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Solar Garden growing at Last Dollar Community



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MARCH 2020

ENERGYWISE



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YOUR SAN MIGUEL POWER MEMBER NEWSLETTER



SAN MIGUEL POWER ASSOCIATION



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 x212

SAFETY TIPS

CERTIFICATIONS MATTER

- Ensure that all electrical products and equipment are certified by a nationally recognized testing laboratory, such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL)
- Allow only trained and qualified electrical workers to perform work on electrical equipment.

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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.intakeusda.gov.

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

Telluride's Own Solar Garden Awakens

JUST OUTSIDE OF TELLURIDE, NESTLED INTO THE DEEP CREEK MESA, ABOVE THE AIRPORT, A SILENT MIRACLE IS TAKING PLACE. USABLE ELECTRICITY IS BEING GENERATED FROM PURE SUNLIGHT AND TRANSMITTED ONTO THE LOCAL POWER GRID. "THERE'S CARBON-FREE POWER BEING PUT ON THE GRID ... AND THAT'S A GOOD THING," SAYS TIM ERDMAN, OWNER AND OPERATOR OF THE NEWLY COMMISSIONED LAST DOLLAR COMMUNITY SOLAR GARDEN.

This 250-kilowatt (kW) facility is the third community solar array to be tied to the San Miguel Power distribution grid, following arrays in Paradox and Norwood. As with its predecessors, Last Dollar Solar subscriptions are available for any SMPA member who would like to include solar generation in their carbon footprint calculation, but subscriptions may be particularly attractive to Telluride and Mountain Village residents who are currently subject to Telluride Energy Mitigation Program (TEMP) or Renewable Energy Mitigation Program (REMP) regulations. Under these regulations, the array qualifies as offsite renewable mitigation and, for many, subscriptions can cost less than the associated fees.

As is the case with other arrays on SMPA's grid, subscribers will see a credit on their power bill equal to their portion (up to 25 kW) of the array's energy production each month. SMPA is able to purchase energy from the array due to a 5% carve-out of an all-power-requirements contract with electric wholesaler, Tri-State Generation and Transmission (Tri-State). "This addition brings us right to the edge of what we are allowed to locally generate under the current contract," says SMPA Energy Services Executive, Terry Schuyler. "However, in

response to calls from our membership for more local, renewable energy, we have been pushing Tri-State to allow more flexibility in the contract."

SMPA's efforts seem to have been rewarded.... As the recently announced Tri-State Responsible Energy Plan will allow SMPA to add another 2% (appx. 2000 kW) of community solar gardens in the near future. SMPA hopes to capitalize on this with plans being made to begin more solar development this year.

For now, members who find rooftop solar to be impractical, have another option. They can purchase a subscription to Erdman's Last Dollar Community Solar Garden in Telluride. Erdman himself, sees the array as just a beginning. "My dream and my expectation is that, as solar photovoltaic equipment improves, it will become part of the built environment. I'd like to see how much I can help in terms of showing people what can be done and helping them get it done."

To learn more about the Telluride Last Dollar Community Solar Garden, and to subscribe, visit www.telluridesolargarden.com.



2020 ELECTION REMINDERS

★ Notice of Right to Nominate Directors

San Miguel Power Association, Inc. (Cooperative) will hold its Annual Election of Directors to be concluded on **Thursday, June 11, 2020**. Two directors will be elected; one from Board District #1 including Nucla, Naturita and the West End of Montrose County and one from Board District #4 including Colona, Log Hill, and certain parts of Telluride.

Nominations may be made only by petition, which must be signed by fifteen (15) or more members certified from the district in which the election is being held.

For your complete Notice of Right to Nominate Directors, please visit www.smpa.com/content/elections.

★ Petitions DUE April 27th

To those interested in running for a seat on our Board of Directors: Petition Packets are available in our offices this month. Completed packets are DUE April 27.

Helpful Hint: Get more than the minimum 15 signatures and bring in your packet early, so we can verify them.

★ Ballot Addressing

Ballots are mailed to your member mailing address. This may differ from your billing address.

Please call us to ensure your membership contact information is up-to-date.



ELECTION SCHEDULE

- **February, 2020:**
This notice mailed to members in District #1 and District #4.
- **Mid-March, 2020:**
Nomination packets available for pick up at SMPA Offices.
- **April 27, 2020:**
Nomination Packets (*Petitions with 15 or more valid member signatures*) DUE.
- **April 27, 2020:**
Date of Record (*Members who join or who make changes to primary account after this date not eligible to vote in 2020.*)
- **Before May 22, 2020:**
Completed petitions posted in both Ridgway & Nucla offices.
- **Mid-May, 2020:**
Ballots mailed to members in Districts #1 & #4.
- **June 10, 2020:**
Mail-in ballot deadline. Must be RECEIVED by close of business on this date.
- ★ **June 11, 2020:**
ANNUAL MEETING
170 W. 10th Avenue
Nucla, Colorado

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...just when you thought it couldn't get any easier to pay your bill, SMPA's SmartHub brings you the Pay Now feature!

- Easy online bill payment, no registration required to login
- No stored payment information, credit card or checking account information entered each time a payment is made
- Streamlines the quick payment process; simply click "Pay Now" at the top of web page.

Future Project:

Learn about the Red Mountain Electrical Reliability and Broadband Improvement Project at one of these meetings in Silverton:

San Juan County Courthouse, 1557 Greene St.
March 11, 8:30 AM

Silverton Town Hall, 1360 Greene St.
March 23, 7 PM

SMPA POWER PLAY

This Month's Puzzle: C RUBEE AIR TRICK

Hint: It opens and closes an electrical circuit automatically.

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.coop