FPUA Customer Connections

November 2021

FPUA Earns National Recognitions

FPUA works hard to maintain service integrity and reliability for all of our customers. Gaining recognition from our peers for these efforts is very gratifying.

The American Public Gas Association has a System Operational Achievement Recognition (SOAR) program to honor public natural gas systems that have achieved excellence in the operation of their natural gas utility. The SOAR program criteria is based on four primary areas:

1. System Integrity - Operation of a safe system through capital improvements, the integrity of managing assets, and operations & maintenance activities;
2. System Improvement - Dedication to continuous improvements through the use of innovative tools and technologies, participation in industry voluntary initiatives, and implementation of industry best practices.
3. Employee Safety - Ensuring the safety of employees through training, procedures and policies, programs, tools and equipment.
4. Workforce Development - Efforts related to the recruitment, retention, growth, and satisfaction of their employees.

FPUA was awarded the SOAR award in the Bronze category. The SOAR award continues for three years, 2021-2024. Congratulations, FPUA for earning the prestigious SOAR award.

FPUA has weathered its fair share of storms and needed assistance in times of restoration. This is why we are always one of the first to offer our help to another utility in need.

FPUA received a national commendation from the American Public Power Association for its support in electric power restoration efforts in Plaquemine, Louisiana, in the aftermath of Hurricane Ida.

On August 29, 2021, FPUA sent two mutual aid crews to the City of Plaquemine, LA, along with two bucket trucks, one digger derrick, one pole trailer, and one flatbed truck with an additional fuel tank. FPUA assisted City of Plaquemine Light and Water with their efforts to restore power to thousands of residents after Hurricane Ida passed, leaving widespread power outages in her wake. The crews assisted with setting poles, restringing lines, repairing and replacing services, and other general restoration activities. FPUA crews returned home to Fort Pierce on Thursday, September 2nd after a safe and successful restoration.

Congratulations, FPUA, on your commendation!

Important Message to Our Customers

Did you know that over the past several years, FPUA customers have benefitted from FPUA's negative Power Cost Adjustment (PCA)? FPUA's combined utility bill for electric, water, and wastewater is one of the lowest in St. Lucie County, and one of the lower rates among the state's municipal utilities. On October 19th, the FPUA Board made the difficult decision to raise the PCA by six dollars, beginning November 1. This increase is in direct relation to the increasing prices in the energy market, specifically natural gas, and this trend is likely to continue for the next several months. FPUA staff and Board will closely monitor the utility market and, following FPUA Board-approved policy guidelines, will recommend power cost adjustments necessary to maintain the financial stability of our community-owned utility while supporting our customers. The rising costs in the energy market affects not only FPUA, but utility providers throughout Florida and the country.

FPUA urges customers to act to minimize the impact of PCA increases by implementing effective energy conservation measures. FPUA is committed to providing information that gives our customers options to reduce energy use and save money every day. For your convenience, you will find several energy conservation tips below. Additional tips can be found on our website at www.fpua.com, on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/TeamFPUA, and on the Florida Municipal Electric Association Facebook page at www.facebook.com/flpublicpower.

Check Your Thermostat - Heating and cooling costs make up nearly half of your average power bill. Set thermostats to 78°F in the summer for peak efficiency. Each degree cooler can increase your bill by 4%. In the cooler months, open your windows to cool your house naturally.

Use Fans - A ceiling fan costs only about $1.50 a month to run and will help you feel cooler without having to adjust your thermostat.

HVAC Maintenance - Having your HVAC system regularly serviced can save you money. Neglected HVAC systems can lead to inefficient heating and cooling, leading to additional energy costs every year.

Air Vents - To maintain consistent temperatures throughout your home, keep air vents and registers clear of obstructions such as furniture, curtains and rugs.

Trim Plants and Change Filters - To ensure your HVAC unit receives proper air flow, change any filters inside and trim plants around your outside unit.

Food Storage - Set your refrigerator thermostat between 35°F and 38°F, and be careful not to overfill to allow air to circulate. Set your freezer to 0°F and pack foods tightly. This helps your refrigerator to run at peak efficiency and reduces energy consumption.

Refrigerator - Properly cleaning and maintenance of your refrigerator, such as dusting or vacuuming refrigerator coils, can improve efficiency and save money.

In the Kitchen - Cooking food in the microwave or stove top instead of the oven when possible reduces the heat inside your home. Match pots and pans to the burner size and use lids on pots to minimize heat loss.

SAVE THE DATE

Coming In February 2022!

The Florida Municipal Electric Association Florida Lineman Competition is coming to Fort Pierce on Saturday, February 26, 2022! Lineworkers possess knowledge and a unique set of skills that enable them to work on high voltage power lines. Enjoy watching public power lineworkers from all over the region compete to earn professional recognition and show their skill and knowledge of line work. More details coming soon!

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COMMUNITY PROUD

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