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News and Information from OUC—The *Reliable One* | APRIL 2011

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Window Film Rebate

You've invested thousands of dollars in your home. But did you know that the sun's UV rays can drain the color from your home's carpets, furniture and other furnishings? The sun also makes your house hotter, forcing your air conditioner to work harder to keep you comfortable.

Many Central Floridians pay \$100 or more per month to cool their homes, but window film could cut those costs by 25 percent or more. Window film keeps nearly all of the sun's UV rays out of your home, which preserves your view, cuts down on glare, extends the life and color of your furnishings and lowers your utility bill. OUC also provides a rebate of up to \$200 on the purchase of window film or a solar screen. Window film is widely available at home improvement stores across Central Florida. It takes 30 minutes or less to install the film on a window.

Not a do-it-yourselfer? Check with a local handyman service or the home improvement store for references to qualified installers. Window film is eligible for a 10 percent federal tax credit, up to \$500 (excluding the cost of installation), if purchased by December 31, 2011.

For more money saving rebates, visit www.ouc.com/rebates.



OUC's Mobile Site Wins Gold

OUC's new mobile website—m.ouc.com—was recently awarded a gold ADDY for creative excellence by the American Advertising Federation. The mobile site lets customers interact with OUC on the go. You can pay your bill, check your account, find a rebate or get conservation tips right from your cell phone. OUC's conservation-focused ReliablyGreen.com and new online **Energy Savings Calculator** also earned silver ADDYs. OUC partnered with Orlando-based interactive communications firm Hooah LLC on all three projects to expand OUC's online presence and deliver more energy and water saving information to customers.



Upgrade Your Insulation and Save

Cooling and heating account for up to 50 percent of your energy consumption, and without adequate insulation, a lot of that could be escaping through your roof. OUC offers a Financed Insulation Program to help customers upgrade to more efficient insulation by eliminating the upfront cost.

The financed Insulation Program provides **interest-free financing up to \$1,000** for insulation to a level of R-19 or higher. To learn more, go to www.ouc.com/rebates.

Help Prevent Wildfires

This spring keep in mind that April and May are two of the most active months for wildfires. Longer days coupled with windy and warmer weather conditions allow for easy fire starts that spread rapidly.

Dry vegetation – both living and dead – is easily ignited. So think before you act! Consider that the following objects and activities can start a wildfire, destroying homes, threatening lives and damaging our natural resources:

- Sparks from equipment
- Abandoned campfires
- Hot charcoal from barbecue grills
- Hot vehicle exhaust systems
- Tossed cigarettes
- Unattended debris burning
- Discarded fireworks

Fire restrictions may be in effect in some areas. For information, contact the Florida Division Forestry at **407.856.6512** or go to www.fl-dof.com.



Small Businesses Can Save with OUC's Efficiency Program

Small businesses face numerous challenges, but your utility bill doesn't have to be one of them. OUC's Small Business Efficiency Pilot Program shows small business owners how to reduce energy and water consumption and improve overall business operations. Information needed for a new business to succeed—including how to write a business plan, how to write contracts and proper accounting methods—will be provided.

Participants must:

- Have a free Commercial Energy Survey conducted at their facility by an OUC auditor, who will identify efficiency improvements and provide information on OUC's rebates. Call 407.957.7373 in St. Cloud/Osceola County.
- Attend a one-hour counseling session at the University of Central Florida's Small Business Development Center at the Disney Entrepreneur Center in downtown Orlando. Call 407.420.4850 and advise them you are participating in the OUC Small Business Pilot Program.

Once you've completed the program, you will receive a \$250 credit on your utility bill.

OUC Celebrates Earth Day



Stop by the OUC booth on Saturday, April 23 for conservation tips from the experts at the 6th Annual Central Florida Earth Day from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Lake Eola. OUC representatives will be on hand to answer questions on how to improve the efficiency of your home or business and which improvements will result in the biggest savings.



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