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News and Information from OUC—The *Reliable One* | APRIL 2026

CELEBRATE EARTH MONTH

*by Taking Charge
of Your Home's
Energy Use!*



SMALL SHIFTS IN DEMAND MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE

Earth Month is the perfect moment to pause, look around your home, and ask a simple but powerful question: **How much energy do I really use — and how much of it do I actually need?** Taking charge of your home's energy use is good for the planet, helps lower your monthly bill and reduces strain on the grid during peak times.

UNDERSTAND YOUR ELECTRIC DEMAND

Every appliance, device and light switch adds to the overall demand your home places on the grid. High demand — especially during upcoming summer afternoons when A/C is cranking across thousands of Central Florida homes and businesses — puts extra pressure on the system. **The good news?** Small changes can make a big difference.

SIMPLE STEPS TO LOWER DEMAND

One of the most powerful steps you can take is “staggering” major appliance use during early mornings or late evenings. Don't run the dryer, dishwasher and oven at the same time, for example. That, along with avoiding peak afternoon use, helps keep your demand lower and your bill more manageable.



EXPLORE SMART SOLUTIONS

Earth Month is a great time to explore and upgrade to smarter, energy-saving technologies that help you save and lessen demand without sacrificing comfort:

- Smart thermostats
- Energy efficient appliances
- Advanced power strips



Follow these tips and you can help reduce strain on the grid and support a cleaner, more resilient energy system. To learn more about electric demand and how to reduce it, go to [OUC.com/myusage](https://www.floridapower.com/myusage).

CELEBRATE EARTH MONTH WITH US

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	TIME
April 21	200 S Orange Earth Day	Plaza at 200 S. Orange Ave.	Noon – 3 p.m.
April 24	Earth Day Work Day	Orlando City Hall Plaza	11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
April 25	Central Florida Earth Day	Lake Eola Park	10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
April 25	St. Cloud Earth Day	Veterans Memorial Library	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

7 Tips to Maintain a Thriving Lawn and Landscape

Spring is here — let's make your yard beautiful while saving water and lowering your bill. Try these 7 easy tips to conserve one of our most precious resources:

- 1 Plant Florida-friendly landscaping to reduce water needs.
- 2 Use a rain shut-off device to prevent irrigation during rainfall.
- 3 Install a smart irrigation controller to optimize watering schedules and qualify for rebates.
- 4 Check for leaks and schedule an OUC water conservation audit to detect inefficiencies.
- 5 Use a cistern or rain barrel to collect rainwater for watering, which reduces irrigation needs.
- 6 Mow to the recommended height for your grass type and never remove more than one third of the blade of grass at a time.
- 7 Water only when needed on the days the St. Johns River Water Management District allows and don't water between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

These simple steps help save water, lower costs and keep your yard thriving! Learn more at [OUCblog.com/lawn](https://www.ouc.com/blog/lawn).



Lessen Your Demand Tip

Love grilling? Your wallet does too

Cooking outdoors is one of the joys of living in the Sunshine State — and it also can help lower your electric bill without heating up your kitchen. When you fire up the grill instead of your oven, you also reduce demand on the grid, especially during busy evening hours when A/C and laundry may be running.

Learn more about peak demand — the highest amount of electricity flowing to your home at any one time — and how it impacts rates at [OUCblog.com/peak](https://www.ouc.com/blog/peak).

Water-Wise Rebates for Landscaping and Irrigation Upgrades



With the right plants and smart irrigation, you can enjoy a beautiful yard while using less water — and lowering your bill. OUC's rebate program helps cover the cost of water-efficient upgrades with a credit on your account:

- Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ and Irrigation – Up to \$200
- Smart Irrigation Controller – Up to \$200
- Rainwater Cistern – Up to \$200

Ready to grow smart and save? Learn more and apply at [OUC.com/waterrebates](https://www.ouc.com/waterrebates).

Notice of EPA Water Testing Results



OUC's water system participated in the Environmental Protection Agency's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR5) program, which requires monitoring for certain contaminants that do not currently have drinking water standards.

Results from the April 2025 sampling are now available at [OUC.com/ucmr5](https://www.ouc.com/ucmr5).

2024 Water Quality Report

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](https://www.espanol.ouc.com/wqr2024).



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



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