



# CONNECTIONS

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

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## Stanton Solar Farm Powers Up

**HERE COMES THE SUN!** This month OUC celebrates the completion of the first solar farm in Orange County. The 5.91 Megawatt solar photovoltaic (PV) array, which sits on 42 acres at the Stanton Energy Center along Innovation Way, can produce enough green energy to power about 600 homes in Central Florida.

Duke Energy and Regenesys Power LLC, which built the system, will operate and maintain it, while OUC plans to purchase that power for the next 20 years. The state-of-the-art panels feature single-axis tracking that allows them to make the most of the sun's rays throughout the day. They're also designed to be virtually "hurricane-

proof" and have the ability to be stowed in the event of a major storm.

The solar farm adds to an increasingly diverse, modern fleet of generation at the Stanton Energy Center that already features natural gas, coal and landfill gas. While this is OUC's first solar farm, it's certainly not our first solar project. OUC and Orange County partnered on a one-MW array atop the Orange County Convention Center in 2009, and our Gold LEED-certified Reliable Plaza in downtown Orlando is home to both solar PV and solar thermal installations.



## Stay Safe This Holiday Season

Whether your holiday decorating plans include a giant inflatable Frosty or a light display that puts Clark Griswold to shame, Electrical Safety Foundation International recommends following these important safety tips this holiday season:

- Inspect each electrical decoration for cracked or loose sockets and frayed or bare wires that may cause a serious shock or fire hazard.
- Always unplug electrical decorations before replacing bulbs or fuses.
- Avoid overloading electrical outlets and circuits, which can overheat and start a fire.
- Plug outdoor electrical decorations into circuits protected by ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCI) to prevent electric shock.
- Only use products marked "for outdoor use" outside.





## Say Goodbye to Drafty Walls

Don't spend another winter heating the outdoors. OUC offers a rebate for up to \$300 for injected wall foam, which can improve the comfort level in your home and lower your energy bills.

The concrete blocks used to build many of Florida's homes typically lack adequate insulation and often allow moist outside air to seep into the home, creating drafts and even causing mold to form behind the walls.

Homes built before 1975 were not required to have insulation, and those that are more than 20 years old likely need touch ups because the original insulation has lost its effectiveness.

Injected wall foam fixes those problems by better insulating the rooms that you want. Visit [www.ouc.com/rebates](http://www.ouc.com/rebates) to download an application.

## Celebrating 15 Years of Caring

**GIVE-A-GIFT. SHARE-A-NIGHT. CELEBRATE HOPE.**

Each year the Ronald McDonald House® program of Orlando provides comfort, care and a "home-away-from-home" to 1,500 families with seriously ill or injured children receiving treatment at local hospitals. As we celebrate our 15th year of operation, we're proud to have helped more than 15,000 families stay close to their sick children. But we certainly couldn't have done it without the help of the Central Florida community.

A donation of just \$15 can help sponsor one family's overnight stay – helping us keep the Ronald McDonald House services free of charge to the families who stay with us, so they may focus on the health and well-being of their child. Please consider making a donation to the Ronald McDonald House as a gift to yourself or a loved one this holiday season.

Donate today at [www.shareanight.org](http://www.shareanight.org) or call 407.206.0957.



## Coming Soon!

In next month's issue, you'll learn about some changes to [www.ouc.com](http://www.ouc.com) that will make it easier for you to access and manage your online account and get the latest news on what OUC is doing to help you save energy and money.

Para ver esta edición de *OUConexión*, por favor vaya en línea a [espanol.ouc.com](http://espanol.ouc.com).



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