



# CONNECTIONS

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

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## Energy Saving Travel Tips

With Spring Break around the corner, now is a good time to add some energy and water savings tips to your travel checklist. Before you leave on your trip, remember to take a few minutes and follow these simple steps to minimize energy consumption in your empty home and save a few dollars on your utility bills.

**Air Conditioner:** Turn off your air conditioner or set the thermostat to 85 degrees. To avoid coming home to an overheated house, use a programmable thermostat and set it on vacation mode to re-cool your house shortly before you return.

**Water Heater:** Unless you have a tankless unit, you should turn down the setting on your water heater as low as possible or turn off the unit at the breaker panel while you're away.

**Refrigerator:** If you are leaving for a short period of time, change the refrigerator thermostat to a higher setting – 38 degrees for the refrigerator, 5 degrees for the freezer. For longer trips (four weeks or more), consider emptying your refrigerator and unplugging it.

**Lights:** Turn off all lights in your home before you leave. You may wish to maintain an outdoor or indoor light for nighttime security. Consider installing a timer. This will



limit the illumination to only a few hours a day and help to make it appear as if someone is at home.

**Electronics:** To reduce “phantom load,” turning off electronic devices is a good energy savings strategy. Remember, digital displays, instant-on features and remote controls consume energy while not in use. Unplug all electronic devices while you are away.



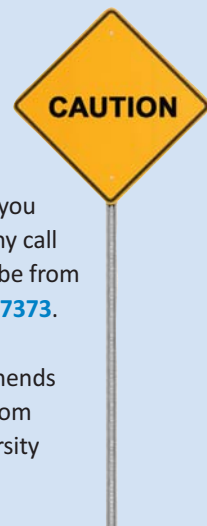
## Beware of Energy Saving Scams

OUC urges customers to beware of unsolicited phone calls and letters or pitches from door-to-door salespeople who try to sell you a device or service that promises unbelievable energy or water savings.

At OUC, we provide a variety of programs and rebates to help you improve the energy and water efficiency of your home. For information about the money-saving programs and services we offer, please visit [www.ouc.com](http://www.ouc.com) where you also can find free online home energy audits, savings calculators, preferred contractors, conservation information and safety tips.

OUC will always clearly identify ourselves when contacting our customers, and all OUC employees and contractors are required to wear and display ID badges. If you have any questions about the validity of any call or solicitation you receive that appears to be from OUC, please feel free to call us at **407.957.7373**.

Before making any purchase, OUC recommends seeking legitimate third-party validation from sources such as Consumer Reports, university reports or government agency Web sites.



Ring in the New Year with the Finest in Family Theatre!



**Anne Frank & Me**  
January 29 – February 27, 2011

**Click, Clack, Moo:  
Cows That Type**  
February 26 – March 27, 2011

**James and  
The Giant Peach**  
April 16 – May 22, 2011

Tickets available now! • [orlandorep.com](http://orlandorep.com) • 407.896.7365 ext. 1

## Stay Safe, Stay Warm

We may live in the Sunshine State, but cold weather can still impact us this time of year. So when the temperatures plummet, OUC wants to remind you about these tips for staying safe when keeping warm and for keeping your utility bills in check:

- Keep thermostats set at 68 degrees or lower to save energy.
- Close blinds or drapes at night to keep cold air out. During the day, open them to let the warm sunshine in.
- Keep portable heaters at least three feet away from furniture, bedding, walls, clothing and other flammable items.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions when using an electric blanket and make sure to turn it off and unplug it when not in use. Never tuck in an electrical blanket.
- Never use your stove or oven to heat your home. They can cause a fire.
- Cover exposed water pipes and leave pool pumps running to prevent freezing.



## Efficiency is Always in Season

No matter the season, you could be lowering your utility bills with a few simple low cost – or even no cost – home improvements. For example, sealing drafty windows and doors and having the right amount of attic insulation can help keep your home warmer in the winter and cooler in summer.

Even better, OUC rewards you for increasing the energy and water efficiency of your home or business with rebates and programs for everything from caulking and insulation to heat pumps and duct repair. In fact, **we've recently increased our rebate amounts.** To learn more about our rebates and find the efficiency measures that are right for you, visit [www.ouc.com/rebates](http://www.ouc.com/rebates).



## The Easy Way to Pay

Take the worry and hassle out of paying your bill with OUC's automatic bill payment service, Rely A Pay. Sign up for Rely A Pay to allow OUC to automatically deduct your monthly utilities statement amount from your checking or savings account. It is an easy, worry-free, cost-free way to pay your OUC statement.

All you need is an active checking or savings account drawn on a U.S. financial institution. There is no charge for this service from OUC; however, some financial institutions may charge a small fee for this service. Please contact the financial institution where you have your checking or savings account.

To sign up or to learn more, visit [www.ouc.com](http://www.ouc.com) or call **407.423.9018** in Orlando/Orange County or **407.957.7373** in St. Cloud/Osceola County.

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