

# ENERGYWISE

Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives  
The power of human connections®

YOUR SAN MIGUEL POWER MEMBER NEWSLETTER



## CONTACT INFORMATION

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

**KIDS ARE OUT OF SCHOOL. HELP THEM STAY SAFE AROUND ELECTRICITY. REMIND THEM:**

- Do not climb trees near power lines or poles.
- Keep electrical cords away from water.
- Watch out for thunderstorms! If you can hear thunder, it's time to come inside.

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.intakeusda.gov](mailto:program.intakeusda.gov).

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

## Telluride Sports Makes 100 Percent Commitment to San Miguel Power Association's Green Blocks Program

IN A RECENTLY SIGNED AGREEMENT, ALL 11 SHOPS IN THE VAIL RESORTS RETAIL/TELLURIDE SPORTS FAMILY ARE PARTICIPATING IN THE SAN MIGUEL POWER ASSOCIATION'S (SMPA) GREEN BLOCKS PROGRAM THAT ALLOWS PARTICIPANTS TO PURCHASE RENEWABLE ENERGY TO ENSURE THEIR ELECTRICAL ENERGY CONSUMPTION IS CARBON FREE.

**HOW IT WORKS:** Electricity generated by renewable resources is placed on the same grid as traditional electricity. The purchase of Green Blocks guarantees that the renewable energy being purchased is actually generated from a renewable source and placed on the grid. Buying one Green Block is equivalent to not driving a car for 1,800 miles or planting a half-acre of trees. In total, Telluride Sports is initially purchasing 2,880 Green Blocks for its 11 participating locations.

This program is not just available to businesses. Green Blocks credits may be purchased by any SMPA member to offset their energy use. The more homes and businesses that participate, the more renewable energy this region claims, and that goes a long way toward reducing our carbon footprint.

The Green Blocks Program was launched in 2009 and is available to homes and businesses in their service areas which includes Telluride, Mountain Village, Down Valley, Silverton, Ouray, Ridgway, Norwood, Nucla, Naturita, and surrounding areas.

Another benefit is that all proceeds from the sale of Green Blocks directly supports the development of more local renewable energy, for example the 200 kilowatt IQ Solar array, built in 2017 near Norwood, Colorado. "Telluride Sports' support for Green Blocks is a further commitment for more local renewables," continues Freeman.



*When SMPA members like Telluride Sports participate, they secure the environmental benefits associated with their purchase of renewable energy. This furthers our communities' efforts to reduce, offset and ultimately eliminate carbon pollution.*

—WILEY FREEMAN, SMPA MEMBER SERVICES MANAGER

Environmental responsibility goes beyond using renewable sources. It also emphasizes using less energy. Telluride Sports is also extending their commitment to this goal.

Following an extensive energy use audit provided by SMPA and the local non-profit Eco Action Partners in all 11 stores, the Telluride Sports team determined that switching from existing lighting to more energy efficient LED lighting would be the most effective way to decrease energy use. Based on that



decision, beginning in October of last year, they began replacing older lighting. The estimated energy and utility bill savings from this retrofit is expected to cover the additional cost of making the switch to renewable energy. In

addition, due to the longer life of LED bulbs, an estimated 1,200 fewer traditional light bulbs will go into the landfill annually.

"Living and working in a spectacular setting like Telluride makes all of our employees keenly aware of the importance of becoming as energy efficient as possible because we all want to preserve our fragile environment," explains Todd Brewer, director of operations for Vail Resorts Retail western slope. "When we learned more about the programs offered by the San Miguel Power Association, we recognized that it was a very natural way for us to start making a meaningful difference in reducing emissions and to support green energy sources."

*Continued Other Side...*

All 11 Vail Resorts Retail locations in Telluride that include five Telluride Sports stores, Telluride Sports Ski Tune Center, San Miguel Angler, Neve, Patagonia, Burton, and The North Face will participate in the San Miguel Power Association (SMPA) Green Block Energy Program. The 100 percent purchase of renewable energy credits will support Vail Resorts' "Epic Promise for a Zero Footprint" initiative. All stores have converted to LED light bulb to reduce overall energy usage, offset Green Block program costs, and reduce landfill waste.

For more information about the San Miguel Green Blocks renewable energy credits, visit: [www.smpa.com/content/green-centsgreen-blocks](http://www.smpa.com/content/green-centsgreen-blocks).

*Telluride Sports Continued...*

Last summer, Vail Resorts announced that the Company will aggressively pursue a comprehensive sustainability commitment, called “Epic Promise for a Zero Footprint”. This ambitious undertaking, commits to zero net emissions by 2030, zero waste to landfill by 2030 and zero net operating impact to forests and habitat.

The Company intends to go beyond setting a partial emissions reduction target by executing on a more expansive and ambitious plan. “Epic Promise for a Zero Footprint” comprises three pillars: emissions, waste, and forests and habitats, with a thoughtful approach to each that was developed in consultation with leading sustainability experts in the industry. Vail Resorts’ “Epic Promise for a Zero Footprint” will enable resort guests and more than 30,000 employees the opportunity to enjoy the natural environment and resources without leaving an impact.

## Turning the Corner: Sharing Success Grant Benefits the Ouray Perimeter Trail



THE TOWN OF OURAY, NESTLED IN THE RUGGED ROCKY MOUNTAINS, IS OFTEN REFERRED TO AS THE SWITZERLAND OF AMERICA. ENCIRCLING THE TOWN, IS THE PERIMETER TRAIL WHICH CLIMBS AROUND THE MOUNTAIN SIDES PASSING OLD MINES, WATERFALLS, THE ICE PARK AND OTHER SCENIC POINTS OF INTEREST EN ROUTE.

This trail has approximately 20,000 users logged in the trail head record each year and the forest service estimates that only about 1/3 of hikers actually sign the trail register.

Undoubtedly, the trail is a strong economic driver for the local community, so when the Ouray Trail Group--official caretakers of the trail--sought to improve and expand a small section near the Cascade Falls, they applied for an SMPA Sharing Success Grant. Sharing Success combines donations from SMPA, and its cooperative partners, CoBank and Basin Electric to promote economic development in our local communities. “It’s such a boost to be able to access these funds.” said Hale

Houts, Trail Maintenance Leader. “It’s definitely a labor of love for our volunteers, but when we see an investment like this into something we all care about, it’s really inspiring.”

The trail group was able to use the grant funds and nine volunteers to repair a section of trail that was eroded and dangerous. The new section safely connects upper access to the cascade falls and completes the Eastern portion of the loop and it also reaches a nice spot for viewing of the falls that the old section had missed. “We invite folks to come check out the improvements,” said Houts. “...but don’t forget to sign the register.”

— NEW HEIGHTS —

**THE SAN MIGUEL POWER ANNUAL MEETING**

**FOOD**  
**MUSIC**  
**PRIZES**  
**UPDATE**  
**EXHIBITS**  
**FRIENDS**

*Join Us!*  
**4:30-7:00PM**  
**THURSDAY, JUNE 7**

SMPA  
NUCLA OFFICE  
170 WEST 10<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE

## Students Shine at the West End Schools Career Expo

“What do you want to do when you grow up?” is one of those tough questions for teenagers. “That’s why it’s so critical that today’s young people get a chance to meet working professionals and ask questions,” says Nucla High School’s Academic Counselor/Athletic Director, Kelly Arnold. Arnold and the administrators at Nucla High School wanted to help their students think practically about their future careers, so they organized the West End Public Schools Career Expo.

The school invited representatives from businesses, colleges, the military and other organizations to talk to middle and high school students about real options that are open to them. Among those invited to host a booth, was San Miguel Power Association. “The electric power industry is facing record numbers of

retirements in the coming years,” says SMPA Spokesman, Alex Shelley. “The only way for us to replace those talents and skills is for us to reach out to the young people. Students don’t always know how to set themselves up for success, but we can help.”

“Because we’re in a small town, we’re not always able to see things like this,” says Nucla High School Junior, Cheyenne Joseph, who stopped by the SMPA booth. “It’s a really good opportunity for students to see what’s out there.”

“Because students like Cheyenne were engaged, and curious,” said Shelley, “the Career Expo was unquestionably a success.” Thanks to Nucla High School for hosting the event and thanks to the students who stopped by our table. Your future looks bright, indeed.

Attention Residents & Businesses:

# GREENLights is Back!

May 18 -June 29, Get 75% Off LED Lightbulbs While Funds Last

TO PURCHASE:  
Visit [www.ecoactionpartners.org/greenlights](http://www.ecoactionpartners.org/greenlights)  
For More Information Call 970.728.1340 or  
[Greenlights@ecoactionpartners.org](mailto:Greenlights@ecoactionpartners.org)

**Have a Happy Independence Day!**  
**Our Offices will be Closed 7/4**  
Basic Services Available [smpa.com](http://smpa.com) or 970.626.5549

**Ridgway River Festival**

Saturday  
**June 30 • 2018**  
Rollans Park • Ridgway

Come generate your own hydro-electricity at the SMPA booth! Win fun prizes!

[www.ridgwayriverfest.org](http://www.ridgwayriverfest.org)

**SMPA POWER PLAY**

**THIS MONTHS PUZZLE: I net read guy**  
Hint: To make your home more efficient, start with this.

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

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