

# SEND OUC BACK TO THE DRAWING BOARD ON ENERGY EFFICIENCY

It's well established that energy efficiency is the cheapest, quickest, and cleanest way to meet energy demand. The Orlando Utilities Commission (OUC) - the second largest municipal utility in Florida - is owned by the City of Orlando. In past years, OUC has recognized the value of energy efficiency as a resource and exhibited leadership by capturing energy savings for customers. Unfortunately, it's no longer the case.

OUC's 5-year energy efficiency plan - proposed to the Florida Public Service Commission (PSC) in 2020 - is a significant drop from its 2017 energy savings level and a shocking free fall from its 2018 levels.

The City of Orlando considered the most sustainable city in the Southeast, owns OUC, and has publicly committed itself to achieve 100% renewable energy by 2050 and to address the "pressing environmental justice challenges in sensitive communities in the City of Orlando."

**Yet, OUC's energy efficiency plans take the City in the wrong direction.**

The table below shows how OUC's new plan, will reduce energy savings by 75% from their 2018 performance.

## **OUC'S EFFICIENCY SAVINGS AS A PERCENTAGE OF ANNUAL ELECTRICITY SALES**

2020 - planned - 0.1%
2019 - reported - 0.2%
2018 - reported - 0.7%
2017 - reported - 0.6%
<b>2018 - National Average - 0.71%</b>
(most recent year with complete data)

## **FAILING TO MEET THE NEEDS OF VULNERABLE CUSTOMERS**

Moreover, OUC's low-income program is the weakest of any large utility in Florida. Its proposed low-income energy efficiency program, *Residential Efficiency Delivered*, is projected to reach a mere **73 customers per year**.

OUC's proposed program is especially troubling considering they have one of the highest percentages of low-income customers of any large utility in Florida at 33%, over 72,000 families. OUC's new program will reach less than 1% of eligible customers. Beyond its lack of ambition, it also **requires customers - including low income - to pay to participate and renters cannot take part at all**.

## **CLEAN ENERGY GOALS AT RISK**

For the City of Orlando to meet its clean energy goals, OUC must succeed in reducing energy waste and savings for its customers. At a recent Florida Public Service Commission meeting, OUC's attorney referred to their 2017 performance as proof of the utility's commitment to efficiency rather than responding to concerns over their current anemic plans for 2020 and beyond. A subsequent editorial by OUC defending its posture on energy efficiency similarly failed to address the facts detailed above.

*Instead of looking backward, **we encourage OUC and the City of Orlando to look forward and build on its past success.** OUC's new plan is a drastic departure from its previous performance. It can and must do better to help customers save energy, especially for its most vulnerable families.*