



CONNECTIONS

News and Information from OUC—The Reliable One | OCTOBER 2024

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THE FUTURE OF FLORIDA'S ENERGY EFFICIENT GRID

OUC serves over a quarter million customers in Central Florida, focusing on efficiency to meet rising energy demands in one of the fastest-growing metropolitan areas. As Central Florida's population increases, the strain on the electric grid during peak hours, especially in summer, becomes challenging. More efficient communities help manage peak demand, reducing the need for additional power plants, lowering carbon footprints, and keeping costs low.

Energy efficiency can be improved through small changes like using smart thermostats, upgrading appliances, and shifting energy usage away from peak times. Electric vehicles (EVs) are also a key part of our sustainable future, with OUC investing in infrastructure to support this shift, including advanced usage tracking, floating solar, and high-speed EV charging hubs.

Learn more about contributing to energy efficiency at [OUCBlog.com/Energy-Efficient](https://oucblog.com/Energy-Efficient).

STOP ENERGY AND WATER VAMPIRES FROM BLEEDING YOUR WALLET

It's eerie how appliances consume electricity and water even when not in use. In fact, about 10% of an average household's electric bill goes to items that use electricity when simply left plugged in. Here are five tips to conquer these energy and water vampires:

ENERGY

Efficient Power Strips: Appliances in standby mode drain power. Invest in energy-efficient power strips.



Unplug or Sleep Mode: Switch off, unplug or use sleep mode for devices not in use. Culprits include computers, instant-on TVs, and appliances that feature a clock. Cellphone chargers, guest bedroom TVs, coffee makers and more add to wasted energy.

WATER

Detect Leaks: Silent water leaks can drain your wallet. Monitor usage online by using our Usage Dashboard at OUC.com and install a smart water monitor to catch leaks early.

Seasonal Adjustment: After Halloween, adjust irrigation for the time change from DST to EST. Avoid overwatering dormant lawns.

Fix Phantom Flushing: Stop ghost flushing in toilets by replacing the tank flapper.



FOR MORE SAVING TIPS VISIT, OUC.com/WaysToSave.

\$1.30 WALK-IN PAYMENT CENTER FEE WAIVED

Beginning October 1, the \$1.30 fee will be waived when OUC customers pay their utility bill in cash at third-party walk-in centers.

Also beginning October 1, ACE Cash Express (First Tech) will no longer participate as an OUC authorized payment vendor and will no longer take OUC bill payments.

For a list of third-party walk-in centers, visit [OUC.com/Payments](https://www.ouc.com/Payments).

PLANTING THIS FALL? LEARN HOW TO REDUCE YOUR ENERGY COSTS



Trees improve your home's curb appeal and when positioned correctly they can help reduce energy costs. OUC has created a series of videos to help you plant the right tree in the right place as well as other important tips to keep in mind when choosing vegetation for your home. Before you start your fall planting, watch this video series and discover optimal planting strategies from OUC's vegetation team to help you save on monthly utility bills.



2023 WATER QUALITY REPORT

Learn more about H₂OUC via the 2023 OUC Water Quality Report at [OUC.com/wqr2023](https://www.ouc.com/wqr2023). *En español espanol.ouc.com/wqr2023.*



COMMUNITY CORNER: HELPING COMMUNITIES THRIVE: OUC BUILDS NANOGRID AT 4ROOTS CAMPUS

OUC is partnering with 4Roots on a campus that's under construction in Orlando's Packing District near Princeton Street and Orange Blossom Trail.

Gardens are being planted to help the local community build sustainable food systems and teach residents to grow their own produce. The campus will feature classes, a greenhouse, and a farmer's market – providing a destination for healthy food.

OUC's committed to community partnerships throughout Central Florida. As construction progresses, the utility will install EV chargers and launch a nanogrid (a small power system that uses renewable energy) to understand how it interacts with traditional grids.

Once open, people can come to the campus to shop for fresh produce, charge their electric vehicles, and discover what's happening at 4Roots.



RUN A RACE IN YOUR HOMETOWN!

The **OUC Orlando Half Marathon** and **Track Shack Lake Eola 5K** will take place **Saturday, December 7, at Lake Eola Park**.

Join us for this fun hometown race that welcomes athletes of all abilities, whether you choose to run or walk. Sign up now at OrlandoHalfMarathon.com and take advantage of our special OUC Customer discount.

- **\$10 off the Half Marathon** (13.1 miles) with code: **RunOUC24**
- **\$7 off the 5K** (3.1 miles) with code: **RUNEOLA24**



No other discounts apply. **Offer expires December 1, 2024.**



Para ver toda nuestra información en español, por favor visite espanol.ouc.com.



ORLANDO UTILITIES COMMISSION

RELIABLE PLAZA • 100 W. Anderson Street • Orlando, FL 32801
Tel: 407-423-9018 • [ouc.com](https://www.ouc.com)

