

**The Florida Times-Union**

**October 17, 2008**

## **A company serves as role model**

**By Jerry Karnas**

*Special to the Times-Union*

*Green groups are usually known for singling out corporations that threaten the environment, but dozens of Florida companies are finding that there is gold in green.*

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As the director of Environmental Defense Fund's "Faces of Climate Change" project, I identify Florida businesses and entrepreneurs that are implementing eco-friendly ways to power their operations and develop clean energy solutions.

Examples include the Mosaic Company, which produces 150 megawatts of electricity from waste heat - enough to power 50,000 homes - to the Tallahassee Antique Car Museum, powered by solar, to Petro-Algae, which is developing a technology that can yield 14,000 gallons of diesel from one acre of algae.

These Florida companies are creating jobs the old-fashioned way: innovation.

In the process, they're reducing our dependence on foreign oil and helping to safeguard our natural resources (not to mention our tourism economy) from the ravages of climate change.

Another company is Florida Crystals south of Lake Okeechobee, one of the largest sugar companies in the nation and manufacturer of the world's first and only certified carbonfree natural and organic sugar products. More than a decade ago, Florida Crystals built North America's largest biomass power plant, located in South Florida.

Today, the plant stands as one of the most potent and important symbols of energy independence and greenhouse gas reduction in Florida.

Florida Crystals uses bagasse, sugar cane fiber, along with recycled urban wood waste, as fuel to power its operations. The company's power plant also has the capacity to generate enough eco-friendly electricity to meet the daily needs of nearly 60,000 homes.

Florida Crystals hopes to continue its growth in the renewable energy field. In collaboration with the University of Florida, Florida Crystals will soon break ground on the state's first cellulosic ethanol plant. The facility will produce up to 2 million gallons of advanced ethanol and is expected to become a world-class cellulosic ethanol research facility.

Florida Crystals will be able to produce food products, electricity and ethanol from the same crop - all while reducing global warming pollution and the amount of waste sent to landfills.

Others are sure to follow the trail being blazed by Florida Crystals, developing climate-friendly operations and keeping Florida at the forefront of reducing global warming while meeting the nation's critical renewable energy and food needs.

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