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

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OUC Lowers Electric Rates Once Again

At a time when other utilities are seeking rate increases, OUC—The *Reliable One* has identified cost-savings to lower electric rates for its customers. In June, the OUC Board approved a 9 percent fuel rate reduction. This decrease represents about \$23 million in annual customer savings. In fact, St. Cloud customers will pay about 12 percent less for power in July than they did four years ago.

“This is our third electric rate decrease since 2012,” General Manager & CEO Ken Ksionek said, noting that OUC has not increased electric rates since 2009. **“OUC is committed to providing our customers with affordable rates in addition to record reliability and outstanding water quality.”**

An average OUC residential customer in St. Cloud using 1,000 kWh, will have an electric bill of \$110.24 a month. This represents a savings of \$3.57 from the current rate of \$113.81 a month or more than \$43.00 a year.



GET READY FOR THE
Summer of



Don't Get Burned by Hot Weather

OUC—The *Reliable One* is bringing back the *Summer of 78...* as in 78 degrees on your thermostat. 78 is the efficiency “sweet spot” for your air conditioner, so it’s an easy way to save energy and stay comfortable all summer long. Here are other ways to help you enjoy a cool and cost-efficient summer:

- Set your thermostat to 78 degrees or higher
- Keep your central A/C fan set to AUTO
- Use ceiling fans to make rooms feel cooler when occupied
- Replace your air filter regularly
- Caulk and install weather stripping around leaky windows and doors
- Wash only full loads in your dishwasher and clothes washer
- Use the cold or warm setting on your clothes washer, rather than hot water
- Set your water heater temperature no higher than 120 degrees

For more hot tips on how to keep cool, visit www.OUC.com/78.



OUC to Adjust Efficiency Rebate Amounts:

Apply Now For Current Rates

OUC will soon makes changes to the efficiency rebates available to customers, so there's no better time to lock in current rates than right now!

Our rebate program can save you hundreds on home improvements designed to make your residence/business more energy-efficient. From Energy Star windows and appliances to ceiling insulation upgrades, OUC offers a wealth of options to keep your utility bill as low as possible.



And the process is simple.

Visit www.ouc.com/rebates to get started!

Generator Safety



If you plan to use a generator in the event of a power outage, remember these tips to keep you, your family, your neighbors and OUC's line crews safe:

- Plug appliances directly into the generator or use a heavy duty, **outdoor-rated** extension cord.
- Avoid wiring the generator directly to your home because it could re-energize the power lines, endangering your neighbors and utility crews working to restore power in your area.
- It's against the law and a violation of electrical codes to connect generators to your home's electrical circuits without approved automatic-interrupt devices.
- Place the generator **outside your home** and well away from open windows and doors to prevent carbon monoxide buildup.
- Do not use a generator in rainy or wet conditions. Operate it on a **dry surface** and use a canopy-like structure to keep out moisture.



Children's Safety Village of Central Florida – a “miniature city” that teaches safety skills to prevent childhood accidents and injuries – provides children with a realistic approach to help them recognize safety hazards found in everyday life. The “city” includes miniature buildings with paved streets, sidewalks, a functioning traffic light, a railroad crossing, a fire safety house, and a water safety complex. Children learn how to practice safety through hands-on exercises, role-playing activities, and other participatory techniques. Studies prove that children who experience hands-on safety instruction have significantly fewer accidents.

The Children's Safety Village is open to day care centers, private schools, public schools, Head Start programs, and other groups. Classes offered include: bicycle, pedestrian, water, fire prevention, danger person awareness, firearms injury prevention, poison prevention and car seat safety.

For more information about the safety village or to book a field trip, please visit: www.ChildrensSafetyVillageFL.org.

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