



# CONNECTIONS

News and Information from OUC—The *Reliable One* | FEBRUARY 2020

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## FIFTH GRADERS LEARN SOLAR ENERGY IS AWESOME

**OUC—Orlando Science Center STEM Program ‘Engages Students with Powerful Message’ of Conservation.**

“You’re working as engineers today,” **Missy St. Pierre-Sands** tells the classroom of fifth graders. “**What do engineers do?** They design, create, and improve technology, which is anything human made that solves problems.”

With that said, the students in **Belkis Espinal-Dominguez’** math-science class at Partin Settlement Elementary School in Kissimmee and OUC’s service territory begin designing and creating solar-powered fair rides using K’Nex interlocking toy building pieces and a small motor. Their hands-on learning experience is part of Project **AWESOME**, a STEM-based program sponsored by OUC—The *Reliable One* and taught by Orlando Science Center educators like St. Pierre-Sands.

Project Alternative Water and Energy Supply; Observation, Methods and Education (AWESOME) helps fifth grade students learn about alternative energy and water conservation and prepares them for the Florida Standards Assessments. Since its inception in 2009, AWESOME has reached more than 100,000 Orange and Osceola county public school students in OUC’s service territory. The 90-minute classes are taught in English and Spanish.

When it’s time for the students’ fair rides to be tested, St. Pierre-Sands plugs the motors in each

to solar panels the size of smart phones placed under desk lamps. Powered by radiant energy, the rides’ moving pieces spin.

“This effort brings science to life for thousands of students every year,” said **JoAnn Newman**, President and CEO of Orlando Science Center. “Our partnership with OUC enables the Science Center to engage students with the powerful message of water conservation and alternative energy as we help them build the important skills needed to address these issues.”

To see the students in action, visit the OUConnect Blog at **OUCblog.com**.





## BEWARE OF UTILITY SCAMS

OUC reminds you to always watch out for scam calls, emails or home visits that frequently target utility customers.

If you suspect suspicious activity or doubt the legitimacy of a communication, contact OUC directly at [customerservice@ouc.com](mailto:customerservice@ouc.com) or **407-957-7373**.

To learn more about common scam attempts and for tips to avoid falling victim, visit [OUC.com/Scams](http://OUC.com/Scams).

## DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME *Checklist*

As clocks “spring forward” **March 8**, be sure to follow this twice-a-year 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 and expiration date.
- ✓ Check/replace burned out or dimming exterior light bulbs.
- ✓ Change flashlight and weather alert radio batteries.



## ENERGY EFFICIENCY – *DID YOU KNOW?*

LED bulbs use about 85% less electricity than incandescent lights and produce less heat.

Even better? They come in groovy colors too.

For more on energy-efficient bulbs, visit OUCConnect Blog at [OUCblog.com](http://OUCblog.com).



LED BULBS  
USE  
**85%**  
LESS  
POWER

## JDRF ONE WALK™

FOR A WORLD WITHOUT TYPE 1 DIABETES T1D

**Saturday, March 7, 2020**  
Check in: 8 a.m. | Start time: 9:30 a.m.  
University of Central Florida

For more information contact:  
Candace Goodman at [cgoodman@jdrf.org](mailto:cgoodman@jdrf.org)  
Register at [centralflorida.jdrf.org](http://centralflorida.jdrf.org)



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ORLANDO UTILITIES COMMISSION

RELIABLE PLAZA • 100 W. Anderson Street • Orlando, FL 32801  
Tel: 407-957-7373 • [ouc.com](http://ouc.com)

