

April 30, 2007, Boca Raton Florida: I recently returned from 3 days in Nashville, training in Session 6 of Al Gore's **CLIMATE PROJECT**. We were the final group to participate in a grassroots effort begun by Gore last fall, when he committed to train one-thousand people to give live presentations of the slide show made famous by the Academy Award-winning movie, **AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH**.

As I counted myself one of a lucky 0.0003% of the population involved in this project, I was inspired by the energy, enthusiasm, experience and intelligence of my group of attendees. Educators, musicians, inventors, investors, scientists, journalists, models, a starting linebacker in the NFL – and of course, the “Former Next President of the United States, Al Gore” – spent time working together, preparing us to deliver fact-based, non-partisan reality and scientific information to communities across the country.

The impact of Gore's mission is underway – since September, members of The Climate Project have given more presentations to more people than Gore has over the last 15 years. As we continue to expand the program, we are at the forefront of an emerging “Dot-Green” economy – one which, through conservation and better use of resources, will become our nation's finest endeavor and will create opportunities at every level of our economy. My give-away message of this experience is enlightening and full of promise:



Jeff Conley apologizing to Gore on behalf of Palm Beach County

Once you understand the extent of climate change and its ongoing threat to your current way of life, you become obliged to do something about it. Not necessarily in terms of guilt, but with a keen understanding that everything we use and everything we do has an element of embodied energy that we must reduce, replace or eliminate.

I am busily preparing a 30-minute version of the presentation (it takes Gore 2 hours to go through it!) while adding important information regarding my personal area of focus on Sustainable Structures and Green Buildings. The facts are in, the scientists have spoken (barring the occasional rogue pseudo-scientist bankrolled by the petroleum industry), and the work ahead of us is crystal clear, painfully obvious and overwhelmingly necessary.

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