

Commissioner Challenge Featured in National Consumer Protection Week 2011

Some people simply talk about conservation, but for five Florida Public Service Commissioners (PSC), it was more than just talk. On March 8, during National Consumer Protection Week (NCPW), Chairman Art Graham issued a friendly challenge to his fellow Commissioners to practice what they preach in a *Conservation Destination Challenge*.

From the Commission Conference on March 8 to the Commission Conference on April 5, PSC Commissioners Graham, Lisa Edgar, Ronald Brisé, Eduardo Balbis, and Julie Brown are earning various points by tracking their conservation efforts on a scorecard during the *Challenge*. For example, they are recording their energy usage, signing up for energy audits, practicing energy efficiency while washing and drying clothes, and installing CFL bulbs. For extra credit, they can encourage a friend to use a CFL bulb or install a low-flow showerhead.

"A little friendly competition helps us be more aware of what we can do daily to practice conservation, which, in turn, saves energy and reduces our utility bills," said Chairman Art Graham. "Everyone can change habits such as turning off lights when you leave a room or power down your computer. New conservation practices will impact energy usage and savings for years."

NCPW, whose national organizers include AARP, the Federal Communications Commission, and the Federal Trade Commission, highlighted consumer protection and education efforts around the country. Event organizers chose this year's theme, *Information Destination*, to focus on the importance of agencies providing widespread consumer information/education. The PSC capitalized on the national consumer theme in the spirit of conservation: *The PSC... Your Conservation Information Destination!* At events in Jacksonville, Pensacola, Tampa, and Miami, the Commission distributed conservation information and assisted consumers in signing up for the Link-Up Florida and Lifeline Assistance programs offering discounted telephone service to eligible consumers.

Check here for Scorecard Click here for Energy Usage Record