



April 1, 2024

Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850

Subject: City of St. Cloud Standards Established for the Promotion, Encouragement and Expansion of Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency, and Conservation Pursuant to F.S. 366.92(3)

Attention: David Sumner, Eric Hitchins, Hayden Rogers, Lydia Roberts, and Shelby Eichler

Attached please find the City of St. Cloud report to the Florida Public Service Commission regarding Standards Established for the Promotion, Encouragement and Expansion of Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency, and Conservation Pursuant to F.S. 366.92(3). The report is being submitted by the Orlando Utilities Commission on behalf of the City of St. Cloud. If you have any questions about the attached report, please let me know.

Respectively submitted,

/s/ Matthew Ferrer

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**Orlando Utilities Commission Report to the Florida Public Service Commission
Pursuant to F.S. 366.92(3)
Calendar Year 2023
Due April 1, 2024**

NOTE: The City of St. Cloud is located in Osceola County and provides service to its retail electric customers through a longstanding Interlocal Agreement with the Orlando Utilities Commission (OUC). Under the Interlocal Agreement, OUC operates and maintains the St. Cloud electric utility system and provides retail electric service on behalf of St. Cloud based on St. Cloud's electric service tariffs. Customers in both OUC's service territory and St. Cloud's service territory are eligible for OUC electric conservation and renewable programs. The numbers and figures in this summary are duplicates of the Orlando Utilities Commission summary.

Introduction

- a) Orlando Utilities Commission
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2) Standards or policies that promote, encourage, and expand the use of renewable energy and/or energy conservation and efficiency measures.

OUC has committed substantial resources to promote, encourage and offer multiple conservation and renewable energy programs to our customers as summarized below. For more information, please reference our 2023 OUC Annual Conservation Report submitted in March of 2024 with the Florida Public Service Commission.

3) Summary of programs

Conservation:

OUC has been increasingly emphasizing its Demand Side Management (DSM) and conservation programs to increase customer awareness of such programs. Not only do these programs help customers save money by saving energy, the programs help OUC reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and better position OUC to meet possible future

greenhouse gas regulations. For more information about OUC's conservation efforts please reference our 2023 Annual Conservation Report submitted to the Florida Public Service Commission in March of 2024.

The conservation programs included in OUC's 2020 DSM Plan and offered to OUC's customers in 2023 consist of the following:

- Residential Home Energy Survey Program – Walk-Through
- Residential Duct Repair Rebates Program
- Residential Ceiling Insulation Rebates Program
- Residential High Performance Windows Rebates Program
- Residential Efficient Electric Heat Pump A/C Rebates Program
- Residential New Home Rebates Program
- Residential Heat Pump Water Heater Rebates Program
- Residential Efficiency Delivered Program
- Commercial Energy Audit Program
- Commercial Efficient Electric Heat Pump A/C Rebates Program
- Commercial Duct Repair Rebates Program
- Commercial Ceiling Insulation Rebates Program
- Commercial Cool/Reflective Roof Rebates Program
- Commercial Indoor Lighting Billed Solution Program
- Commercial Indoor Lighting Rebates Program
- Commercial Custom Incentives Program

During calendar year 2023, OUC continued to offer the following measures that are not included in OUC's 2020 DSM Plan but aid OUC's customers in reliability, energy conservation, and education:

- Residential Energy Conservation Rate Structure
- Residential Solar Water Heating Rebates Program
- Residential A/C Proper Sizing with R-30 Attic Insulation Rebates Program
- Residential Window Film/Solar Screen Rebates Program
- Behavior Reports
- Pre-Paid PowerPass
- Commercial Window Film/Solar Screen Rebates Program
- Commercial OUConsumption Online
- Commercial OUConvenient (Outdoor) Lighting
- OUCooling (Distributed Chilled Water Districts)
- Commercial Green Building Program
- Commercial A/C Proper Sizing with R-30 Attic Insulation Rebates Program
- Conservation Voltage Reduction
- Customer Usage Dashboard
- Stanton Energy Center Efficiency Improvements

Renewables:

OUC has established several Renewable Energy Business Objectives, including:

- Balancing sustainability with affordability and reliability
- Providing a hedging strategy against potential regulatory requirements through the acquisition of renewable energy credits (RECs) and Carbon Offsets
- Leveraging state and federal incentives offered to encourage the development of customer-sited assets
- Offering an option in response to customer requests for environmentally friendly energy investments
- Pursuing least-cost planning for future energy investments

On October 29, 2013, OUC unveiled its 400 kW Community Solar Farm located at its Gardenia facility. In 2023, the Community Solar Farm produced 507.72 MWh.

In March 2017, OUC installed a 32-kW floating solar array on a pond at its Gardenia facility. This is the first and currently the sole grid-connected floating solar array in the Southeast United States. In October of 2020, the floating solar array was expanded by adding an additional 32.5 kW of capacity. In 2023, the floating solar array produced 69.067 MWh.

In September 2017, OUC unveiled a 12.58 MW utility-scale solar farm at its Stanton Energy Center. This solar farm is comprised of two arrays, one of which is located on the top of an existing coal ash landfill that has been capped and sealed. This solar farm is intended to serve as a source of power for OUC's newest Community Solar Program. The farm produced 16,283 MWh in 2023.

In May 2018, OUC began implementing the OUCollective Solar Program. Through this program, OUC leverages its collective buying power to make it more affordable for customers to install solar. Under this program, OUC has collaborated with a preferred solar contractor to complete installations for a fixed, discounted price. At the end of 2022, 110 customers have had Solar PV systems interconnected with a total capacity of 1,265 kW. The residential OUCollective program was retired in 2022.

In August of 2018, OUC completed the addition of a new solar test site at its Pershing Operations Center. This test site allows OUC to study and test a variety of solar panels and tilt angles. OUC also collects weather data from the site to compare with the solar production data. These studies allow OUC to determine how to make future solar installations the most efficient. The peak capacity for this test array is approximately 24 kW depending on the number of solar panels that are being tested at any given time. All the electricity produced by the array is supplied back to the grid. In 2023, the test array produced 15.923 MWh.

In November 2019, OUC began implementing a battery rebate program for residential customers. Under this program, eligible residential electric customers receive a one-time rebate of up to \$2,000 (limit one per customer) for the first fifty (50) customers. To

qualify for the rebate, batteries must be paired with a solar PV system, and the battery must meet certain size and insurance requirements. In July 2021, the 50-customer threshold was reached. The rebate was then reopened for an additional 50 customers. This rebate program stopped in August of 2022.

In September of 2020, OUC along with the Orlando International Airport designed and installed a 124kW array that sits atop a pond at the airport that OUC will own and operate. In 2021, this array produced 160.11 MWh. The output in 2022 decreased to 69.246 MWh. The reason for the decrease was due to a faulty inverter that has since been replaced. In 2023, the array produced 139.785 MWh.

The Florida Municipal Solar Project is one of the largest municipal-backed solar projects in the United States. Total planned capacity is 223.5 MW, which is enough energy to power 45,000 average Florida homes. Each solar site is designed to generate 74.5 MW of energy. OUC currently purchases 108.5 MW of solar capacity from the project through Power Purchase Agreements with NextEra – enough energy for 21,600 typical Florida homes. Two of the solar sites were completed and started operations on June 30, 2020. The amount of energy that OUC’s portion of the sites produced in 2023 was 256,694 MWh.

In April of 2022, OUC completed the addition of a new 104.28 kW bi-facial solar array on the roof of its Gardenia office building. Currently, bi-facial solar panels are the cutting edge of the solar marketplace. Their ability to collect reflected light on the backside of the panel leads to improved efficiency and higher system power. In 2023, this array produced 172.624 MWh.

In 2023, OUC executed two PPAs with NextEra for 149 MW of new utility-scale solar capacity from two new solar farms, Storey Bend and Harmony 2 that are planned to enter commercial operation on December 31, 2024. Both sites are located in Osceola County. The new solar capacity will produce enough energy to serve about 27,000 typical Florida homes.

As part of a pilot program, a 4 MW, 8 MWh battery energy storage system (BESS) was installed at OUC Substation 29 in east St. Cloud. Substation 29 is connected to transmission lines that support the solar array at the Harmony Solar Energy Center.

OUC is expecting to complete installing a 2 MW floating array on a Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) pond in 2024. Plans are also in place to develop a roadmap for a larger deployment of floating solar throughout OUC’s territory.

In addition to the utility owned/operated solar projects, OUC also offers a variety of incentives for customer-owned solar projects. These include a rebate of up to \$900 for the installation of solar thermal systems and net metering for residential PV systems. OUC currently has 9,306 PV and 584 solar thermal customers participating in these programs. This represents 1.228 MW of solar thermal capacity and 103.74 MW of PV capacity.

In addition to solar projects, OUC uses landfill methane recovery at the Orange County Landfill to displace a portion of the fuel required for either of Stanton's coal units. OUC also purchases energy derived from landfills in Charlotte and Osceola Counties. Total energy produced using landfill gas production in 2023 was 114,474.1 MWh.