



CONNECTIONS

News and Information from OUC—The *Reliable One* | JANUARY 2023

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HAPPY

new year
2023

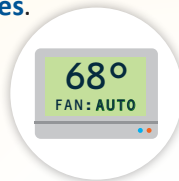
5 TIPS TO KEEP WINTER FROM DRIVING UP UTILITY BILLS

Cooler temperatures might bring a much-welcomed respite from the Florida heat, but they also could drive up your utility bills. That's because it takes more energy to heat a home than it does to cool it. A lot more, in fact.

As winter approaches, OUC – The *Reliable One* wants to remind customers of five easy-to-follow tips to reduce energy consumption:

1 Set your thermostat at 68 degrees.

You use 11% less energy at this temperatures vs. 70 degrees. Any degree lower than 68 will increase savings in your utility bill.



2 Let the sunlight in. Pull back curtains and raise blinds to allow natural light to warm your home, and do the opposite when the sun sets.

3 Wear warm clothes indoors. Put your shorts and T-shirts away and don sweaters and socks while at home.

4 Set ceiling fans to turn clockwise. Doing this will circulate warm air collecting near the ceiling.



5 Use portable space heaters. They're effective for warming confined spaces like bedrooms and cost less to operate than heating the entire home. *But be sure to keep portable heaters at least three feet away from furniture, bedding, walls, clothing and other flammable items.*

HELPFUL TIP!

OUC's free Budget Billing service helps customers plan the amount they'll pay in monthly utility costs.

HOW IT WORKS:

Your monthly fixed amount is based on the average of your actual utility bills during the last 12 months, including electric and/or water, solid waste, waste water and taxes.

* An additional percentage, at the discretion of OUC, will be added to the amount to prevent the deferred balance from growing too large.



For more information and to enroll in Budget Billing, visit ouc.com/residential/budget-billing.

PARTNERING TOGETHER

WE'RE HERE TO HELP YOU SAVE ENERGY, WATER AND MONEY

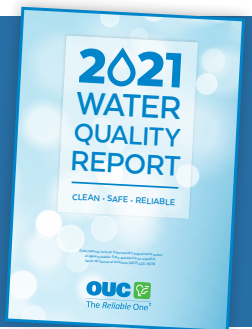


OUC offers an array of programs and plans that help customers reduce their energy and water use so they can save money on their monthly utility bills. Customers can take advantage of rebates on energy- and water-saving improvements or a cost-sharing program that benefits low-income households that make efficiency upgrades. For more information, visit OUC.com/Waystosave.

We also partner with community-based organizations and government programs to provide assistance when it's needed the most. Learn more by visiting OUC.com/Assistance.

2021 WATER QUALITY REPORT

Learn more about H₂OUC via the 2021 OUC Water Quality Report at www.OUC.com/wqr2021



ELEVATE ORLANDO

Too often, kids from low-income households don't have the tools they need to succeed in school, build skilled careers, or become community leaders. ELEVATE Orlando aims to change that. This local nonprofit's principal objective is to positively impact students attending Evans, Oak Ridge, and Jones high schools, inspire them to graduate and continue to thrive in their personal and professional lives. ELEVATE establishes long-term relationships between teachers/mentors and students through accredited classes, mentorship, adventure, and college and career preparation.

Supporting ELEVATE Orlando and its mission is easy!

Donations can be made at elevateorlando.org or by calling **321-203-4403**.



Wilkins Theodore (center), Oak Ridge Class of '22, received a scholarship as part of ELEVATE Orlando's support for scholastic achievement. With him were ELEVATE's Stephaney Moses (left), Director of Advancement, and Jonas Cayo (far right), President.



Paint a Brighter Future through Water Conservation

2023 WATER COLOR CALENDAR IS AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC

Come and get your complimentary copy of the 2023 Water Color Calendar at OUC's Reliable Plaza, 100 W. Anderson Street, Orlando, FL 32801, **M-F, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.** The calendar features the top 13 vote-getting conservation-themed illustrations fourth- and fifth-grade Orange County Public Schools students entered into our 17th annual Water Color Project - Calendar Contest. OUC's Water Color Project is an educational outreach effort designed to encourage water conservation through art.

By donating to OUC's Project CARE you can help us help customers who are struggling to pay their utility bills. For every \$1 you donate, OUC will contribute \$2. To donate, go to OUC.com/ProjectCare.



Para ver esta edición de **OUConexión**, por favor vaya en línea a espanol.ouc.com.



ORLANDO UTILITIES COMMISSION

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