



# CONNECTIONS

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

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# HAPPY NEW YEAR 2016

## One Person, One Tree Program Takes Root

OUC has a proud tradition of providing safe, reliable power to our customers while doing our best to keep Orlando "The City Beautiful." We are excited to partner with Mayor Buddy Dyer to support One Person, One Tree – a new program that encourages residents to plant a tree with the goal of increasing Orlando's tree canopy from 25 percent to 40 percent by 2040.

One Person, One Tree offers city residents free and reduced-cost trees to plant in their own front, back or side yard, along with resources for planting and care.

Ordering an energy-saving tree is easy! Just visit [www.CityofOrlando.net/trees](http://www.CityofOrlando.net/trees) to choose your tree and schedule free delivery right to your front door. There are several trees to choose from, including Live Oak, Tulip Poplar, Dahoon Holly and more. Each homeowner is responsible for planting, watering and maintaining the tree. Of course, it's vital to ensure that planting of any kind does not interfere with utility lines above or below ground. For safety tips and more, visit [www.ouc.com/trees](http://www.ouc.com/trees).



## Go Green and Save Green with OUC's Efficiency Delivered

Did you know that OUC can provide up to \$2,000 toward energy and water efficiency upgrades in your home based on your needs? And we want to make it as easy as possible for you.

An OUC conservation specialist can:

- ① Determine which improvements will save you the most money
- ② Provide you with recommendations
- ③ Arrange for a licensed contractor to do the work

You'll receive professional installation....from OUC.

You only pay for your share of the cost for selected improvements. If you qualify, you can even spread your payments for up to 12 months interest-free on your utility bill.

For more on Efficiency Delivered, including a list of covered improvements, visit [www.ouc.com/rebates](http://www.ouc.com/rebates).

## OUC Rebates Streamlined

Our rebate process is now easier than ever to navigate. Now, you can apply for one of our energy or water rebates directly on our website. Since you no longer have to worry about paper forms, you can expect faster approvals.

Whether you're looking to make a small change—like weather stripping or window tinting—or considering investing in a new air conditioning system or attic insulation, an OUC rebate can help pay for some of the improvement costs. For more, visit [www.ouc.com/rebates](http://www.ouc.com/rebates).



## Audit Your Home Energy Usage Online

OUC offers a free online Home Energy Audit to help you calculate your energy usage and determine where you can make improvements to lower your utility bills. By entering your OUC account number, you'll get a report based on your actual consumption history.



To learn more about your home's energy use, visit [www.ouc.com/energyaudit](http://www.ouc.com/energyaudit). OUC even provides a trusted list of professionals who can complete energy-saving projects at your home or business. For more on our Preferred Contractor Network, visit [www.ouc.com/PCN](http://www.ouc.com/PCN).

## Earned Income Tax Credit

Tax season is underway, which means you may be able to claim up to \$6,242 in tax refunds thanks to the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). If you earned less than \$54,000 in 2015, you may qualify.

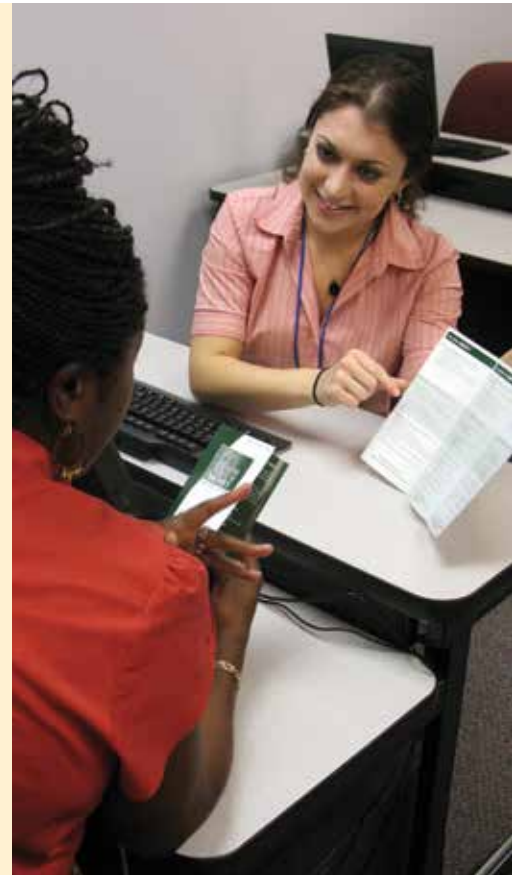
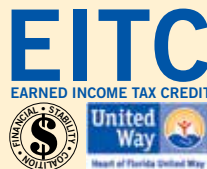
EITC is credited with lifting more children out of poverty than any other federal program. At a time when many families are struggling to make ends meet, EITC dollars can be used to reduce debt, improve job skills, build savings or take other steps to improve financial stability, which is a primary focus for Heart of Florida United Way.

If you did not claim the EITC over the past three years, that could result in more than \$20,000 in tax refunds to you.

To help you claim the credit, United Way has partnered with the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program to offer free tax preparation for qualified residents. Our 30 VITA sites in Central Florida will help you file your taxes and collect 100 percent of your refund.

Call **2-1-1**, text **898-211** and type **MyMoney** in the message, or visit [HFUW.org](http://HFUW.org) to learn more about EITC eligibility and to find a VITA site near you.

Prefer to file your own taxes online? Visit [MyFreeTaxes.Com](http://MyFreeTaxes.Com) and file for free.



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ORLANDO UTILITIES COMMISSION  
RELIABLE PLAZA • 100 W. Anderson Street • Orlando, FL 32801  
Tel: 407-423-9018 • [www.ouc.com](http://www.ouc.com)

