

# ENERGY WISE

YOUR SAN MIGUEL POWER MEMBER NEWSLETTER

## IN THIS ISSUE:

• SMPA I.Q. Programs Bring Savings to those Who Need 'em Most - Efficiency & Solar Combined to Cut Bills for Income-Qualified Members.....1

• The Co-op Cares... - Community Events, Non-Profits Enjoy Co-op Support.....2  
 • Two SMPA Board Seats up for Election.....2

**MARCH 2016**



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**www.smpa.com**  
**www.facebook.com/SanMiguelPower**

In the event of a power outage, contact your local SMPA office. If it is after hours, you will be able to automatically transfer to our 24-hour dispatch.

## QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS

Send your questions or suggestions for the editors of EnergyWise to:  
**energywise@smpa.com**  
**(970) 626-5549 x212**

## SAFETY TIP

**Remember to never overload a power strip—especially with an energy intensive appliance like a space heater. This can overload circuits and cause fires.**

San Miguel Power Association is an equal opportunity provider and employer. If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W. Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

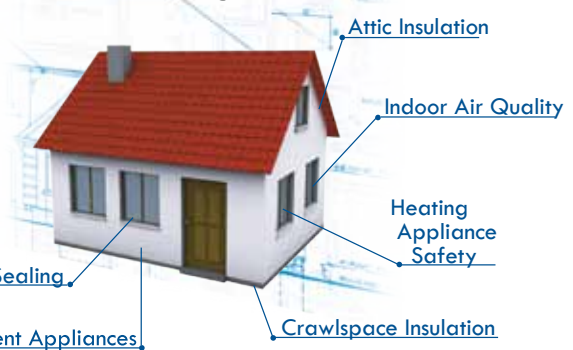
## NOTABLES: SMPA I.Q. Programs Bring Savings to those Who Need Them Most

### Efficiency & Solar Combined to Cut Bills for Income-Qualified Members

San Miguel Power Association (SMPA) is partnering with the Colorado Energy Office and Grid Colorado to expand community access to solar energy for hard-working families throughout the state. SMPA's participation will also enhance SMPA's free home efficiency program, known as the SMPA I.Q. Weatherization Program. Together, these income-qualified or "I.Q." Programs will offer an unprecedented level of assistance to families struggling to pay their bills.

"SMPA has long been a leader in energy efficiency and renewable energy," said SMPA Board President, Rube Felicelli. "We are now making home efficiency upgrades and local renewable energy readily available to our lower income members through the SMPA 'I.Q.' or 'income-qualified' programs. We are excited to join with our partners, Energy Outreach Colorado, the Colorado Energy Office, Grid Alternatives and EcoAction Partners to reduce our carbon footprint while reducing the financial burden of high electrical bills on local families in need."

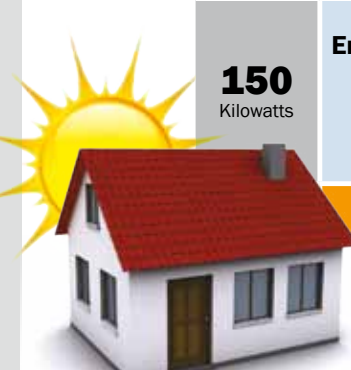
It is no secret that a well-insulated, tightly-sealed home with energy-efficient appliances is cheaper, safer, and more comfortable to rent or own than its leaky counterpart. Unfortunately, many of the residents of inefficient homes are the very ones who can least afford to waste energy. "We were looking for ways to help those having difficulty paying their bills," said SMPA Member Services Manager, Brad Zaporski. "We were also aware of a strong desire within the membership to reduce our carbon footprint. With help from our partners, we've been able to combine the solutions to both of these problems into one program."



For SMPA, free home weatherization is nothing new, but this is the first time community solar will further assist those households that get involved in the program. A community solar array will provide convenient access to solar power for the participants, allowing them to save money by tapping into an abundant, local, renewable resource.

SMPA is still looking for community partners. All entities interested in reducing financial stress on low-income families are encouraged to contact SMPA.

What benefits are there for SMPA? It's simple: Homes will draw less energy from the grid once they are improved. And solar panels that harvest energy from the sun will allow the utility to buy less energy up front, saving money and keeping it within the local economy. While the I.Q. programs will provide definite benefits to their participants, the savings will also come back to the cooperative, which benefits all its members. "It's great to be part of a community that works together to achieve a better future," Zaporski says. "That's what cooperatives are all about."



SOLAR ARRAY CAPACITY	PROJECTED RETURN OVER PROJECT LIFETIME:			
	Empowerment	Self-Reliance	Impact	Progress
150 Kilowatts	Total Cash Assistance Generated	Kilowatt-hours Generated	Lbs. CO <sub>2</sub> Saved	Passenger Vehicle Miles Saved
	<b>\$327,276</b>	<b>4,489,865</b>	<b>8,665,439</b>	<b>9,358,528</b>

## SMPA I.Q. SOLAR

# The Co-op Cares...

Community Events, Non-Profits Enjoy Co-op Support

Think about the community in which you live. What's going on? Have you attended a cultural or sporting event lately? Have you ever witnessed volunteers and public servants in action during an emergency? Our communities are filled with groups and organizations

dedicated to improving our lives, but how are these paid for?

One source is the local electric co-op. As a member-owned cooperative, SMPA is always looking for opportunities to support worthy community causes like these...



The Silverton San Juan Fire & Rescue Authority recently completed their new facility on Greene St. in Silverton. The facility will include tools for vehicle maintenance paid for, in part, by a donation from SMPA. Flanked by volunteer firefighters, Director, Terry Rhoades presents a check to Fire Chief Gilbert Archuleta.



With assistance from Tri-State Generation and SMPA (Represented by Director, Jack Sibold (L)) The Chautauqua Society, (Represented by Board President, Patrick O'Leary (R)) will be able to expand offerings of the historic Sherbino Theater in Ridgway.



SMPA representative, Alex Shelley (L) was thrilled to meet skijorers like Richie Weber (R) at the Silverton Skijoring pre-registration party sponsored by San Miguel Power Association.

## Two SMPA Board Seats up for Election

Two four-year positions on San Miguel Power's Board of Directors will be up for election this year. SMPA encourages members residing in districts one and four, who are interested in taking a more active role in the oversight of their cooperative, to pick up a nomination packet at either our Nucla or Ridgway office during regular business hours.

District one includes Nucla, Naturita, Uravan, Paradox, Redvale, Basin, and Slick Rock. District four includes

Colona NW of Ouray, Log Hill W of Ouray, Rural Telluride N. of Hwy 145, & Telluride NW of Townsend and Colorado Ave., NW of Tomboy & W. Colorado, N of Black Bear Road, & Mahoney Drive.

Packets are due on April 25. Ballots are mailed to members in the above districts in mid-May and must be received by June 8. Voters may also cast their votes in person at the Annual Meeting, from 4:30 - 5:30 pm on June 9 at our Nucla office.

For the most up-to-date outage information, be sure to...



## CONGRATS!

This summer, Ridgway Secondary School's Emma Gould will represent our cooperative at the National Rural Electric Youth Tour in Washington D.C. She'll visit monuments, learn about cooperatives and meet our state representatives.

Emma Gould's essay, entitled "Cooperatives are Community" won her an all-expenses paid trip to Washington D.C. on the Rural Electric Youth Tour. Go Emma!



**MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**  
Learn about Green Blocks  
[www.smpa.com](http://www.smpa.com) → Renewables

## WHAT'S IN YOUR OUTAGE SAFETY KIT?



## ELECTION

★ 2016 ★

### How to Run for the Board of Directors:

- ★ **Mid-March:** Pick up nomination packets at Ridgway & Nucla SMPA Offices.
- ★ Get your petition signed by 15 or more registered members from the district in which you are seeking election.
- ★ **April 25, 2016:** Petitions must be received during regular business hours at the SMPA Office in either Nucla or Ridgway.
- ★ **Mid-May:** Ballots mailed to members in District No. 1 and No. 4.
- ★ **June 8, 2016:** Mail-in ballot deadline. Ballots must be RECEIVED by this date.
- ★ **June 9, 2016: ANNUAL MEETING**  
- Member Registration / Voting: 4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.  
- Business Meeting: 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.