



## 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.

## 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](http://OUC.com/stormcenter) for more information.



## 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](http://myOUC.com) within six months of purchase. The credit will appear on your bill.

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



- 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.

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

Para ver toda nuestra información en español, por favor visite [espanol.ouc.com](http://espanol.ouc.com).



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