



# CONNECTIONS

News and Information from OUC—The *Reliable One* | SEPTEMBER 2014

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## OUC's Budget Billing Eliminates Sudden Surprises

Sign up for OUC's Budget Billing program and take the surprise out of your utility bill by stabilizing your monthly electric payments throughout the course of the year.

### This FREE program:

- Eliminates the seasonal ups and downs that utility bills can bring
- Keeps your bill at a fixed monthly dollar amount
- Helps you plan and balance your monthly budget

To enroll, log in to your myOUC online profile at [www.ouc.com](http://www.ouc.com) and complete the Budget Billing form. You can opt out of the program at any time.

## Energy Efficiency Tips for Your Home

Here are a few simple things you can do around the house to reduce your energy costs all year:

- Unplug appliances that you don't need 24/7. Many of them draw power even when they're not in use
- Set your thermostat to 78 degrees. For each degree you set it below 78, expect to add 6 to 8 percent to the cooling portion of your energy bill
- Use ceiling fans. Ceiling fans should spin counter-clockwise in the summer and be turned off when no one is in the room
- Keep window shades closed in the summer and open in the winter
- Change your air filter regularly
- Use the cold or warm setting on your clothes washer, rather than the hot one
- Set your water heater to 120 degrees





## FREE Online Home Energy Audit

June and July were hotter than normal this year, and of course, higher temperatures lead to higher bills. OUC offers a great way to take control of your home energy use and you don't even have to be an OUC customer to save money and make your home more efficient. Tell your friends to check out OUC's interactive online energy audit. There they can learn more about their home's energy consumption, and find out how to make improvements to lower their utility bills. And with just an account number, OUC customers can receive customized recommendations based on their actual consumption history.

The audit takes about 10 minutes to complete, so visit [www.ouc.com/energyaudit](http://www.ouc.com/energyaudit) to get started.

## The Great American MILK DRIVE

Milk is one of the most requested items at food banks. Yet, of the 37 million Americans served by Feeding America® food banks, an average of one gallon goes to each person every year.

You can help change that with a donation that delivers gallons of milk to Feeding America® food banks in your community.

Visit [milklife.com/give](http://milklife.com/give) to donate today.



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