

ENERGYWISE



Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives
The power of human connections®

YOUR SAN MIGUEL POWER MEMBER NEWSLETTER



CONTACT INFORMATION

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Both Offices Open by Appointment:
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

HEATING PAD & ELECTRIC BLANKET SAFETY

- When covered by anything, including other blankets or pads, electric blankets may overheat.
- Never fold electric blankets when in use. Folded or tucked in blankets could overheat and cause a fire.
- Heating appliances should never be left unattended or used while sleeping.

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 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.

Nucla Resident Gets Home Efficiency Upgrades for FREE. Do You Qualify?

IN THIS NEWSLETTER, WE ADVERTISE SEVERAL PROGRAMS THAT CAN HELP OUR MEMBERS SAVE ENERGY AND MONEY, BUT IT IS THE MOST FUN, BY FAR, TO TELL THE STORY OF ACTUAL MEMBERS WHO HAVE SUCCESSFULLY USED A PROGRAM TO IMPROVE THEIR LIVES.

This story is about Nucla resident, Steve Adam. His story begins on an ordinary day when he went to our Nucla office to pay his bill. (At that time, our offices were open to masked walk-ins, observing social-distancing requirements; at the time of this writing, offices are open by appointment only.)

While Steve was in the lobby, our member service representative, Cindy, mentioned our I.Q. Weatherization and Solar programs. She gave Steve a flyer explaining the programs. Then Steve made a decision that will be saving him money month after month, while improving the comfort and value of his home. After finding out that he qualified, he took the next step and applied.

The following month, Steve's home received a complete energy assessment including a blower-door test. (See sidebar.) After this walk through, Steve's home received many upgrades. SMPA contract specialists upgraded all lighting to LED, installed pipe insulation for hot water heating, installed a water heater blanket, added low flow fixtures, cleaned and tuned his furnace, performed air sealing work including the addition of all-new storm windows. These upgrades have significantly reduced his energy bills and allowed for a much more comfortable home at no cost to him! Steve was grateful and expressed his thanks so many times for the improvements.

"Genuinely, it is quite a remarkable thing to feel so much gratitude at work every day in this program," said Energy Auditor & I.Q. Program Manager, Jacqueline Hess. "I have yet to walk away from a home wishing I hadn't been at work that day."

Energy upgrades aren't always cheap. Some of the homes end up having up to \$10,000 of work done or even more to make qualifying improvements. These upgrades are then able to drastically lower energy bills for the resident. Moreover, SMPA members who have their weatherization work completed are eligible to join the I.Q. Solar Array in Norwood. Participants in this array receive bill credits for their portion of the array's generation for that month, lowering their bills even more.

To learn more about the I.Q. Weatherization and Solar programs, visit www.smpa.com/content/IQ-PROGRAMS



The blower door test allows us to pull air out of the house so we then can efficiently detect where air leaks are present.



Nucla resident, Steve Adam, SMPA Member Service Representative, Cindy Chiles, SMPA Energy Services Executive, Phil Zimmer and EcoAction Partners I.Q. Program Manager, Jacqueline Hess.



2021 Board Election

Two positions on SMPA's Board will be up for election this year. If you live in or near Silverton, Ouray, Ophir or Mountain Village, you may be eligible to run. See the insert that accompanies this newsletter and your bill for more information.

Congratulations to the 2021 Sharing Success Economic Development Grant Recipients

For the past six years, San Miguel Power Association, in conjunction with national cooperative partner, 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 were bolstered with matching dollars from wholesale power provider, Basin Electric Power Cooperative. The following initiatives were selected based on their projected benefit to the entire business community of a region, not just individual businesses.

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

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



Our congratulations go out to these grant recipients:

| | | |
|------------------------------------|---------|--|
| Ourray County Nordic Council | \$3,300 | Increasing Nordic Ski Trail Capacity |
| Telluride Mountain Club | \$3,900 | Regional Trails Projects: Outreach & Education, Construction & Maintenance |
| Montrose West Recreation | \$3,900 | Pioneers Redefined - West End Trails Master Plan Phase 2 |
| Ridgway Bike Park | \$3,900 | Bike park and paved pump track |
| West End Economic Development Corp | \$7,500 | Community Business Development Support |
| Town of Rico | \$7,500 | Rio Grande Southern Dolores Placer Connection Trail Planning Grant Application |

Upcoming Scholarship Deadline: February 8th 2021 (Basin Electric \$1000)

One of the many benefits granted to our communities by our power partner, Basin Electric Power Cooperative is an annual \$1000 Scholarship. The deadline to apply is February 8th. If you know a college-bound student, be sure to let 'em know!

Also... SMPA is giving out up to \$26,000 in college and vocational scholarships. The deadline to apply for these is March 15th.



Nucla Blood Drive – February 17th!

Giving blood saves 4.5 million lives each year in the U.S., yet fewer than 1 out of 10 people in the U.S. donate. According to ABC News, the Red Cross needs 80,000 units on hand daily, but only has about 36,000. Our next blood drive will be on February 17th at our office in Nucla. Please donate!



We have safe practices implemented, and donations are made by appointment.

To make an appointment, call the blood center at 970-298-2555 or SMPA at 970-864-7311 ext. 116

Supply Chain Lead Times on Equipment Higher Than Normal



San Miguel Power Association (SMPA) is alerting contractors, builders and members that lead time on materials is still longer-than-normal. This may impact line extension and service upgrade projects in 2021. SMPA is working to maintain a healthy inventory of equipment to minimize the

potential delays, yet we encourage stakeholders to review their project estimates and timelines closely. To ensure realistic expectations, please reach out to our planning department regarding any changes in your project timeline.

SMPA POWER PLAY

This Month's Puzzle: I NEAT ONE TRAC CORPS

Hint: We're lucky to have them coordinating our rebates and I.Q. Programs.

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

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