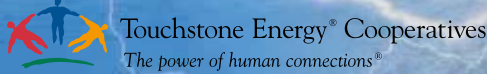


ENERGYWISE

YOUR SAN MIGUEL POWER MEMBER NEWSLETTER



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
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
(970) 626-5549 x2120

SAFETY TIPS

Keep safe this winter:

- Use space heaters safely and sparingly.
- Be wary of electric blankets.
- Make sure you have functioning Carbon Monoxide Detectors.

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.

Person 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 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.

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

Community Support: How SMPA Lives This Cooperative Principle for our Members



Oh, what fun it was...

...to bring generous food donations to the Ouray Food Pantry and the West End Family Link over the holidays. Thanks to everyone who dropped off food items!



Supercharged for Skijoring!

SMPA helps bring funding for events like San Juan Skijoring that was held in Ridgway last month. Thanks to Tri-State G&T and Basin Electric for their support of our local economies!

Sharing Success Winners Announced

Economic Development is vital to our communities and affordable housing is vital to economic development. With this in mind, the SMPA Board of Directors recently announced the winners of the 2022 Sharing Success Economic Grants:

Congratulations to the Home Trust of Ouray County, which will receive a \$15,000 grant, to help develop the 14 affordable rentals at 1505 Oak Street in Ouray. These units will be available to local workforce with a range of area median incomes up to 120% AMI. These rentals will reduce the outflow of moderate-income workers, priced out of a market in which the average single-family home sale price exceeds \$800,000.

Another \$15,000 grant will be given to the West End Economic Development Corporation (WEEDC) to facilitate their ongoing partnerships with the Colorado Housing and Finance Authority, the Telluride Foundation, Rural Homes Initiative, as well as others to ensure affordable housing units are brought online within the West End of Montrose County. These funds will also support WEEDC's programs to promote outdoor recreation, upgrade Main Street business facades, stimulate small businesses through consulting and resources, and provide value-added agricultural production capabilities.

Thank you to CoBank and to Basin Electric Power Cooperative for matching SMPA contributions, tripling the impact! Congratulations to these worthy organizations, and thanks for all you do!



Home Trust of
Ouray County



New Electric Lawn Tools Incentive: It's Time to Switch!

Gasoline-powered or Electric?

Gasoline-powered or Electric? When it comes to power equipment like lawn mowers, leaf blowers, hedge trimmers, chainsaws, power washers, and/or snow blowers, you've got a choice. Most authorities agree that electric is the way to go for a better environment: For example, the U.S. EPA estimates that, hour-for-hour, operating the average gas mower for one hour produces 11 times more air pollution than running the average new car for the same amount of time. Electric tools emit nothing on site, and the electricity powering them is generated from ever-decreasing portions of fossil fuels.

Noise is also a consideration. For example, the typical gas mower emits approximately 95 decibels, a level that poses a health hazard, as it is above the 85 decibel threshold that can lead to hearing loss, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

All those drawbacks might be worth it for a cost-conscious buyer, but new incentives might change the calculations. For years, SMPA has partnered with Tri-State Generation and Transmission to offer rebates for electric power equipment. Now, the Telluride Foundation and the Pinhead Climate Institute are joining in to expand the rebate program. Rebates that were generally up to 25% of the cost, may now exceed those savings.



EFFICIENCY REBATES

Have you purchased an energy-efficient electric appliance lately? Have you replaced a gas-powered tool? If so, you may qualify for rebates from SMPA. Check out www.smpa.com/energy#berebates to see if your purchase qualifies.



Idle / Seasonal Electric Services to Help Active Accounts with Grid Maintenance Costs

The electric distribution grid that serves the members of San Miguel Power Association (SMPA) is an engineering marvel that enables members to enjoy a modern lifestyle amid a rugged and beautiful landscape. Maintaining this complicated system in an environment that consistently batters it with harsh weather, rockfall and treefall events, as well as wildlife and human-caused impacts, is an expensive endeavor.

These maintenance expenses are shared by all members who pay a fixed access fee on their monthly bill along with whatever charges they have collected from energy they've used the previous month. There are, however, some who derive benefit from the grid, without paying their part of these maintenance costs. Recently defined "Idle" and "Seasonal" accounts can turn off their power and stop paying bills only to return to a well-maintained grid at a later time and start up again. The costs of grid upkeep, during their absence, is split among the remaining active members.

In an effort to ensure equitable cost recovery, SMPA reached out to holders of idle accounts, defined as any service that has been inactivated or disconnected for a period of at least 90 days, and to holders of seasonal accounts, defined as any service that is routinely disconnected and reconnected within a 12-month period.



These account-holders were informed of SMPA's proposed revisions to its General Rules and Regulations.

The operative revisions require that at the time of shutoff, these account-holders can opt to continue to pay the monthly access fee to help fund maintenance of the system and their service, or they can retire the service. This latter option would give SMPA the right to remove power delivery equipment, thus reducing maintenance costs and liabilities.

At their March meeting (3-28-23), the SMPA Board of Directors will consider adding the new language to the General Rules and Regulations. Members interested in learning more can find more information at www.smpa.com/start-new-service-or-discontinue-service#idle_services.

The Deadlines to Apply for Scholarships are Coming Up Soon!

San Miguel Power now awards up to \$51,000 in college scholarships to students who are dependents of SMPA members. We award up to nineteen scholarships to deserving graduating seniors.

If you know one, make sure they go to this web page, www.smpa.com/content/scholarships. They can receive up to \$3K for higher education and / or vocational training.

SMPA POWER PLAY

This Month's Puzzle:
EN CEN EX SPAM AINT SEEN
 Hint... A fixed charge takes care of it.

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

EnergyWise
PO Box 1150
Ridgway, CO 81432

