



# CONNECTIONS

News and Information from OUC—The *Reliable One* | DECEMBER 2021

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## OUC AND CITY OF ORLANDO ANNOUNCE 2030 SOLAR PLEDGE

OUC keeps moving toward a greener, cleaner Central Florida. On Oct. 19, the 2030 Solar Pledge was signed by City of St. Cloud, Orange County Government, UCF Downtown, boat maker Correct Craft, Orlando City and Orlando Pride professional soccer teams. The 2030 Solar Pledge is an initiative requiring participating OUC commercial customers to commit to using 100% solar energy at their facilities by 2030. In signing the pledge, OUC vowed to invest heavily in solar energy, with **Clint Bullock**, OUC General Manager & CEO, noting that \$420 million has already been committed to solar. OUC plans to expand its



*Orlando City/Orlando Pride mascot "Kingston."*

solar generation to 272 megawatts by 2023, providing enough power for 50,000 typical homes. As a pledge signatory, the City of Orlando, which in 2018 became the first OUCommunity Solar commercial customer subscriber, will increase its solar energy use as part of a commitment to sustainability and increasing its reliance on renewable energy.

To learn about OUC Solar Solutions, visit [OUC.com/solar](https://www.ouc.com/solar).

2030  
SOLAR PLEDGE

WE ARE  
100%  
COMMITTED

## THANK YOU FOR ANSWERING OUR CALL TO CONSERVE WATER

When a liquid oxygen (LOX) shortage impacted OUC's water treatment capacity, we appealed to our customers and the community to help us get through this challenging situation by reducing your water consumption. We asked you to limit irrigation, postpone washing your vehicles and using pressure washers, and do whatever you could to reduce water consumption until our LOX supplies returned to normal.

OUC is extremely grateful to customers like you who answered our call. On Oct. 12, OUC and the City of Orlando announced that the LOX emergency was over and customers could resume their routine water usage.

While our customers were doing their part to use less water, OUC made significant reductions

in our water use as well while optimizing our management practices of LOX. We also contacted customers using unusually large amounts of water to make them aware that a leak could be the cause of their high consumption.

We appreciate our clients' patience and understanding. When the most recent COVID-19 wave hit our town in August, we wanted to do everything we could to help hospitals treat patients. In addition, as the local utility, we wanted to ensure that our customers have access to clean, dependable water. With the help of our community, we were able to reduce the demand on our system and work together to get through this difficult period.

# 5

## ENERGY-SAVING HOLIDAY GIFT IDEAS

**1 SOLAR-POWERED GADGETS** — Going solar isn't just for the rooftop. You can purchase solar powered lights, smartphone chargers, backpacks and more. They can be a great lesson on energy conservation for kids, too!

**2 PROGRAMMABLE THERMOSTAT** — A programmable thermostat can provide nearly \$200 per year in energy savings. Some can even "learn" your family's schedule to provide more personalization. Perhaps best of all, many smart thermostats now allow you to adjust your climate controls remotely from a smart phone.



**3 PRESSURE COOKERS** — Pressure cookers provide, by far, the most energy-efficient way

to cook. Not only do they heat up faster, but they can cut energy usage by as much as 70%.

**4 CORDLESS POWER TOOLS** — Surprise dad with cordless screwdrivers, drills and saws, as well as yard tools like lawn mowers and leaf blowers when equipped with ENERGY STAR battery chargers, use about 30% less energy than their corded counterparts.

**5 CONNECTED PLUGS** — Smart plugs can turn almost any appliance into a smart device. These plugs let you control multiple small appliances or devices without being close to you, or even being at home. These are great stocking stuffers for that special 'smart home' person on your list.

## HOLIDAY DECORATING SAFETY TIPS

**1** When purchasing an artificial tree, look for one that's fire resistant. Use a timer or turn off all decorations before leaving the house or heading to bed.

**2** Check all lighting instructions for "indoor," "outdoor," or "indoor/outdoor." Only hang them in those designated areas.

**3** Keep live Christmas trees watered daily. A dry tree decked with electrical lights can be a major fire hazard.

**4** Thoroughly inspect light strands before you hang them. Be sure to discard any with frayed or loose wires, as those are more prone to catching fire.

For more energy-saving tips, visit [OUCblog.com](http://OUCblog.com)

## 2020 WATER QUALITY REPORT

Learn more about H<sub>2</sub>OUC via the 2020 OUC Water Quality Report at [OUC.com/wqr2020](http://OUC.com/wqr2020). The report contains important information about the source and quality of your drinking water.

To request a printed copy of the 2020 Water Quality Report, call **407-423-9018** or visit [OUC.com/wqrrequest](http://OUC.com/wqrrequest).

*Para conocer más en español sobre el Reporte Anual de Calidad de Agua 2020, llámanos al 407-423-9018.*



## UPGRADE INSULATION AND GET A REBATE!



Adding attic insulation is one of the most effective and least expensive things you can do to increase the energy efficiency of your home. OUC offers residential customers a rebate of 10¢ per square foot on upgraded attic insulation with an R-30 value or higher.

Visit [OUC.com/rebates](http://OUC.com/rebates) for more info.

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