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## **Governor's Mansion scores well in energy audit**

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Charlie Crist got high marks today for being an energy miser at the Governor's Mansion, but the city told him he really should get a solar panel for the pool.

"It occurs to me that using the sunshine in the Sunshine State is a good idea," Crist said at a poolside news conference to promote home energy conservation.

Crist, who is promoting a \$70 million package of incentives for alternative energy this year, last week asked the city to conduct the same kind of energy audit of his house that it does for any utility customer.

But Crist lives in a 13,000-square-foot brick building open for public tours; racked up a \$4,857.21 charge for electricity, natural gas, water, sewer and storm water removal in April; and he's far from the average customer.

In fact, the average customer can wait an average of four weeks to get an energy audit, unless there is a hardship case with an unusual spike in the bill, acknowledged city spokeswoman Stefanie Long. Tallahassee has a municipally owned utility.

But the average customer also can't get the largest media outlets in the state to help promote home energy efficiency, she said.

"This was a good opportunity for us to get the word out about the program," she said. "He scheduled the audit last week, but this has been in the works for a long time."

Average wait times will fall after the city brings on two additional Energy Services representatives, she said.

Crist could not immediately recall the size of the mansion's monthly utility bill but he seemed fascinated by Energy Services representative Mark Piland's tips.

"A compact fluorescent light uses one-fourth the energy and they last 10 times longer. You can save \$30 over the life of the bulb," Piland said after Crist screwed one into a living room lamp for reporters.

Compact fluorescents are common in the mansion The mansion heats water with more energy efficient natural gas and it uses energy efficient digital thermostats.

But the state could save more money if it heated the backyard pool with a solar panel, Piland told Crist.

"The mansion's in good shape," Piland said.

The city recently created a "demand-side management program," that aims to cut energy use by 59 megawatts by 2012 and 162 megawatts by 2025. Fifty-nine megawatts is roughly equivalent to the power consumed by 10,000 homes, or about 10 percent of peak summer energy use.