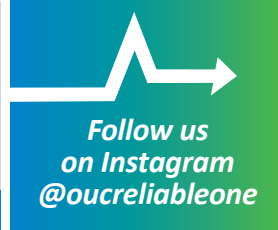




CONNECTIONS

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



BACK-TO-SCHOOL CONSERVATION TIPS TO BEAT THE HEAT



With kids heading back to school, it's the perfect time to take advantage of a quieter house, and lower your energy bills. Follow these energy saving tips to keep your wallet in check:

- A. KEEP THE FRIDGE CLOSED** – When packing lunches, don't leave the fridge open. Remove all needed items first.
- B. USE A LAPTOP** – For homework that requires a computer, a laptop uses less energy than a desktop.
- C. TURN UP THE THERMOSTAT** – With the kids at school all day, there's no need to keep your house as cool. Set the thermostat above 78 degrees to save energy and money.
- D. KEEP SHOWERS SHORT** – This saves water and gets you out the door faster.
- E. PRACTICE GOOD LAUNDRY HABITS** – Between school, sports and clubs, laundry can pile up. Make sure you're washing only full loads in cold water.
- F. UNPLUG UNUSED DEVICES** – Devices like TVs and game systems can eat up energy even when they're not in use. Unplug them when not in use to stop the drain.
- G. DITCH THE OVEN** – Instead, use a toaster oven. This saves energy and makes meal prep easier on busy weeknights!

For more tips, visit [OUC.com/hotweather](https://www.oucreliableone.com/hotweather).

Honoring Our Lineworkers

Florida Lineworker Appreciation Day, August 26

At OUC – The *Reliable One*, we're proud to recognize the incredible dedication of our lineworkers on Florida Lineworker Appreciation Day, celebrated each year on August 26.

Our lineworkers are the backbone of reliability. Whether it's maintaining OUC's power grid or restoring electricity after powerful storms, these highly trained professionals work around the clock—often in dangerous conditions—to keep our community connected and safe.

As we move through hurricane season, we're reminded of just how vital their work is.

That's why we encourage you to join us in saying “thank you” to the lineworkers who serve our community with commitment and courage.

A simple gesture—whether it's a wave, a kind word, or a note on social media—can mean the world to the people who work so hard to power our lives.

Let's show our appreciation on **August 26**. After all, reliability starts with them.



Water Quality Report 2024

Learn more about H₂OUC via the 2024 OUC Water Quality Report at [OUC.com/wqr2024](https://www.ouc.com/wqr2024). *En español* espanol.ouc.com/wqr2024.



Great-Tasting Tap Water
H₂OUC
www.ouc.com

New Battery Storage Rebate for Solar PV Customers

OUC's interconnected solar customers can now earn up to \$2,000 back for supplementing their solar-generated power with a battery storage system. This upgrade ensures reliable backup power in moments you can't rely on the sun to supply your power, such as during poor weather conditions, at night or on cloudy days.

Learn more about eligibility and requirements at [OUC.com/rebates](https://www.ouc.com/rebates).

UP TO
\$2,000
ON REBATES



Tree Safety Tips — Be Storm-Ready with OUC

Severe weather can strike at any time and OUC wants you to be prepared year-round. One of the best ways to protect your home and neighborhood is by regularly inspecting and trimming trees on your property. Look for dead or weak branches, especially those hanging over your home, shed, sidewalk or driveway.

Only line-clearance certified professionals should trim trees near power lines. If you're unsure about the safety of your trees, request an inspection at [OUC.com/trees](https://www.ouc.com/trees). Our certified arborists will determine what's safe for you or your contractor to handle and what OUC must manage.

Before hurricane season, check your tools, make a list of trusted tree care professionals, and consider consulting a certified arborist at the International Society of Arboriculture's website. www.isa-arbor.com.

Don't wait for a named storm—get ahead of tree hazards now. OUC is here to support you in staying safe and storm-ready all year long.

Visit [OUCBlog.com/trees](https://oucblog.com/trees).

Generator Safety Tips to Get You Through a Storm

- Never plug a generator directly into your home; it can re-energize power lines and endanger utility crews working on restoring power to your area.
- Install a transfer switch before a storm hits.
- Place generators outside, away from windows and doors, to prevent carbon monoxide buildup.
- Turn off and let a gas-powered generator cool before refueling.
- Keep a fully charged fire extinguisher nearby.
- Never use a generator in wet conditions.
- Keep children and pets away from generators.

Find more tips at
[OUC.com/stormcenter](https://www.ouc.com/stormcenter)



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