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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**\$500,000 U.S. Department of Energy Planning Grant Boost for
Electric Vehicle Charging and Infrastructure in Southeast Florida**

Hollywood, Fla. – (Oct. 11,2011) - The South Florida Regional Planning Council (Council) and its Gold Coast Clean Cities Coalition are revved up to support electric vehicles thanks to a \$500,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). Working in conjunction with Florida Power & Light Co., the grant will support the development of a plan to increase electric vehicle infrastructure and vehicle use within Broward, Indian River, Martin, Miami-Dade, Monroe, Palm Beach, and St. Lucie Counties.

Electric vehicles reduce vehicle emissions, reliance on foreign oil, and operating costs. The cost to power an electric vehicle is roughly 80 percent less than fueling a standard vehicle.

“As one of the largest urbanized areas in the nation, our size and diversity create a compelling impetus to prepare communities for new technological advances,” affirmed James F. Murley, Interim Executive Director of the South Florida Regional Planning Council. “We certainly appreciate the support of the DOE and FPL in meeting our environmental and mobility challenges. This electric vehicle readiness plan will complement the Southeast Florida Regional Partnership’s Sustainable Communities Initiative which is focused on improving Southeast Florida’s economy and creating jobs.”

These efforts are consistent with the national Clean Cities’ goal to reduce U.S. petroleum use by 2.5 billion gallons per year by 2020. In particular, the proposed planning effort is aligned with developing reliable alternative fueling infrastructure and alternative fuel infrastructure corridors. Similarly, FPL has been working to increase the fuel-efficiency of its operations for many years, and today operates one the nation’s greenest fleet of vehicles.

“FPL is committed to supporting the growing use of electric vehicles in Florida. As demand grows, we are focused on meeting our customers’ needs and ensuring our service reliability remains strong,” said FPL’s Electric Vehicles Program Manager Anne-Louise Seabury.

While most electric vehicle drivers are expected to charge their cars at home, drivers of plug-in vehicles will have more options to charge up as public charging infrastructure continues to expand.

The grant was developed through a partnership effort among the Council; FPL; Broward, Indian River, Martin, Miami-Dade, Monroe, Palm Beach and St. Lucie Counties; the Cities of Boynton Beach, Coral Springs, Delray Beach, Miami Beach, Port St. Lucie, Stuart, West Miami and West Palm Beach; Florida Gold Coast Clean Cities Coalition; The Curtis Group; Hertz; General Motors; CALSTART; and the Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). However, the project will be developed in conjunction with all local governments in the seven-county region as well as citizens and the private sector.

South Florida Regional Planning Council

The South Florida Regional Planning Council is a planning and public policy agency that works with and provides assistance to its member units of local government, private partners and nonprofit organizations. Its mission is to identify the long-term challenges and opportunities facing South Florida and assist the Region's leaders in developing and implementing creative strategies that result in more prosperous and equitable communities, a healthier and cleaner environment, and a more vibrant economy. The Council is host to the Florida Gold Coast Clean Cities Coalition, and its website may be visited at www.sfrpc.com .

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