

ENERGYWISE



YOUR SAN MIGUEL POWER MEMBER NEWSLETTER



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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

FOR THE HOLIDAY

- Inspect electrical decorations for damage before use
- Avoid overloading electrical outlets
- Never connect more than three strings of incandescent lights

Look Who's Totally Green

A MOVEMENT HAS BEGUN IN THE SAN MIGUEL POWER ASSOCIATION (SMPA) SERVICE TERRITORY. AN INCREASING NUMBER OF MEMBERS ARE EXPRESSING A DESIRE TO SEE THEIR ELECTRICITY GENERATED FROM RENEWABLE SOURCES LIKE SOLAR, WIND AND HYDROELECTRIC. ALREADY, ABOUT 1/3 OF THE RETAIL ELECTRICITY THAT SAN MIGUEL POWER DISTRIBUTES IS SOURCED FROM THESE TYPES OF GENERATORS, 10% OF WHICH HAIL FROM SMALL FACILITIES OUR LOCAL TERRITORY. EVEN SO, MANY MEMBERS HAVE ASKED WHAT THEY CAN DO TO COVER THEIR ENTIRE MONTHLY ELECTRICITY USE WITH RENEWABLE POWER.

The journey toward this goal has several paths and, for many, the most attainable is SMPA's new "Totally Green" program. This program allows organizations and individual members to set up a small monthly automatic investment (1¢/kWh). Then, utilizing Renewable Energy Certificates, the state-sanctioned instrument for Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS), SMPA covers each participating member's electricity use with "green" power, allowing that member to identify as "Totally Green."



The idea has caught on. Since the program launched in July of 2019, over 120 members have subscribed. Among them are some businesses and organizations you may recognize:

THE TELLURIDE / MOUNTAIN VILLAGE GONDOLA – Totally Green since 2008

Owned and operated by the Town of Mountain Village, and largely funded by the Telluride Mountain Village Owners Association, this unique transportation system has been operating on 100% renewable power for over a decade thanks to its purchase of SMPA Green Blocks (the program forerunner of Totally Green)

TELLURIDE SPORTS – Totally Green since June 4, 2018

All 11 Vail Resorts retail locations in Telluride participate in the Totally Green program. The 100% coverage of their electricity use helps fulfill the Vail Resorts' "Epic Promise for a Zero Footprint." All stores have also converted to LED light bulbs to reduce overall energy use.

CLARK'S MARKET – Totally Green since September 18, 2019

With 3 locations in Telluride and Norwood, Clark's Market has committed to cover 100% of their local electricity use with investments into Totally Green.

MOUNTAIN CHILL (KRKQ) Radio at 95.5 – Totally Green since November 5, 2019

When Mountain Chill founders, Eric and Ethan Funk found out about Totally Green, they saw an opportunity to complete what they had started years earlier by utilizing efficient design and optimized antenna polarization to achieve a highly efficient radio transmitter.

Combined with their self-generated solar power, Mountain Chill's Totally Green investment brought the station's renewable power balance to 100% of station needs.

SAN MIGUEL COUNTY – Totally Green since November 20, 2019

SMPA is pleased to welcome San Miguel County as the first county government to join the Totally Green program. The county sees Totally Green as a first step toward their officially-adopted goal (in 2017) to be carbon neutral as soon as possible. The county has also made lighting upgrades and other energy efficiency improvements and is considering self-generation with battery backup, not only for environmental, but for safety and security reasons as well.

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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.intake@usda.gov.

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

Totally Green continued...

Although Totally Green is a relatively new campaign, many local organizations have been offsetting their electricity use with renewable energy for years. Here's a special shout out to some of the pioneers of green power subscription in our territory.

Notable Purchasers of SMPA Green Blocks:

- Town of Telluride
- Ouray County
- Mountainfilm
- Telluride Angler
- Colorado Boy
- Telluride Association of Realtors (TAR)

Notable Participants in the Paradox Community Solar Array:

- Town of Ophir
- Alpine Bank
- Telluride Housing Authority
- Ridgway Public Library
- Town of Ridgway
- Telluride School District R-1

As of this writing, a total of 323 members purchase Green Blocks on a monthly basis. If you currently purchase Green Blocks and would like to upgrade to a more accurate, full-offset solution, contact Key Accounts Executive, Terry Schuyler, terry.schuyler@smpa.com and ask what it would take for you to go Totally Green.

Want to know more about Totally Green? Get your questions answered at smpa.com
>Renewable Energy>Totally Green.

**For Financial Stability and Growth
 Congratulations to the 2019 Sharing Success Economic
 Development Grant Recipients**

For the past five years, San Miguel Power Association, in conjunction with national cooperative partners, CoBank has sought to stimulate and enhance our local economies by offering the "Sharing Success" matching grants to selected applicants.

This year, the grant monies from SMPA and CoBank were bolstered with matching dollars from wholesale power provider, Tri-State Generation and Transmission (Tri-State) and wholesaler, Basin Electric Power Cooperative. Over the past several months, Member organizations and businesses applied for up to \$10,000 in \$1,000 increments in dollar-for-dollar matching funds depending on the costs of their initiatives. Initiatives varied in size and scope but all awarded projects were selected based on their projected benefit to the entire business community of a region, not just individual businesses.

Our congratulations go out to these grant recipients:

- Ouray Ice Park: \$6,000 – Securing Permanent Water Supply
- Telluride Mountain Club: \$6,000 – 2020 Trails Project
- Ridgway Chautauqua Society: \$2,250 – Marketing and Audience Expansion
- Unawweep – Tabeguache Interpretive Center: \$2,250 – UTIVC Façade Upgrade
- San Juan Development Association: \$6,000– Relocation & Growth Initiative

Look in future issues of EnergyWise to see coverage of these projects and their impacts on communities like yours.

We thank our partners, CoBank, Tri-State and Basin Electric for helping us financially support projects and programs that are actively working to improve the financial stability of our local businesses.



Oh, What fun it was...

Thanks to Naturita, Norwood and Ridgway for hosting parades of light. We were thrilled to join in with our Christmas floats. We'll see you again, next year!



CENSUS 2020

MAKE RURAL



COUNT

It's important, It's easy, It's safe



Apply by the End of this Month!

Up to \$27,000 in Scholarships are Available from San Miguel Power. Apply at smpa.com> Community Programs>Youth Programs
Deadline: JANUARY 27, 2020



**SMPA
 POWER PLAY**

This Month's Puzzle: AT ENERGY TOLL

Hint: An awesome way to help wipe away your carbon footprint.

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

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