitment from our business leaders and policymakers," said Michael Dobson, President and CEO of FREPA.

Currently, the Public Service Commission (PSC) is working to provide the legislature recommendations for the creation of a Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard (RPS) in Florida, which is a mandate that a certain percentage of electricity generated in Florida will be from renewable. This action is a response to a directive in Florida 2008 House Bill 7135 and the Governor's executive order; FREPA has endorsed Governor Crist's order specifying 20% by 2020.

"Florida's agriculture community has also seen opportunity from the grower's perspective, and the producers who will work with our farmers as well as large landowners. It is now time to put the pieces together in Florida and make all the grandiose ideas a reality," Dobson said. "Governor Crist, along with other elected leaders and our business community, have a wonderful opportunity to show Florida as a progressive state that is eager to attract 21st century jobs, build a 21st century economy and change the misperception that we are not the best state for high-tech startups."

The workshop in Orlando is a key step toward bringing the renewable energy business community, researchers, farmers, scientist and investors together to understand how to use the tools that are available. To attend the workshop, please register online at www.FloridaEnergyProducers.com using the "Industry Events" link.

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www.floridaenergyproducers.com