



# CONNECTIONS

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## Keep Your Utility Bill In Check This Summer With OUC's Usage Dashboard

As high temperatures bear down on Central Florida, OUC's Usage Dashboard can help you understand how hot weather impacts your bill, so you can keep your cool and your cash during the hot summer months. The online tool allows you to monitor your electric and water consumption to see the days and times you use the most, as well as corresponding high and low temperatures, making it easy to adjust your habits and save money. You can even set email alerts to be sent to your inbox when usage numbers reach a specific threshold.

To view your Usage Dashboard, simply log in to your myOUC Online Profile and click the blue *View Usage*

button under *Account Summary*. The dashboard will open in a new window, so be sure to set your browser to allow pop-ups.

For more information about the Usage Dashboard and a video tutorial, visit [www.ouc.com/usage](http://www.ouc.com/usage).

At OUC, we're committed to offering our customers new, innovative ways to become smarter, more efficient electric and water consumers. For additional energy- and water-saving tips, visit [www.ouc.com/conservation](http://www.ouc.com/conservation).

## Back To School Conservation Tips

With the kids headed back to school, take advantage of that empty house and follow these energy saving tips to get your wallet back in check:

- 1 **Raise Your Thermostat** – When there's no one to keep cool in your home, raise your thermostat a few degrees so the A/C runs less.
- 2 **Unplug Unused Devices** – All those TVs and game systems can eat up energy even when they're not in use. So, keep them unplugged for ultimate energy efficiency.
- 3 **Keep Drapes/Blinds Closed** – Keeping drapes and blinds closed can help keep the sun's heat out



of your home so the A/C doesn't need to work as hard.

- 4 **Install Lighting Timers** – Don't leave your lights on all day just so the house will be lit when you get home. Instead, install timers on lamps so they kick on right before you're scheduled to arrive.
- 5 **Keep the Fridge Closed** – When you're packing lunches, don't leave the refrigerator door open. Remove all the items you need before you start assembling.





## A Fun Way To Learn About Energy

OUC's Kids Korner offers an interactive online platform to teach children where energy comes from, how it's made, and most importantly, how to conserve it. They'll love the animated diagrams that bring basic science concepts to life, along with interactive games, experiments and a coloring sheet. The site is also a great resource for students working on reports and projects. Even teachers can download a variety of curriculum plans and student activities ideal for the classroom.

Check out Kid's Korner at: [www.ouc.com/kids](http://www.ouc.com/kids).

## Host A Back-To-School Drive To Help Students In Need

Help A Gift For Teaching (AGFT) serve more than 216,000 students by hosting a school supply drive during its annual Back-to-School Drive, **August 1 through September 16!** As Central Florida's primary provider of free classroom supplies to teachers in high-need schools, AGFT enables children to learn, dream, and succeed in life.

For more information about how you can get involved, visit: [www.agiftforteaching.org/btsd](http://www.agiftforteaching.org/btsd).



## Water Efficiency Tip

Always keep an eye on your irrigation heads to make sure they're watering the lawn or garden and NOT the pavement. And, always adhere to the St. John's River Water Management District's watering guidelines.

For more tips, visit: [www.OUC.com/waterconservation](http://www.OUC.com/waterconservation).



## MAKE SAFETY STICK Garages Are For Junk, Not Generators

Even though they can stand the heat, generators should get out of the kitchen. And the garage. Because ventilation isn't enough to prevent toxic fumes and carbon monoxide buildup.

For more safety tips, visit: [ouc.com/safety](http://ouc.com/safety).



## Back To School Drive

You can make a positive impact by collecting the following five most-requested items:

1. No. 2 pencils
2. Crayons, 24-count packs
3. Markers, 8 or 10-count packs
4. Pocket folders
5. Loose-leaf paper

If you can't host a drive but want to make a financial donation, visit: [www.agiftforteaching.org/donate](http://www.agiftforteaching.org/donate). For every \$1 received, AGFT can provide up to \$10 worth of school supplies.

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