



SMPA Members  
Save on Solar!



KOTO Partnership  
Out of this World



Free Stuff for  
CoOp Members

SEPTEMBER 2022

# ENERGYWISE

YOUR SAN MIGUEL POWER MEMBER NEWSLETTER



Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives  
The power of human connections®



## CONTACT INFORMATION

**Nucla**  
170 W. 10th Ave.  
P.O. Box 817  
Nucla, CO 81424  
(970) 864-7311  
Toll Free: (877) 864-7311

**Ridgway**  
720 N. Railroad St.  
P.O. Box 1150  
Ridgway, CO 81432  
(970) 626-5549  
Toll Free: (877) 864-7311

**Both Offices Open:**  
M - TH, 7:00a.m. - 5:30p.m.

[www.smpa.com](http://www.smpa.com)  
[www.facebook.com/SanMiguelPower](https://www.facebook.com/SanMiguelPower)

In the event of a power outage,  
contact your local SMPA office to  
reach our 24-hour dispatch.

## QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS

[energywise@smpa.com](mailto:energywise@smpa.com)  
(970) 626-5549 x212

## SAFETY TIPS

### ELECTRICAL SAFETY AT SCHOOL:

- Involved in an accident involving a power line or pole? Assume live electricity is outside of the car.
- Always steer clear of pad-mount transformers - the big green metal boxes.
- Always be cautious in science classes with labs. Keep everything dry and use caution when plugging in equipment.

San Miguel Power Association is an equal opportunity provider and employer. In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202)720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800)877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call

(866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

(1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;

(2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or

(3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

## SMPA members will save a combined total of more than \$1.1 million over the 25-year lifetime of their new solar systems!

SAN MIGUEL POWER ASSOCIATION HAS SUPPORTED ITS CO-OP MEMBERS SEEKING TO PRODUCE THEIR OWN SOLAR ELECTRICITY THROUGH THE SOLAR UNITED NEIGHBORS UNCOMPAGRE SOLAR CO-OP. SMPA HAS WORKED COLLABORATIVELY WITH THE UNCOMPAGRE SOLAR CO-OP SINCE JANUARY TO EDUCATE COMMUNITY MEMBERS ABOUT THE SOLAR CO-OP SPONSORED BY THE TOWN OF MOUNTAIN VILLAGE AND SAN MIGUEL COUNTY.



January through April, community members had an opportunity to become a member of the solar co-op and participate in the group discount. Those co-op members then had a grace period of a couple months to sign a contract with the member-selected installer, Atlasta Solar Center. Of the 92 families who signed up for the Uncompahgre Solar Co-op, 17 have already committed to moving forward with solar under Atlasta Solar. These 17 households represent over 107 kilowatts of installed solar capacity. That is a projected \$700k in electricity savings over 25 years and a projected 2,245 metric tons of CO2e offsets over 25 years. That is equivalent to taking 484 cars off the road annually.

To offset some of the costs, [SMPA has a rebate of up to \\$300 for co-op members installing solar.](#) There was a collective \$22,500 contributed by the Town of Mountain Village, Telluride Mountain Village Owners Association, and San Miguel County to help more community members access solar. And that is just for 2022 alone!

Solar United Neighbors worked with the Town of Mountain Village in 2021 on the inaugural solar co-op in the area. The combined success of the two co-ops for the region is 134 co-op members and 31 contracts for new solar systems, amounting to over 176 kilowatts of local, renewable energy production. This will save co-op members a projected \$1.1 million over 25 years and a projected 3,678 metric tons of CO2e offsets, or 792 cars annually, over 25 years.

Energy consumption is the largest piece of the carbon reduction puzzle. The participation in the solar co-op is a great step in supporting the regional goal of a 50% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. In the coming years, regional stakeholders aim to facilitate additional opportunities to reduce carbon emissions through a variety of methods, with additional solar cooperative opportunities being one of them.

[Want to be involved in the next solar co-op? Get on the waitlist for next year and receive updates from \[coops.solarunitedneighbors.org/coops/uncompahgre-solar-co-op/\]\(https://coops.solarunitedneighbors.org/coops/uncompahgre-solar-co-op/\).](#)

HOW TO  
PREPARE  
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FOR WILDFIRES

WILDFIRE RISK REDUCTION STEPS THAT CAN MAKE YOUR HOME SAFER DURING A WILDFIRE





**FIREWISE USA**  
RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS

**VISIT [FIREWISE.ORG](https://firewise.org) FOR MORE DETAILS**

# San Miguel Power / KOTO Partnership Out of this World

## Non-profit, non-commercial Radio Benefits from Donations & Co-op Match

If you're a long-time *KOTO* listener, you know that the community-focused radio station provides the Telluride region with high-quality, commercial-free programming. *KOTO* is also unique among public radio stations, since it is not supported through underwriting. Instead, *KOTO* generates all its revenue through a short fund-raising season, which includes Guest DJ Day. On this day, you can tune in, hear your neighbors spin their favorite tunes and make a pledge to help the station keep rockin' into the future.

*KOTO* is looking at options to expand their signal into the Ridgway area. To mark the moment, SMPA's Rube Felicelli, Brad Zaporski, and Terry Schuyler spun songs from artists who have played at Ridgway's celebrated "Music in the Park" events. As if that wasn't enough, SMPA matched all pledges dollar-for-dollar up to \$1K. "The experience was awesome," said Felicelli. "To be able to help support this station, which is, kind of, the lifeblood of these communities, was a real honor."

Between the tunes, the DJs also gave *KOTO* a shout out for recently going "Totally Green." In the spring, the *KOTO* Board of Directors made the decision to enroll in SMPA's environmentally-responsible program that guarantees the energy used to run the station comes from renewable sources, like solar from the Last Dollar Community Solar Garden, just west of Telluride.

"Our board was thrilled to make this commitment for the sake of the local environment," said *KOTO* Executive Director, Cara Pallone. "...and thank you guys so much for stepping up and taking the time to come in and raise money for *KOTO*. It meant the world to us. You raised over \$2,000! Incredible! Thanks to everyone who pledged. We couldn't do it without you!"



*This year, the San Miguel Power Association (SMPA) Guest DJs celebrated KOTO's participation in the Totally Green program.*

*This guarantees that KOTO is powered by energy from renewable sources like wind, hydro, and solar!*



## Celebrate National Co-op Month!

Celebrated by cooperatives nationwide during the month of October, National Co-op Month is an annual opportunity to raise awareness of a trusted, proven way to do business and build communities. Here at SMPA, we celebrate National Co-op Month by showing your appreciation for our members. This year, we have a super-cool gift for members. Get yours while supplies last.

- One gift per membership
- Member must collect in person at an SMPA Office Location
- While supplies last



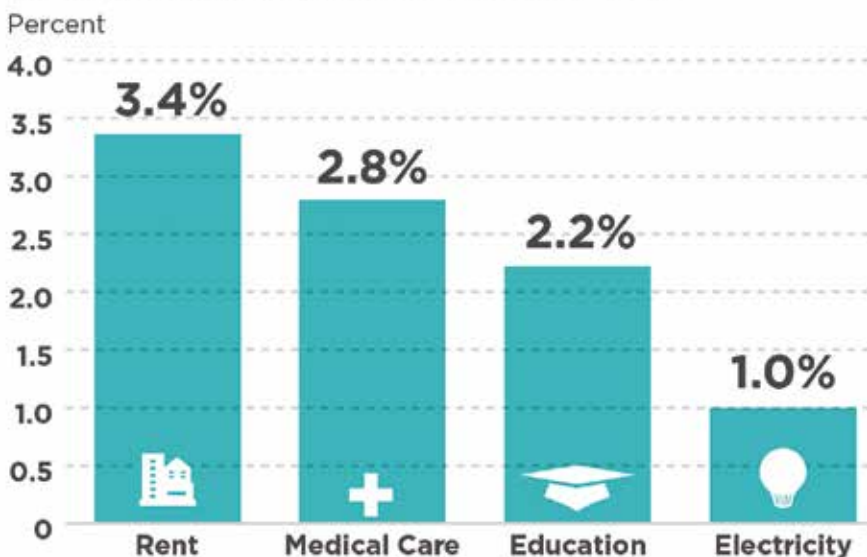
**WiFi SMART PLUG**  
*WiFi enabled power socket will remotely turn on your light or electronics. Controlled by a downloaded app, this item can be used with Amazon Alexa® & Google Home®; instructions are included.*

## ELECTRICITY REMAINS A GOOD VALUE

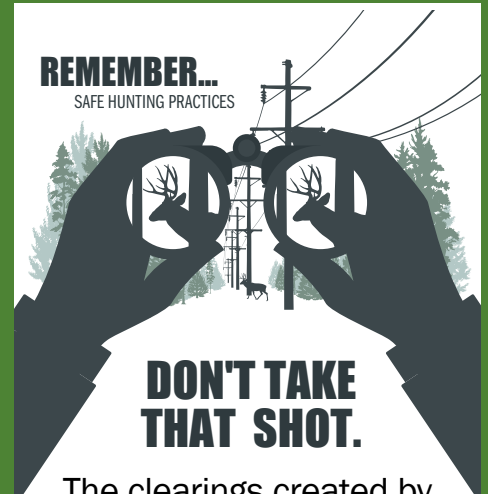
ACCORDING TO THE U.S. DEPT. OF LABOR STATISTICS CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

The cost of powering your home rises slowly when compared to other common expenses. Looking at price increases over a five-year period, it's easy to see electricity remains a good value!

### Average Annual Price Increase 2015-2020



## REMEMBER... SAFE HUNTING PRACTICES



### DON'T TAKE THAT SHOT.

The clearings created by utility rights of way can lure game and hunters into a dangerous spot. Always be aware of what's behind your target, and keep electrical lines and equipment out of your sights!

# SMPA POWER PLAY

**This Month's Puzzle:**  
**I SHO NRG BO AR U ENLISTED**  
 Hint... Together, we save.

**SUBMIT YOUR ANSWER** and be entered into a drawing for a fun prize to:

**EnergyWise**  
**PO Box 1150**  
**Ridgway, CO 81432**



Have you changed your phone # or email? Let us know at 1-877-864-7311