

# ENERGYWISE



Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives  
The power of human connections®

## YOUR SAN MIGUEL POWER MEMBER NEWSLETTER



### CONTACT INFORMATION

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

### OCTOBER IS FIRE PREVENTION MONTH

- 1: Have you ever tested your smoke alarm? It takes less than a minute, and it could save a lifetime.
- 2: Never put electrical cords under rugs or in high-traffic areas.
- 3: Loose connections cause fires. If the plug fits loosely, replace either the plug or the outlet... or both.

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](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.

## They Use Whatever They've Got From Norwood to Guatemala and Back

Outside of the Trade School, where SMPA Area Service Technician, KJ Johnson stayed during his trip to electrify the village of Sillab in Northeastern Guatemala, the villagers held a welcome ceremony for the assembled linemen from America. "The whole village was there," said Johnson. "There were kids, and music—they really like their music—and they said prayers of thanks for us. Through an interpreter, they told us how grateful they were that we were there, and they told us—anything we needed them to do, they would do."

The cheerful event marked the beginning of a project that would forever change the lives—not just of the villagers—but of the volunteers as well. Over the next two weeks, Johnson, and the rest of the team from electric cooperatives in Colorado and Oklahoma would work to bring power to Sillab.

They began by re-framing the first phase of a project that had energized the neighboring village of Chiis, back in 2017. Just like this

mission to Sillab, the project in Chiis was organized by the Oklahoma Energy Trails Foundation, with backing from NRECA International, the philanthropic arm of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. According to team member, Kyle Weber of Tri-County Electric Cooperative, Inc., when the trucks drove by the village of Chiis, there was great cheering and excitement from the locals, "because they knew why the trucks are there." They were there to bring the gift of light to Sillab.

With the line split, the volunteer linemen could then bring the single-phase line off of the mountain and down to Sillab, zig-zagging through the community, running taps, and setting transformers for each home. "It's hard to explain how I feel about it," said Johnson. "What these people have is different than what we have. We feel very fortunate to live where we do, but still, while I was there, I'd never been treated so well in my life."

**To share his experience in Guatemala, Johnson brought back hundreds of photos. Here are but a few:**



*The local cooperative agreement states that the consumers are responsible for providing their own lift pole on which to mount the attachment point. "As you can see, from this photo," said Johnson, "they use whatever they've got."*



*The unofficial welcome committee of (left to right) Edgar, Maria and Carmen never missed their chance to greet the American crews. "I usually got up about 5:30 AM," said Johnson. "...but no matter what time it was, those three kids were there. They greeted us every morning and they were waiting for us when we got back."*



*KJ in position atop the pole that would send the power line down the mountain side to Sillab. Crews had just hung the first transformer and were getting ready to pull the wire to raise it into position. "Right where you see me there," remarked Johnson, "...is one of the most beautiful places that I have ever been."*



*"The West Slope Crew" (left to right) Chris Stanworth of White River Electric, Rodney Sherman of Holy Cross Energy, and KJ Johnson of SMPA brought their experience of working in mountainous regions to the project.*

# New Look. New Experience. Same SmartHub.



SmartHub online and mobile app provides a lot of features that help you manage your account, from billing and payment info to detailed usage analysis. It's a great tool to help you access your account information on the go or online.

This fall, SMPA will be rolling out a new upgrade for the SmartHub mobile application that will help you get to the features you need quickly and efficiently.

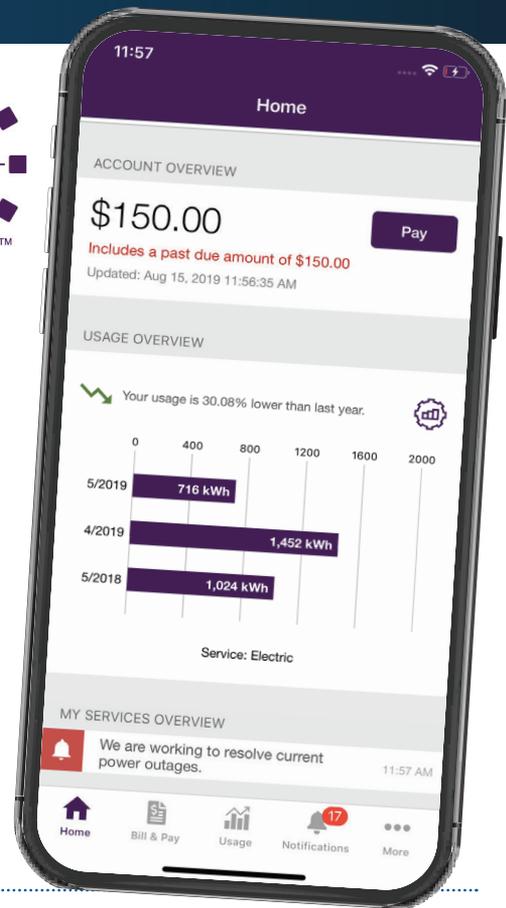
First, you'll notice the mobile app will have a fresh, new look. When you open the app, you'll be able to see your usage analysis right up front or can contact us with the click of a button right from the home screen.

Outage and billing alerts will also be displayed right on the home screen, making it easy for us to communicate important information with you. Billing, payment and other features will be available with one click of a button in a new condensed menu.

Look for these changes coming this fall! We hope these app updates will help provide a more user-friendly and efficient experience. All of the features you love about SmartHub now will still be available, just with a refreshed look and an enhanced user experience.

Look for the changes coming this fall! New Look. New Experience. Same SmartHub.

Look for a refreshed and enhanced new mobile app this fall!





**Learn. Discuss. Take Part.**  
Power Hours is your chance to talk to us directly. Rates, renewables, reliability and more...  
When will Power Hours be in your home town? Find out at [www.smpa.com](http://www.smpa.com).

Mountain Village	The Madeline Hotel "M" Lounge 568 Mountain Village Boulevard	October 14 <sup>th</sup> 6PM to 7:30PM
Ridgway	Full Tilt Saloon 153 US-550	October 16 <sup>th</sup> 6PM to 7:30PM
Ouray	To be announced	October 17 <sup>th</sup> 6PM to 7:30PM



## ...What is it Dude?

**Totally Green** is San Miguel Power's simplest way for you to use electricity from 100% renewable sources. Sign up once. The **voluntary** 1¢ per kilowatt-hour bill adjustment automatically tracks your electricity use and makes the needed investment.

**Renewable Energy is Awesome!**

When you power your building with a mix of **Solar, Wind** and **Hydroelectric** power, you...

- lessen your own **carbon footprint**.
- invest in SMPA's **Carbon Clear fund** which helped build a community solar array in Paradox as well as the IQ Solar array in Norwood, CO. (*More local projects to come.*)
- promote renewable energy production **nationwide**, and help move the needle on climate change **worldwide**. Sweet!

**It's Totally Affordable**

If your average bill is...	\$50	\$100	\$150
Totally Green will cost an additional...	\$1.94	\$5.37	\$8.80

More detailed charts available on the web page below.

Sign up at: [smpa.com/content/sign-totally-green](http://smpa.com/content/sign-totally-green)

2019 

## SHARING SUCCESS

Organizations and businesses may receive up to **\$10,000** in \$1,000 increments in dollar-for-dollar matching funds for **economic development projects**.

Interested parties should email [phora@smpa.com](mailto:phora@smpa.com)

**Application Deadline: October 17<sup>th</sup>**


**Youth Tour & Youth Camp APPLICATION DEADLINE: Monday, December 9**  
Learn more at: [www.smpa.com/CommunityPrograms/YouthPrograms](http://www.smpa.com/CommunityPrograms/YouthPrograms)



# SMPA POWER PLAY

**This Month's Puzzle: PIE WHERE SPANS GLO**  
Hint: The kind of AC power in which all voltages vary in unison. It's best for loads that are mostly lighting and heating with not many large electric motors.

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

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

## SCAM ALERT!

If you get a call from someone threatening to turn off your power, hang up.  
View your account status at [smpa.smarthub.com](http://smpa.smarthub.com)