



CONNECTIONS

News and Information from OUC—The *Reliable One* | FEBRUARY 2016

INSIDE

Sustainability All Around Town
 Energy Saving Travel Tips
 Convenient Places to Pay
 Daylight Saving Time

Sustainability All Around Town



OUC's commitment to sustainability is visible all around our service area – from a beautiful solar sculpture at the Citrus Bowl – to solar-powered cell phone charging stations in LYNX bus shelters, and H₂OUC Hydration Stations located at city parks and neighborhood centers.

To drive the change even further, a few years ago, OUC set out to make Orlando one of the most Electric Vehicle (EV) friendly cities in the nation. Fast forward to 2016 and OUC has more than 140 EV charging stations where drivers can power-up their rides at convenient locations throughout Central Florida.

OUC is also proud to sponsor *Juice – Orlando Bike Share*, providing pedal-power to the downtown area with ready-to-ride bicycles. The program aims to eventually support more than 200 bikes at 20 hub stations around town.

For more on how OUC strives to be not only *The Reliable One* but *The Sustainable One*, too, visit www.ouc.com/sustainability.



Pictured clockwise:

- Solar Sculpture at Orlando Citrus Bowl;
- Orlando Bike Share Station;
- EV Charging Station;
- H₂OUC Hydration Station;
- Solar-Powered LYNX Bus Shelter.



Energy Saving Travel Tips

If you plan to take a trip this year, now is a good time to add some energy and water saving tips to your travel checklist. Before you hit the road, take a few minutes to minimize your home's energy consumption so you can reduce your utility bill while you're away:



AIR CONDITIONER: Turn it off or set your thermostat to 84 degrees. If you have a programmable thermostat, set it to vacation mode to re-cool your home shortly before you return.



REFRIGERATOR: If you plan to be away for a short time, set your refrigerator thermostat to 38 degrees and your freezer thermostat to 5 degrees. For longer trips – typically 4 weeks or more – consider emptying and unplugging your fridge.



WATER HEATER: Unless you have a tankless unit, set the temperature as low as possible or turn off at the breaker panel while you're away.



LIGHTS: Turn off the lights in your home before you leave. For security purposes, you may want to leave an indoor or outdoor light on while you're away. Or plug a couple of lights into a timer to turn them on and off every day to make it appear as if you are home.



ELECTRONICS: Turn off and unplug all electronics while you're away – even if you're not on vacation. Keep in mind that digital displays, instant-on features and remote control sensors consume energy even while not in use.



Convenient Places To Pay

OUC works with several businesses around town to make paying your bill quick and easy. These partners include Amscot along with convenience and grocery stores throughout our service area like Walmart, Publix and Winn Dixie. The best part is you don't have to wait for the payment to post to your account. It is credited immediately.

To find a convenient payment center near you, visit www.ouc.com/paymentcenters. Please note that vendors charge a small fee for these transactions, but OUC does not receive any portion of that fee.

Daylight Saving Time Begins March 13... Don't Forget To Spring Ahead!

As the clock jumps forward an hour, it's a great time to review your household safety checklist:

- ✓ Check/replace batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors
- ✓ Check/replace expired items in your First Aid Kit
- ✓ Check/replace items in your Hurricane/Emergency Kit
- ✓ Check fire extinguisher pressure/expiration date
- ✓ Check/replace burnt out or dimming exterior light bulbs
- ✓ Change flashlight/weather alert radio batteries



Para ver esta edición de *OUConexión*, por favor vaya en línea a espanol.ouc.com.



ORLANDO UTILITIES COMMISSION
100 W. Anderson Street • Orlando, FL 32801
Tel: 407-957-7373 • www.ouc.com

