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News and Information from OUC—The *Reliable One* | DECEMBER 2013

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OUC Dedicates 1st Community Solar Garden in Orlando

Recently 18 OUC customer subscribers joined OUC Board President **Dan Kirby**, Orlando Mayor **Buddy Dyer**, Director of the Florida Office of Energy **Patrick Sheehan** and ESA Renewables Chief Operating Officer **Lindsay Herold** to celebrate the completion of OUC's – and Central Florida's first – community solar farm.

OUC gave customers the opportunity to subscribe to the innovative solar array and receive the benefits of solar power without the hassle or upfront costs associated with installing it. The 39 subscribing customers pay a slightly higher rate for the solar power – about three cents more per kilowatt hour (kWh) – but the rate is locked in for 25 years.

“OUC is giving its customers the ability to invest in the benefits of solar whether they own or rent their home – and they can do it all without the upfront costs or

hassle of having to install it,” OUC Board President **Dan Kirby** said. “The response to this was exciting, and with a waiting list in place, we're already looking at doing a second community solar project.”

The solar farm began producing power in early October, and now 1,312 solar panels are generating 400 kilowatts (kW) of power at OUC's Gardenia Operations facility next to I-4.

SEPA PUBLIC POWER UTILITY OF YEAR

OUC was named the 2013 Public Power Utility of the Year by the Solar Electric Power Association (SEPA), an educational non-profit focused on helping utilities integrate solar electric power into their energy portfolios. OUC was selected for its leadership in customer programs and innovative business models that advance the use of solar, particularly its new subscriber-supported Community Solar Farm.



Keep Families Together When They Need it Most

Closer to Hope. Closer to Healing. Closer to Each Other.
The Ronald McDonald House® program of Orlando enables parents to stay closer to their critically ill children receiving treatment in local hospitals so they can be part of their child's healing process.

Each year, more than 1,600 families stay at one of our two Ronald McDonald Houses. We provide comfort and care. Families find a network of love and support. Thanks to the generosity of the Central Florida community, our doors are open 365 days a year.

Although nightly operating costs are about \$74 per room, per night, a donation of just \$20 can help sponsor a family's overnight stay – allowing us to keep our services free of charge to the families, so they may focus on the health and well-being of their child. Please consider contributing to Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Central Florida as a gift to yourself or a loved one this holiday season.

Donate today at www.ronaldmcdonaldhouseorlando.org or call **407-206-0957**.

Seasonal & Cold Weather Safety Tips

Keep your holidays happy and safe this season by following these tips from OUC:

- Don't overload extension cords or electrical outlets.
- Before stringing outdoor lights, check for overhead power lines.
- Make sure lights used to decorate the outside of the house are approved for outdoor use.
- Check all light strands for cracked or broken plugs, frayed insulation or bare wires. Worn cords can cause fires. Discard damaged sets of lights.
- Check batteries regularly to make sure smoke detectors are working.

OUC Makes Paying Your Bill A Snap

It's never been easier to pay your OUC bill online, over the phone and in person. Go to www.ouc.com/waystopay or check the back of your bill for payment options and locations.

Help Someone In Need Through Project Care

This time of year can be especially difficult for families struggling to make ends meet. With your support, **OUC's Project Care** can help provide emergency assistance to those who have experienced a recent personal or family crisis that has placed them in danger of losing their utility service. For every \$1 you donate,

OUC will contribute \$2 to the program.

Go to www.ouc.com to donate or call **407-423-9018 in Orlando/Orange County** or **407-957-7373 in St. Cloud**. If you're an OUC customer who needs assistance, please call **United Way at 211**.



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