



# CONNECTIONS

News and Information from OUC—The *Reliable One* | MARCH 2025



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## HOW “PEAK PLANNING” CAN EMPOWER YOUR ENERGY SAVINGS

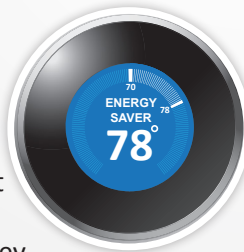


Have you noticed patterns in your routine, like showering, cooking, or doing laundry at the same time every day? Multiply these habits across Central Florida households, and you'll see energy demand peaks, especially in the afternoon and early evening when people return home from work or school, turn on lights, cook and run appliances—all while air conditioning units combat the heat.

Understanding energy peaks can help you make smarter energy choices. Here's some tips to reduce your demand:

- **Adjust Your Thermostat:**

Save energy by raising your thermostat when no one's home and lowering it in the evening. A smart thermostat can help you regulate temperatures and save money. Also, close blinds to block sunlight and use ceiling fans strategically to stay cool.



- **Shift Your Schedule:** Move energy-intensive tasks, like running the dishwasher or laundry, to early morning or late evening. This reduces strain on the grid and balances your energy use.
- **Conserve Energy:** Simple changes like turning off lights, upgrading to efficient appliances, or hanging clothes to dry can make a big difference.

OUC's PeakSHIFT program encourages you to shift energy use to off-peak hours, saving you money and reducing strain on the electric grid. By spreading demand, we can avoid building new power plants and increasing rates.

Over the next two years, OUC will host several customer and community meetings where you can learn additional ways to save. Be sure to check [OUCPeakshift.com](https://www.oucreliableone.com/Peakshift.com) for upcoming offerings.

## OU**C** PEAK SHIFT

## OUC.com is Getting a Fresh New Look

*New website,  
same “Reliable One”*

As we continue to innovate, our website is evolving too. Get ready for a new **OUC.com** launching soon.



## 5 Tips to Plant the Right Tree in the Right Place

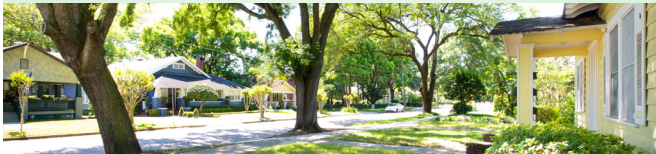


Before landscaping, remember these tips:

1. **Choose the right tree:** Ensure it fits your space and won't grow into power lines.
2. **Plant smart:** Trees near power lines should stay under 15 feet.
3. **Call 811 before digging:** Avoid damaging underground utilities.
4. **Keep equipment clear:** Maintain vegetation-free zones around electric and water meters and transformers.
5. **Stay safe:** Keep a 10-foot distance from power lines and avoid trimming near them.

Before you start your spring planting, watch OUC's new video series at [OUCBlog.com/trees](https://oucblog.com/trees) and discover optimal planting strategies from OUC's vegetation team to help you save money.

For tree trimming, call **(407) 423-9018** or visit [OUC.com/treetrimming](https://oucblog.com/treetrimming).



## Safety Tips for Working Outside



Warmer spring weather marks the perfect time for cleaning up outside of your home. As you complete any spring cleaning, be sure to stay safe around electrical equipment or wires located nearby. Electricity can transfer to equipment that's too close to a power line, even if it's not touching.

### LOOK ABOVE

Always check for power lines above before starting outdoor projects. Keep cranes, ladders, and tools at least 10 feet away. If power lines could interfere, call OUC at (407) 423-9018 at least two business days beforehand to ensure safety.

### CALL BEFORE YOU DIG

Florida law requires you to contact Sunshine State One-Call at **(800) 432-4770** or **8-1-1** to locate underground pipes and electric lines. Make the call at least two business days before digging, whether you're using heavy equipment or completing basic landscaping.

For more safety tips, visit [OUC.com/safety](https://oucblog.com/safety).

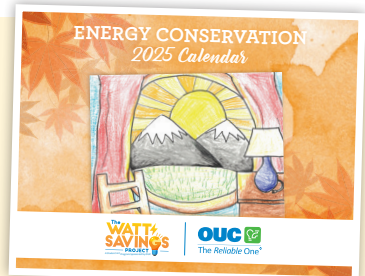
## Energy Efficiency Shared with Osceola County Public Schools Through Watts Savings

Ask any kid how they conserve energy at home, and you're bound to get a variety of answers. Turning off lights and TVs when you leave a room. Closing the fridge when you make a meal, or not leaving the front door open with the A/C running. All great answers.

By combining creativity and education, local 4th and 5th graders in Osceola County Public Schools took part in OUC's inaugural Watts Savings Project. As part of the program, students contributed original artwork and messages for the program's 2025 calendar, spotlighting innovative conservation ideas.

Vanellope M., from Lakeview Elementary, earned top honors with her cover artwork, "Use sunlight to help you in the darkness." Teachers praised the initiative, with Linda Robinson of Michigan Avenue Elementary saying, "The kids had fun and learned a lot about energy conservation!" Teresa Stevens from East Lake Elementary added, "The calendars look AMAZING! Thank you!"

The program will return to Osceola County Schools this fall, continuing to spark conservation awareness in young minds.



To learn where you can find a calendar, or for more information, visit [OUC.com/wattssavings](https://oucblog.com/wattssavings)

Para ver toda nuestra información en español, por favor visite [espanol.ouc.com](https://espanol.ouc.com).



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