



CONNECTIONS

News and Information from OUC—The Reliable One | SEPTEMBER 2025

Follow us
on Instagram
@oucreliableone

DRONES ENHANCE STORM RECOVERY EFFORTS



OUC is using drone technology to speed up storm recovery and improve safety. After major storms, fallen trees, flooding, and debris can block access to damaged power lines. Drones provide a safer, faster way to inspect hard-to-reach areas from above — helping crews assess damage quickly and restore power more efficiently.

Outfitted with high-resolution and thermal cameras, the drones help identify power outages and equipment damage without sending crews into hazardous conditions. A thermal scan can even detect when a transformer or power line is not energized — critical information that isn't visible to the naked eye.

To prepare, a team of FAA-certified drone pilots has been trained to safely operate the drones near power lines and assess storm damage from a distance. The goal is to deliver faster assessments and restore power more efficiently.



“Drones allow inspectors to identify downed lines, broken poles, and other issues without having to physically enter a dangerous area,” said **Maguire Mulligan**, a research engineer overseeing the program at OUC.

Drone images also assist engineers in planning repairs and deploying crews where they're needed most. During Hurricane Milton, for example, drones offered valuable insights where ground access was limited.

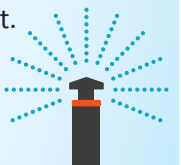
While the initial focus is on storm response, OUC is exploring other future uses for drones, including facility inspections and vegetation management.

This innovative approach highlights how technology can play a key role in improving utility service and safety during severe weather events.

5 Ways to Conserve Water in Your Yard

- 1 **USE A RAIN GAUGE** – Lawns need just 1–1.5 inches of water per week. A rain gauge helps you avoid overwatering.
- 2 **MULCH PLANTS** – A 2–3 inch layer of mulch keeps moisture in the soil, suppresses weeds, and boosts soil health.
- 3 **FOLLOW LOCAL WATERING RULES** – Orange County residents must follow St. Johns River Water Management District restrictions, including watering on designated days and only before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m.
- 4 **CHOOSE DROUGHT-TOLERANT PLANTS** – Florida-friendly options like lantana, aloe, butterfly weed, and yaupon holly need less water to thrive.
- 5 **LET OUC HELP** – OUC offers free irrigation audits, efficiency tips, and rebates through its Efficiency Delivered® program. Call **407-423-9018** to schedule a visit.

Simple changes to your watering habits and plant choices can lower your bill and protect our water resources.



For more tips, visit [OUC.com/waystosave](https://www.ouc.com/waystosave).

Do You Have a Storm Safety Plan?

OUC's Storm Center is your one-stop online resource that will help you and your family before, during and after a major storm impacts Central Florida. Find preparation videos, a live outage map, safety tips, hurricane tracking maps and important phone numbers. You can even register for Outage Alerts, which allow you to receive outage and restoration notifications via your choice of voice, text or email.



Visit [OUC.com/stormcenter](https://www.ouc.com/stormcenter) for more information.



2024 Water Quality Report

Learn more about H₂OUC via the 2024 OUC Water Quality Report at [OUC.com/wqr2024](https://www.ouc.com/wqr2024).
En español espanol.ouc.com/wqr2024.

Cut Costs with ENERGY STAR® Heat Pump Water Heater

GET A
\$500
REBATE
FROM OUC

Save energy and money with an ENERGY STAR® Heat Pump Water Heater — up to 70% more efficient than standard models. OUC customers can receive a \$500 rebate when upgrading.

Signs it's time to replace include leaks, discolored water, or a unit over 10 years old. Choose an eligible model and submit your rebate at [myOUC.com](https://myouc.com) within six months of purchase. The credit will appear on your bill.

Visit [OUC.com/rebates](https://www.ouc.com/rebates) to learn more.

**Offer not available for water-only customers.*



10 Easy Ways to Save Money on Your Electric Bill

Lowering your energy bill doesn't have to be hard or expensive. Try these quick, effective tips:

- 1 Set your thermostat to 78°F (cooling) or 68°F (heating).
- 2 Keep your outdoor HVAC unit clear for better airflow.
- 3 Use ceiling fans properly — clockwise in winter, counterclockwise in summer.
- 4 Block heat with blinds in summer; let sun in during winter.
- 5 Change A/C filters monthly.
- 6 Seal leaks with weather stripping and caulk; consider window film (rebates available).

Track your usage with OUC's free Usage Dashboard to spot energy habits and start saving today. Learn more at [OUC.com/waystosave](https://www.ouc.com/waystosave).



- 7 Run full loads in dishwashers and washers; use cold water when possible.
- 8 Clean your dryer vent to improve efficiency.
- 9 Unplug unused electronics, many draw power even when off.
- 10 Set your water heater to 120°F max.

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)



@OUCReliableOne



OUCTheReliableOne



OUCblog.com



@OUCReliableOne