

ENERGYWISE

YOUR SAN MIGUEL POWER MEMBER NEWSLETTER



CONTACT INFORMATION

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Both Offices Open:
M - TH • 7:00am – 5:30pm

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

FOR THE HOLIDAYS:

- Turn off decorative holiday lights before going to bed or leaving home. A timer can help.
- Don't overload extension cords or outlets.
- Only decorate trees that are far away from power lines.

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 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.

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FEATURE STORY

Go Team GOLD! Regional Partnership Recognized

COLLABORATION IS THE WAY THAT COMMUNITIES ADVANCE TOWARD COMMON GOALS.

It is for this reason that the Mountain Town 2030 Foundation gives a “Collaboration of the Year” award to celebrate the teamwork of a local climate action initiative within their purview of mountain and outdoor communities in the west. Last month, that award went to the Town of Silverton Team GOLD (Goal Of Less Dependency) project, within which San Miguel Power Association (SMPA) is a proud partner.

This year’s Mountain Town 2030 Climate Solution Summit was held in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. Representatives of SMPA, the Town of Silverton, San Juan County Office of Emergency Management, and local climate action alliance, EcoAction Partners, were in attendance to receive the award.

Thanks, in part, to SMPA’s access to federal grants, and to our investment in their pursuit, The Team GOLD project became 1 of 67 communities chosen with prize money of \$100,000 to begin work of exploring a resiliency plan that includes potential local solar electric generation with a potential on-site energy storage system. Then, this September, the project won the next round in Phase II of the Dept. of Energy prize monies of \$200,000, becoming one of 33 communities—nationwide—to do so.

“Team GOLD is a great success story of a small town reaching out to regional stakeholders to solve our electric resiliency [challenges.]” said Silverton Administrator, Gloria Kaasch-Buerger.

“The Silverton Gold partnership is another shining example of how your local electric cooperative is partnering with the communities we serve to better the lives of the folks that live, work, and play in this beautiful region,” said SMPA CEO, Brad Zaporski.



SMPA SCHOLARSHIPS!

Helping Our Youth Access Higher Education & Training!

\$45,000 in college scholarships to high school graduates in:

- Norwood
- Nucla
- Ouray
- Ridgway
- Silverton
- Telluride
- Telluride Mountain School

smpa.com/content/scholarships



Deadlines: February 7, 2025 & March 10, 2025



YOUTH LEADERSHIP CAMP

July 12-17, 2025

Steamboat Springs, CO



presented by:

Apply online by: **Jan. 9th 2025**

Friendships | Leadership
Tech Training | Fun

www.smpa.com/youth-tour-and-youth-camp

Election Announced: The SMPA Board District #5 and District #7 elections will be held on June 5th, 2025 at the 86th Annual Meeting at 720 N. Railroad St. in Ridgway. Learn more at www.smpa.com/content/annual-meeting-election.



Smart Thermostats: A Smart Option for Efficiency & Timed Energy Use

Smart thermostats are intelligent devices that manage and automate heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) in homes and commercial spaces, optimizing both comfort and energy use. Unlike traditional thermostats, smart thermostats connect to Wi-Fi and are controllable via smartphone apps, allowing users to adjust settings remotely. They also use sensors, machine learning, and sometimes even geofencing technology to adjust temperatures based on occupancy and daily routines. These thermostats also integrate with home automation systems, such as Amazon Alexa, Google Assistant, and Apple HomeKit, allowing for voice commands and seamless automation alongside other smart devices.

For users on a time-of-use (TOU) electricity rate plan, where costs vary based on demand times, smart thermostats offer additional value by adjusting heating and cooling to avoid peak-rate periods. They can be programmed to pre-cool or pre-heat a home during lower-cost, off-peak hours and then maintain a comfortable temperature during higher-cost peak times with minimal energy use. This not only helps users save money but also supports grid stability and reduces the need for carbon-intensive energy sources during high demand.

In essence, smart thermostats empower TOU users to optimize their energy use around rate fluctuations, providing a practical way to cut costs and lower environmental impact while maintaining comfortable temperatures year-round.



Saving the Peak for What Matters

Last month, the SMPA Board of Directors approved a proposal to implement a time-based rate structure, beginning in May of 2025. Under this new rate, a Time-of-Use rate will offer members a discount on energy for 19 hours of the day, 11¢ / kWh instead of 13.5¢ / kWh. During the 5 hour “Peak” period of 4 PM to 9 PM, members will see a higher rate (22¢ / kWh). The Off-Peak/On-Peak combination will have minimal impact on the overall cost for most members, and it will better reflect the actual cost of energy throughout the day.

With this new rate, the peak is recognized with a price signal, and budget-conscious consumers will want to reserve this time for the things that matter most—things like cooking dinner, doing homework online and enjoying streaming services in the hours before bedtime. What is not as often realized, is that many homes have other significant electrical loads that can be moved away from the peak with relatively little change to the home occupants’ comfort and convenience. Among these are:

Snow-melt systems: In snowy conditions, an electric resistance snow-melt system can save consumers significant amounts of time shoveling and scraping snow and ice. An inexpensive timer can keep these systems operating outside of peak hours, while retaining the full benefit of their use.

EV Charging: For electric vehicle owners, the ease of pulling into the garage and plugging in, was one of the selling points of the vehicle. The time-of-use settings in the charger app allow drivers to continue this natural habit, knowing that the actual charging will be done in the late evening and early morning, while they sleep.

Water Heating: As the industry is increasingly looking at energy storage solutions, it’s nice to realize that most homes already store energy in the form of heated water. A water heater timer (for which SMPA offers rebates) can ensure that hot water is available when homeowners need it while moving the energy consumption off peak.

Managing flexible loads like EV charging,



water heating, and electric heat tape can save room for essential electricity uses on the grid. The new time-based rate also includes a Time-of-Day “peak power” rate option to better suite the diversity of member electricity needs.

Peak demand is one of the biggest cost pressures impacting electricity rates. By strategically managing flexible loads, utilities can lessen the overall cost impact on the electricity used for essential purposes like cooking, lighting, and heating, when consumers need it most.

There’s Still Time!

SMPA’s Sharing Success Economic Development Grant is a fantastic opportunity for our community! This grant offers up to \$20,000 in funding to support local projects that drive economic development and create positive impacts right here in our service area. Apply today. The deadline for all 2024 applications is December 13th!

Let’s power progress together!



SMPA
POWER PLAY

THIS MONTH’S PUZZLE:
MOST H MEATS R TARTS
Hint... Automatic Coziness

SUBMIT YOUR ANSWER
and be entered into a drawing
for a fun prize to:
EnergyWise
PO Box 1150
Ridgway, CO 81432

Last Month’s Answer: OUTAGE NOTIFICATIONS



**Wishing You a
Joyous Holiday
Season!**

Remember:

SMPA Offices will be closed on Dec. 24th and 25th ...as well as Jan. 1st. SMPA will be open during regular business hours on December 26th, 30th, 31st as well as January 2nd.

Basic services are always available on smpa.smarthub.coop