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News and Information from OUC—The Reliable One | OCTOBER 2011

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The Power of the Energy Conservation Pyramid

We know customers want to save energy and lower their electric bill. But it can be confusing trying to figure out where to start. OUC can help.

The “energy conservation pyramid” (at right) prioritizes the steps you can take to save energy, reduce your carbon footprint and lower your OUC energy bill.

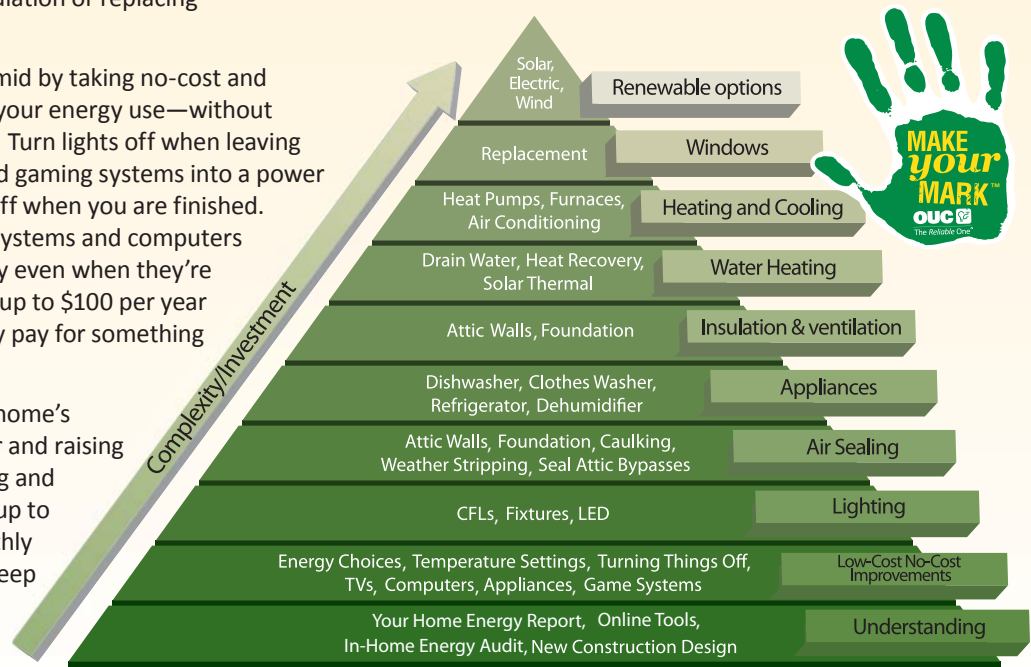
Start with the easy stuff: understanding how you use energy. OUC’s **online energy savings calculator** can show you how much you could save by replacing light bulbs, renewing your caulking and weather-stripping, upgrading your attic insulation or replacing your windows.

Next, move up the pyramid by taking no-cost and low-cost steps to lower your energy use—without sacrificing your comfort! Turn lights off when leaving a room. Plug your TV and gaming systems into a power strip and turn the strip off when you are finished. Big screen TVs, gaming systems and computers continue using electricity even when they’re turned off—costing you up to \$100 per year on your electric bill. Why pay for something you’re not using?

Consider lowering your home’s thermostat in the winter and raising it in the summer. Heating and cooling can account for up to 30 percent of your monthly electric bill. After that, keep moving upward by replacing your incandescent light bulbs

with compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs), which use 75 percent less electricity than traditional bulbs and last up to five years.

The next most cost-effective steps you could take would be to seal leaks that allow heated or cooled air to escape from your home. After that, changing your appliances, improving your home’s insulation and upgrading your home’s heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems offer you the best payback. OUC offers cash incentives to help homeowners pay for these upgrades, as well as solar PV and thermal rebate programs.



Courtesy of Minnesota Power



Water Only Once A Week

Get ready to switch to watering your lawn and garden just one day a week. Starting November 6, homes with **odd numbered or no addresses** may water only on **Saturdays**, while those with **even numbered addresses** may water on **Sundays**. Non-residential (**commercial, public or industrial**) properties may water only on **Tuesdays**. **Remember to water only when needed for no more than one hour and not between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.**



OUC, Orange County Expand Landfill Gas Project

OUC recently completed an expansion of one of the state's most successful renewable energy projects – a landfill gas to energy facility at the Orange County Landfill.

Located in east Orange County, the new five-mile pipeline delivers methane gas from the landfill to the Stanton Energy Center's coal-fired generation units, where it is converted to clean energy that can power thousands of homes.

At its peak, the facility is expected to provide enough fuel annually for 22 Megawatts of electricity, or enough to power about 16,000 homes. A win-win for OUC and the County, the project reduces the amount of methane gas released into the atmosphere and offsets thousands of tons of coal needed at Stanton.

OUC and Orange County have worked together to harness landfill gas for energy since 1998.

Free Home Energy Survey DVD

Do you know what your home's "thermal envelope" is? How about which appliances use the most electricity?

You can find all of the answers to these energy-saving questions—and more—just by tuning in to **OUC's Home Energy Survey DVD**. The DVD will walk you through a "do-it-yourself" energy survey—in English or Spanish—that will help you and your family save money on your utility bills while keeping your home comfortable.

To order your copy of this FREE Home Energy Survey, call **407.423.9018**.



Go Paperless

Save a stamp and reduce the clutter in your mailbox by signing up for OUC's paperless billing program. **OUConvenient Billing** offers an easy way to manage your OUC account online. View your detailed account history and current bill whenever you want, over our secure system. Visit www.ouc.com to learn more about **OUConvenient Billing**.

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