

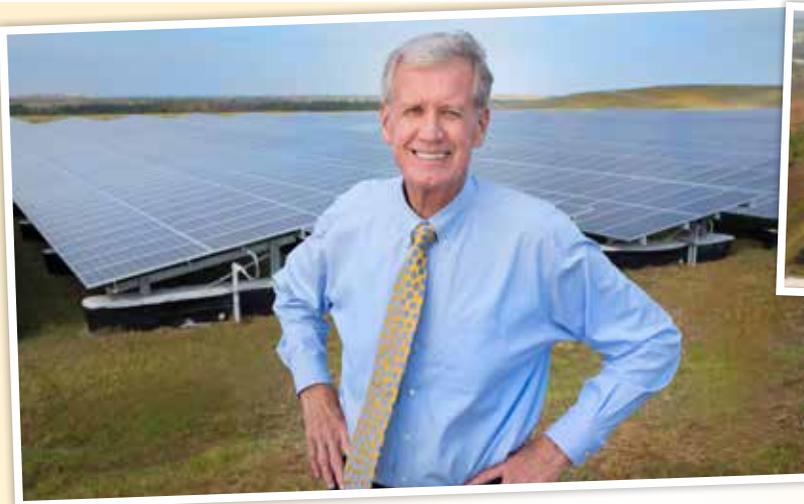


# CONNECTIONS

News and Information from OUC—The *Reliable One* | JANUARY 2018

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*Left: Retiring OUC General Manager & CEO **Ken Ksionek** at our new community solar farm that bears his name.*

*Above: Ponds at the Stanton Energy Center that will soon hold a 20-MW floating solar array.*

## OUC Dedicates Kenneth P. Ksionek Community Solar Farm & Announces Even More Solar Capacity

In early December, local officials, former OUC commissioners, employees, community partners and neighbors gathered at Stanton Energy Center to dedicate our newest solar array to retiring General Manager & CEO **Ken Ksionek**. Orange County Mayor **Teresa Jacobs**, City of Orlando Mayor **Buddy Dyer**, and OUC Board President **Greg Lee** honored Mr. Ksionek for his more than 32 years of service with the Commission.

Among the first in the nation to be built atop a byproduct landfill, the 13-megawatt (MW) facility will generate enough electricity to power 2,100 homes.

And, as we're constantly seeking innovative renewable energy options, Mr. Ksionek let the crowd in on our

next solar venture, a nearly 20-MW floating solar array on a large pond at the Stanton Energy Center in east Orlando. Just this year, we introduced floating solar into our portfolio with an array at our Gardenia Operations Center. The new floating installation will be much larger, taking advantage of an area already devoid of trees and perfect to help soak up the sun's rays. This comes as we seek to increase our solar portfolio to 80 MW in the near future.

For more on our initiatives and to subscribe to our community solar program, visit [OUC.com/solar](http://OUC.com/solar).



## Sign Up For New Electric & Water Outage Alerts and Stay Informed via Voice, Text or Email

We certainly know it's inconvenient to lose power or water, but we're committed to keeping you informed through all phases of the restoration process with our new Outage Alert program. When you sign up for these phone, text message and email Outage Alerts, we'll let you know when your home or business loses service and provide status updates on how long it's expected to be out.

The system also allows you to report outages or issues via your smartphone. To learn more about OUC's new Outage Alerts, visit [OUC.com/alerts](http://OUC.com/alerts).

**To Sign Up:**

Text **REG** to **69682** on your mobile device

or

Register via your myOUC account at [OUC.com](http://OUC.com).





## Enhanced Online Outage Map

We're excited to announce the launch of a new online outage map that provides even more detailed information when an outage occurs. The enhanced map features live weather radar, easy-to-read symbols, messaging, outage reporting, and more! Check it out at [OUC.com/stormcenter](http://OUC.com/stormcenter).

## OUC Crew Donates Vehicles in Puerto Rico, Returns Home

The 14 line technicians, engineers and fleet personnel who traveled to Puerto Rico following Hurricane Maria have returned home to Orlando. Ahead of their flight back, they handed over the titles to three OUC pick-up trucks to two municipalities on the island, as well as to the Sisters of Notre Dame. The sisters run a facility that houses retired nuns from areas as far away as Canada. Some of the nuns are very old and frail, and one has been in a coma for more than a year, requiring 24-hour life support. Sister Armand Ayala tells us OUC's donation gives them more capacity to move fuel for the critical life support system on a single trip instead of every few hours. The sisters sent their blessings to OUC and the residents of Orlando and St. Cloud.

For more on our crew's journey in Puerto Rico, visit [OUC.com/puertorico](http://OUC.com/puertorico).



(left to right) Luis Burgos, Line Technician 1; Eric Rivera, Fleet Technician; Sister Armand Ayala, Sisters of Notre Dame



## United Way Tax Preparation

With holiday bills coming in fast, now is the time to file for your tax refund. **Heart of Florida United Way** is opening Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites across the tri-county area for residents to file their income taxes for free. If you made less than \$66,000 last year, you qualify to have your taxes prepared for free by an IRS-certified volunteer. To find the VITA site closest to you, dial **2-1-1** or text "MyMoney" to **898-211** or visit [HFUW.org/taxes](http://HFUW.org/taxes).

Besides ensuring you receive 100% of your tax refund, tax-assistance

volunteers can help to see if you qualify for special tax credits like the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). Even if you only worked one day last year, you could qualify for a tax credit up to \$6,318!

If you prefer to file your own taxes online, United Way has partnered with H&R Block to offer [www.MyFreeTaxes.com](http://www.MyFreeTaxes.com).

This free resource will walk you step-by-step through your taxes to get your full refund.



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