



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).

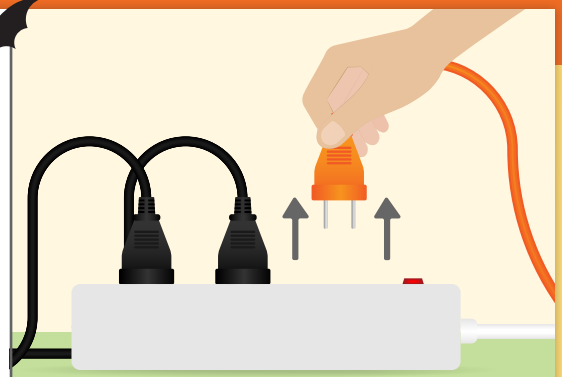
STOP ENERGY VAMPIRES FROM BLEEDING YOUR WALLET

It's eerie how appliances consume electricity 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 two tips to conquer these energy 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.



FOR MORE SAVING TIPS VISIT, [OUC.com/WaysToSave](https://oucblog.com/WaysToSave).

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 learn from OUC's vegetation team the optimal planting strategies to help you save on your monthly bills.



Visit [OUCBlog.com/Trees](https://oucblog.com/Trees).



\$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://ouc.com/Payments).



The WATT SAVINGS PROJECT

A Student Program Sponsored by OUC

OUC is launching a new Watts Savings Project this fall in Osceola County Public Schools to teach fourth and fifth graders about energy conservation. Working with school art instructors, students will create artwork that features positive conservation messages and slogans. Selected artwork will make up OUC's 2025 Energy Conservation Calendar, promoting sustainability and inspiring the community.

For more information, visit [OUC.com/WattsSavings](https://ouc.com/WattsSavings)

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.



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