

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

SUMMER ELECTRICAL SAFETY:

- Stay away from downed power lines.
- Avoid overloading outlets.
- Keep appliances away from water.

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.asc.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.

FEATURE STORY

Ridgway Microgrids to Provide Resiliency & Stability

Power outages can disrupt work, business, communications and some of the basics of living. That's why the Town of Ridgway and San Miguel Power Association, with the help of local grant writer, Soleil Services, LLC, have sought the aid of the State of Colorado and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) through the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) Microgrids for Community Resiliency (MCR) grants.

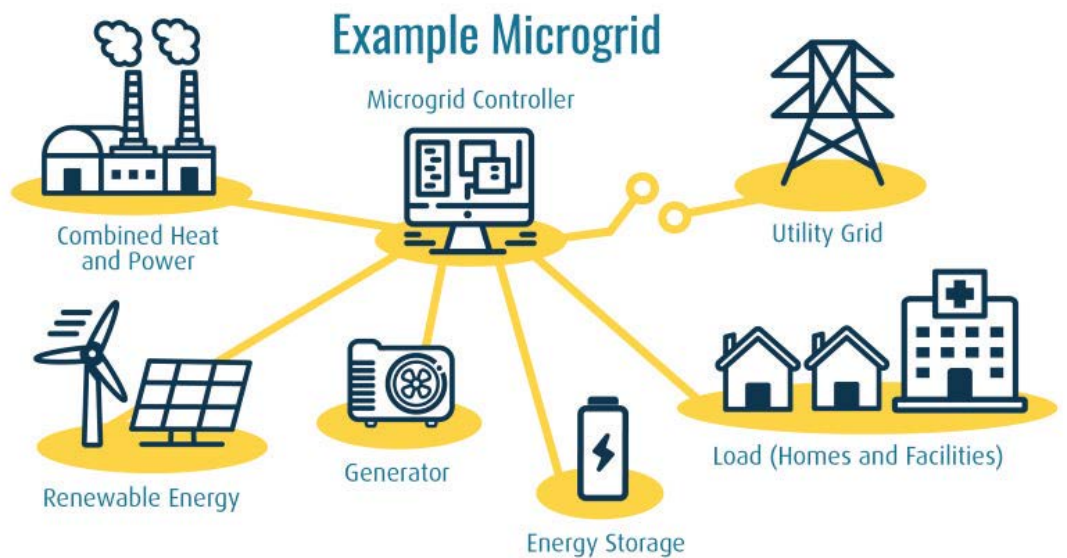
A "microgrid," as defined by DOLA, is a group of interconnected loads (like climate control and power outlets) and distributed energy resources (like a battery-backed solar array) within clearly defined electrical boundaries. This complete electrical grid can act as a single controllable entity with respect to the containing grid, and, with battery backup, it can continue running on its own, if the main grid goes down.

One of these is planned to back up the town-owned "Decker Room" on the ground floor of the Space-to-Create building in Ridgway. The vision is that this room can serve as a "resiliency hub" where community members could gather during a power outage,

enjoy comfortable temperatures and charge their communication devices.

SMPA plans to install another of these units at the Ridgway office to back up communications equipment critical to power restoration and outage status communication with the community.

At the Annual Meeting, last month, SMPA announced that we have obtained two construction grants in the amounts of \$46,900 for the Decker Room microgrid project, and another grant in the amount of \$83,750 for SMPA Ridgway office critical communications. Thank you to the Colorado Dept. of Local Affairs for making these funds available for these visionary projects.

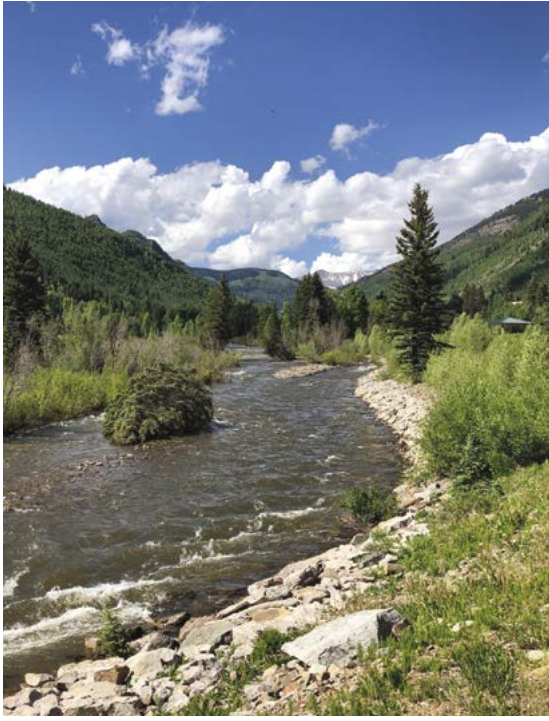


The 2024 SMPA Annual Meeting

The 85th SMPA hybrid Annual Meeting was held on June 6th, at the SMPA office in Nucla with an online audience as well. The meeting featured gifts, prizes, booths, a dinner for in-person attendees, and a \$10 bill credit for all member attendees. The overall meeting theme was "Energizing Our Future," and topic reports included:

- SMPA safety, community support, finances, partnerships and programs
- The focus topic was on the timing of energy use and the potential for a time-based rate to better align with...
- Consumer demand and changes in the industry, including our power supplier, Tri-State Generation and Transmission

The meeting concluded with the reading of results for the 2024 board director elections in District #1, and District #4. In District #1, 405 validated ballots were received. 305 votes were for candidate, Tom Loczy. Candidate, Bette Nickell received 100 votes. Tom Loczy was declared the winner of the District #1 board election. Since incumbent Director Toby Brown ran unopposed, he was deemed re-elected, and no ballots were mailed to members in District #4 per SMPA bylaws.



Rico’s Riverfront to Bring Economic Vitality – An Example of Sharing Success

When San Miguel Power Association partnered with CoBank to provide economic development grants to help stimulate economic growth in our local communities, we challenged local leaders to leverage their existing strengths to obtain what’s needed to ratchet up economic success—that’s exactly what the town of Rico did in its 2023 application.

As Rico has experienced in the past, visitors are so enamored of its beauty and charm, they visit again and again, often coming to Rico multiple times throughout the year, and returning each summer. However, there is not sufficient lodging in Rico to meet demand, and this lack of lodging negatively impacted businesses.

This conclusion led community organizers to propose the Rico Town Park and Outdoor Recreation Hub Project, which includes a proposal to build 6 primitive campsites on the riverfront property owned by the Town. The overall project aims to generate much-needed and desired recreational opportunities and communal gathering spaces, to greatly enhance community health and well-being, and to catalyze tourism and economic sustainability while strategically leveraging the rare and beautiful Dolores riverfront acreage owned by Rico.

SMPA is proud to support the Rico riverfront campsites project with a \$15,000 Sharing Success grant; we can’t wait to see what comes from investing in this bold, yet practical plan.

Your Opinion Counts: Participate in our Member Survey

You – our cooperative members – are our guiding force. This summer, we are conducting an online survey to gather input directly from our local membership. Your feedback is appreciated, and responses will help us enhance our service to you.

San Miguel Power members may receive an invitation by email this month to participate in the online survey from Bellomy Research. Responses are anonymous, and your answers will help ensure that we serving our community effectively, planning to meet local needs, and responsive to opportunities to improve the ways we serve you.

As community-owned cooperative, our members are our purpose. We exist to serve you, and we are committed to providing the highest level of service now, and into the future. Thank you for your membership and your input!



Member Question Answered!

Question: A Time-Based Rate is being considered by the SMPA Board of Directors; what do you project the economic effects will be on the consumer and SMPA?

SMPA: The economic effect of a move to a time-based rate structure is important to measure. We project that the overall economic effect would be a net benefit to the members of SMPA. If we are working with our members to manage capacity costs—even lower them—that is a significant win for our entire cooperative.

These are some other important considerations that we are exploring:

1. What are the economic impacts of not changing the rate structure as member needs continue to change? As heat pump, EV, solar and other electrification is being adopted by members, distribution system operators, like SMPA, are finding that they have an opportunity to support the changing member needs.
2. Given that SMPA operates on a not-for-profit basis and seeks to cover annual expenses in a fair and equitable manner, how do we best manage cost distribution under the scenario of accelerated electrification?
3. What rate structure will help us effectively navigate the changing energy landscape?



Managing Notifications – SmartHub’s Best Kept Secret

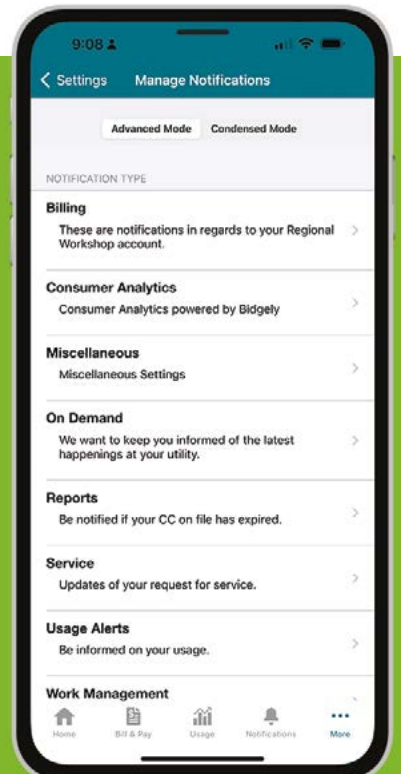
It can be difficult to save time and money when you don’t have the right information at the right time. SmartHub will email and/or text you important notifications about activity on your account. You tell SmartHub when and how to contact you. Some notifications even allow you to get specific, such as setting the numbers of days to remind you before your bill is due. **If you have questions or need support you can call us at (970) 209-5593, email us at energywise@smpa.com, or visit our SmartHub support page at smpa.com/content/smarthub.**

Some common notifications include:

- Bill Available
- Payment Due
- Payment Confirmation
- Delinquent Notice
- Credit Card Expiration
- Power Outage

You’ll have the option to modify account notifications in three categories:

- Billing
- Service
- Miscellaneous



SMPA
POWER PLAY

THIS MONTH’S PUZZLE:
IF I C A MAN TRUTH BITS SOON

Hint...Save time & money with ‘em.

Last Month’s Answer: TIMING MATTERS

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

EnergyWise
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Ridgway, CO 81432