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OUC—The *Reliable One* receives national energy innovator award

Orlando, Florida, June 22, 2021 — OUC—The *Reliable One* in Orlando, Florida, received an American Public Power Association Energy Innovator Award during APPA's National Conference in Orlando, Florida. The award honors utilities that have developed or applied creative, energy-efficient techniques and technologies to their work, in order to provide better service to electric customers or projects that increase the efficiency of utility operations or resource efficiency.

OUC developed a nanogrid with the aim of achieving transformative strategic objectives that addressed decarbonization of the grid, electrification, and decentralization. OUC's nanogrid will provide real-world testing of new technologies at a scale that allows OUC to gain valuable operational data, with lower investment risk. The nanogrid aims to solve the key challenges of vehicle electrification, demand charge mitigation and resiliency through direct-coupled solar PV and battery storage with electric vehicle chargers.

Additionally, the nanogrid will be integrated with a hydrogen system for backup power, consisting of an electrolyzer, hydrogen storage tanks, and two fuel cells, which are part of a Department of Energy-supported green hydrogen feasibility demonstration. In essence, the nanogrid represents a plug-and-play solution utilizing smart controls to serve as a flexible resource to meet future distributed energy resource needs that is easily replicable and deployable.

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The American Public Power Association is the voice of not-for-profit, community-owned utilities that power 2,000 towns and cities nationwide. We represent public power before the federal government to protect the interests of the more than 49 million people that public power utilities serve, and the 93,000 people they employ. Our association advocates and advises on electricity policy, technology, trends, training, and operations. Our members strengthen their communities by providing superior service, engaging citizens, and instilling pride in community-owned power.