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News and Information from OUC—The *Reliable One* | JANUARY 2010

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OUC Can Help You Go Solar

Trying to decide if solar panels make sense for your home? OUC can help every step of the way. From choosing the right contractor from our Preferred Contractors Network, to using available rebates and tax credits to reduce upfront costs, we have the support you need. OUC offers both solar thermal and solar photovoltaic (PV) programs.

We'll even give a credit on monthly electric bills for the solar energy you produce. A customer who installs a professional system on his or her home can have the installation costs appear on their monthly OUC bill, spread out for up to seven to 10 years, if they take advantage of the no/low-interest loans to homeowners through a partnership with the

Orlando Federal Credit Union. Already installed a system but not yet participating in the OUC Solar program? We can help there, too.

To learn more about OUC's solar programs, visit www.ouc.com/solar.



OUC, Harmony, FSU Team Up for State's 1st Solar Biomass Plant

OUC recently agreed to purchase the renewable energy from a five-megawatt solar biomass hybrid power plant in Harmony that will utilize the power of the sun and sustainable resources such as wood chips and grass to generate electricity.

The first of its kind in the state, Florida's Sustainable Energy Research Park will be able to provide clean, renewable power for up to 3,000 homes.

OUC will distribute the renewable energy to our customers, including the Harmony community, and receive the environmental attributes associated with the system, which is expected to come online within two years. Osceola Renewable Energy Company, LLC will build, own and operate the project,

while the Florida State University Energy and Sustainability Center will conduct research and provide educational opportunities at the site.

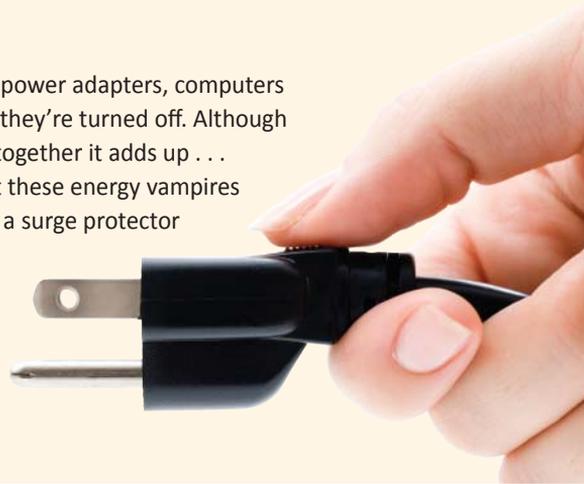
"Projects like this solar biomass plant help OUC diversify our generation mix and support our commitment to delivering clean, reliable and affordable power to our customers," said **Ken Ksionek**, General Manager and CEO.

The landmark project will consist of 30 acres of solar troughs that help concentrate the sun's energy to increase the efficiency of the power plant, which will be fueled by biomass feedstocks such as wood chips and grasses that produce synthetic gas to fire a conventional boiler.



Beware of Energy Vampires

Don't let your wallet be sucked dry by TVs, DVD players, cell phone chargers, power adapters, computers and other electronics that use vampire power, or standby power, even when they're turned off. Although individually these devices typically draw only a very small amount of power, together it adds up . . . especially when left plugged in 24 hours a day, seven days a week. To combat these energy vampires and reduce your consumption, unplug the appliances when not in use. Using a surge protector with multiple sockets will allow you to turn off multiple devices with one switch. A timer can automate turning on and off those electronics that are used on a regular schedule. Replacing battery powered devices, such as cordless phones or rechargeable razors, with corded alternatives also cuts down on the standby power required to charge the battery and reduces energy lost in battery charging.



All Arts. All Week. All FREE!



ArtsFest is a celebration of Central Florida arts and culture that takes place for 10 days over four counties. Presented by Bank of America, this year's *ArtsFest* includes 205 FREE arts and cultural events held in 75 venues across Lake, Orange, Osceola and Seminole counties. *ArtsFest* takes place Feb. 5-14, and provides you with a taste of everything the arts community has to offer in your own backyard!

ArtsFest Pre-Kickoff Is Thursday, February 4

Join United Arts and Power 95.3's Obie & Lil Shawn for a special pre-kickoff event at Enzian including FREE admission to two great movies. At 5:30 p.m., early birds can enjoy entertainment

and information from a variety of arts & cultural organizations. Then enjoy *Peewee's Big Adventure* at 6:30 p.m. and the 25th anniversary showing of *Clue* at 9:30 p.m. Dress up as your favorite *Clue* character for a chance to win a costume contest and valuable prizes to Central Florida arts and cultural organizations. Both films will be shown on TWO screens: one inside the theater and one outside on the Enzian's lawn. . . take your pick! You bring the blanket and we'll supply the popcorn.

For a full schedule of events, please visit www.ArtsFestFL.com or call 407.363.5816.

Get the Tax Refund You Deserve – for FREE!



This year, hard-working Central Floridians (and those who worked at any time in 2009) may qualify for a tax refund of

up to \$5,657 through the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).

If you qualify, the money is easy to claim. Specialists at over 30 FREE tax preparation sites located throughout Central Florida are ready to help. Don't spend hundreds of dollars filing your taxes when you can file for free and

receive 100% of your refund quickly and easily – usually within 10 days or less! To qualify for the EITC, you must meet some requirements, including:

- Have earned income from employment or self-employment (at any time in 2009)
- Have a valid Social Security number
- Must be a U.S. citizen or resident alien all year, or a nonresident alien married to a U.S. citizen, or resident alien and filing a joint return

If you qualify and have already filed your taxes, you can re-file for this year and the last three years to claim your refund. That could result in more than \$19,000 for you.

See if you qualify for the EITC and find a FREE tax preparation site near you. Visit www.hfuw.org or simply dial 2-1-1.



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ORLANDO UTILITIES COMMISSION
RELIABLE PLAZA • 100 W. Anderson Street • Orlando, FL 32802
Tel: 407.423.9018 • www.ouc.com

