

Mayor's Proclamation

Change the World, Start with ENERGY STAR Campaign And the Drive \$marter Challenge

WHEREAS, energy savings and fuel efficiency is important to MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA, because it saves consumers and taxpayers money, and helps protect the environment because it lessens greenhouse gas emissions and reduces air pollution; and

WHEREAS, MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA is committed to helping residents and employees combat rising energy and fuel costs by reducing electrical and gasoline use; and

WHEREAS, by taking the *Change the World, Start With ENERGY STAR Campaign* and the *Drive \$marter Challenge* citizens and employees of MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA can learn how many hundreds of dollars they can save on energy in ten easy steps and on gasoline with their specific vehicle by taking six easy driving and maintenance actions; and

WHEREAS, according to the *Change the World, Start with ENERGY STAR Campaign* if all the households in Florida took the ENERGY STAR Pledge and changed just one incandescent light bulb to an ENERGY STAR qualified bulb, the combined individual efforts would have the following impacts: Florida could save up to 351 million kilowatt-hours of electricity per year. This is enough energy to light all the households in Monroe County, Florida, for nearly 1,040 days (2.8 years)! Based on the average electrical rate in Florida, the amount of energy saved would reduce household electrical bills by a combined total of \$37.8 million a year. Florida would prevent nearly more than 540 million pounds of greenhouse gas emissions each year! This is equivalent to removing the annual emissions of over 47 thousand cars from Florida's roadways!


WHEREAS, according to the Alliance to Save Energy (ASE), the average U.S. household is projected to spend approximately \$4,000 this year to fuel its vehicles. Accordingly, if every driving citizen in the United States followed the six tips recommended through the *Drive \$marter Challenge*, each person could save over \$700 per year or almost 190 gallons of gas at \$3.78/gallon with an aggregate annual U.S. savings of close to \$150 billion and 40 billion gallons of gas¹.

WHEREAS, MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA is proud to do our part in this nationwide effort to promote energy and fuel efficiency practices and help consumers lower their energy and gasoline costs;

NOW THEREFORE, I, Mario Di Gennaro, Mayor of the MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA Board of Commissioners accept these Challenge's and encourage our citizens to change the world and drive smarter, and hereby proclaim July 16, 2008 as the official launch of the

**MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA *Change the World,*
*Start With ENERGY STAR Campaign, Drive \$marter Challenge***

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA this 16th day of July, A.D. 2008.


Mario Di Gennaro, Mayor

¹ Figures based on 209 million licensed drivers in the United States driving an average of 12,500 miles per year in a vehicle with a fuel economy of 20.1 mpg and assumes that all drivers were not already implementing these driving and maintenance tips.