

# OUC'S TOP ENERGY \$AVING TIPS

## Try these conservation tips to save money on your electric bill year-round:

- Air conditioning and heating account for more than 50 percent of the electric bill so making small changes in how you cool and heat your home can really pay off.
- To cool your home without breaking the bank, set your air conditioning thermostat at 78 degrees. When you leave the house, turn it up to 85 degrees or higher and plan on a savings of 6-8 percent for each degree you raise the setting. In winter, set your thermostat at 68 degrees.
- Install ceiling fans throughout your home to help you stay comfortably cool. Remember to turn fans off in unoccupied areas.
- Close curtains, mini-blinds or shutters to keep out the heat. During winter months, open shades to let in the sunshine. For extra shade, plant plenty of trees and shrubs.
- Minimize opening the refrigerator and clean the condenser coils behind or underneath the refrigerator every six months.
- Change or clean heating and air-conditioning filters monthly. Dirty filters put an unnecessary strain on the unit and can increase operating costs.
- Check air handler and ductwork for leaks; weather-strip or caulk around windows, doors, plumbing and other gaps so that heating and cooling energy won't escape.
- Run the clothes or dishwasher only when they have a full load. You'll save on the electricity that heats the water and runs the appliances. Remember to clean the dryer lint filter after every load.
- Replace incandescent lights with compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs). Fluorescents give the same light output for one-third to one-half the cost, and they produce less heat.
- Use the cold or warm setting on the clothes washer instead of hot and set your water heater to 125 degrees.
- Go online to [www.ouc.com](http://www.ouc.com) to try OUC's free online energy audit for even more savings.

# OUC'S TOP WATER \$AVING TIPS

**Help conserve Florida's valuable water resources by following these water saving tips at home:**

- Repair leaking faucets and toilets
- Install water-saver flush valves in toilets and water-saver shower heads.
- Take shorter showers and turn off the water while brushing your teeth or shaving.
- Wash only full loads in dishwasher and clothes washer.
- Recycle water rather than pouring it down the drain. For example, used water from a fish tank is good for watering plants.
- Don't flush the toilet just to get rid of trash.
- Use the garbage disposal sparingly.
- Use a spray nozzle to stop water flow between rinsings when washing your car.
- Clean driveways and sidewalks with a broom instead of a hose.
- Check for leaks in outdoor faucets, pipes and hoses, and make repairs leaks promptly.
- Cover your pool or spa to reduce evaporation and check for leaks, making repairs promptly.
- Water only before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m. to minimize the amount of water lost to evaporation.
- Be sure to only water on the days allowed based on your street number. Odd house numbers on Wednesdays and Saturdays, even house numbers on Thursdays and Sundays.
- Irrigate just once a week in the cooler months and twice a week in the warmer months to maintain healthy, green grass with a strong root system.
- Avoid watering on windy days and avoid sprinklers that spray a fine mist, which increases evaporation.
- Adjust the timer/controller on automatic sprinklers according to seasonal water demands and weather conditions.
- Go online to [www.ouc.com](http://www.ouc.com) for more water saving ideas and information on how to detect leaks.