



Earth Day  
Announcements  
Rocked our World!



SMPA EV Chargers  
to Promote Low-  
Emissions Travel



2021 Board  
Candidates  
Announced

MAY 2021

# ENERGYWISE

YOUR SAN MIGUEL POWER MEMBER NEWSLETTER



Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives  
The power of human connections®



SAN MIGUEL POWER ASSOCIATION



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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

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## SAFETY TIPS

### MAY IS ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH

The Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) sponsors National Electrical Safety Month each May to increase public awareness of the electrical hazards around us at home, work, school, and play. For more information about electrical safety, visit [www.esfi.org](http://www.esfi.org)

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## Earth Day Event Sparks Interest in EVs, Totally Green & the Energy Transformation

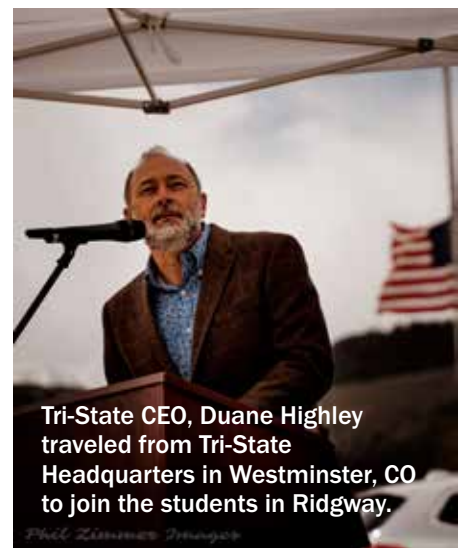


Ridgway High School students were excited to welcome the "Lightning Bug" electric car to the Ridgway School District.

If the Earth had a soft spot, it would have been at the Ridgway Secondary School at the Earth Day Celebration, last month. At this event, the Secondary School students joined local governments, businesses, community organizations and electric cooperatives, San Miguel Power Association (SMPA) and Tri-State Generation and Transmission (Tri-State) to show their commitment to improving the environment.

Included was a rockin' renewable-themed music mix, an electric vehicle (EV) parade, the introduction of Ridgway Secondary School's new EV charging stations and the hand-over of the beloved "Lightning Bug" electric car (converted from a 1971 VW Bug) to the school. "Thank you to our kids for making this happen," said Ridgway Schools Superintendent, Susan Lacy. "We have great hope that you can help us make this a better world." "We want to help you fix it," said Ridgway Mayor, John Clarke. "I urge all of you to get involved. We believe you're a huge part of the future."

Students were also informed about ongoing local initiatives to improve the environment, including the "greening" of the local and regional electric grids. "It's remarkable, the changes



Tri-State CEO, Duane Highley traveled from Tri-State Headquarters in Westminster, CO to join the students in Ridgway.



SMPA's Totally Green program and Beneficial Electrification Rebates were on display at the Earth Day event.

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**EARTH DAY cont. from pg. 1**

we've seen in our electric industry in the past few years," said SMPA Board President, Rube Felicelli. "I commend our board for being forward-thinking and I commend Tri-State for the direction they've gone."

Tri-State's CEO, Duane Highley traveled to the event from Tri-State Headquarters in Westminster to accept the praise and celebrate the installation of the School's new EV charging stations, which Tri-State largely funded, along with over 245 others across its 200,000 square-mile territory. "We are in the middle of a major green energy transition," said Highley.

**“ By 2023, half of that energy used to charge these vehicles will be from renewable sources, and by the end of the decade, we will have decarbonized the power supply in Colorado by over 80%.**

–DUANE HIGHLEY, CEO, TRI-STATE GENERATION AND TRANSMISSION

The two charging units unveiled at the school were provided with funds from SMPA (\$2000), the Colorado Energy Office (\$9,000) and Tri-State (\$12,000). The chargers and the EVs that had paraded onto the campus to music and fanfare exemplified the concept of "Beneficial Electrification," which notes that switching from fossil-fuel burning appliances to electric is, ultimately, better for the environment.

SMPA marked the occasion by rolling out its "Beneficial Electrification" Rebates for EVs, all-electric, or "Green Medallion" homes, heating systems and a myriad of other appliances. Visit [www.smpa.com/content/electric-vehicles-and-beneficial-electrification](http://www.smpa.com/content/electric-vehicles-and-beneficial-electrification) to learn more.

American historian Howard Zinn once referred to efforts like these as "...small acts that, when multiplied by millions of people, can transform the world." Ridgway Secondary School students will likely remember that they were witnesses to, and participants in that transformation.



**Great News!** SMPA has been awarded a "Charge Ahead Colorado" grant from the Colorado Energy Office to install Level II Dual Port Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations at its offices in Nucla and Ridgway.

"We're excited to be able to offer this service to our communities," says Brad Zaporski, Chief Executive Officer of SMPA. "As folks begin to save money by replacing their gas automobiles with electric, they're also contributing to a much larger effort to reduce carbon emissions as the electric grid that powers them gets cleaner every day."

About 80% (\$18,000) of the cost of the charging stations is being funded by Charge Ahead Colorado and by SMPA's wholesale power

**Local Governments and Businesses Honored for Going Totally Green!**

The list of local organizations going Totally Green keeps growing! In 2019, SMPA introduced Totally Green! a simple way to ensure that 100% of the electricity powering a home or business was from renewable, carbon-free sources like solar, wind and hydroelectric. The program quickly became one of the most popular offerings that SMPA has.

At the April 22<sup>nd</sup> Earth Day Celebration, SMPA welcomed recent enrollees, Ouray County, the Town of Ridgway, Mountain Chill Radio and the Coffee Bear coffee shop in Silverton. These four were the first to receive SMPA's "living trophies" (pictured) commemorating their commitment.

The below listed businesses and organizations have made the same commitment:

- The Telluride / Mountain Village Gondola
- Telluride Sports
- Clark's Market
- San Miguel County
- The Wilkinson Library

*It may take a while, but we'd like to get trophies to each of these. If you represent one of the following, and you'd like a trophy to display in one of your public areas, please contact [alex@smpa.com](mailto:alex@smpa.com). We'll make arrangements.*

Notable Participants in the Paradox Community Solar Array:	Notable Purchasers of SMPA Green Blocks:
• Town of Ophir	• Town of Telluride
• Alpine Bank	• Ouray County
• Telluride Housing Authority	• Mountainfilm
• Ridgway Public Library	• Telluride Angler
• Town of Ridgway	• Colorado Boy
• Telluride School District R-1	• Telluride Association of Realtors



By the way...

Are you a residential member who has gone Totally Green so far? Stay tuned. We're working on something cool for you as well!

provider, Tri-State Generation & Transmission. The remainder of the cost is being paid for by money that SMPA budgeted for this purpose. "Congratulations," says Colorado Energy Office Program Manager, Matt Mines. "We look forward to working with you in strengthening our state's EV charging network."



**2021 SMPA Board Candidates Announced**

At the April 27<sup>th</sup> SMPA Board Meeting, the candidates for the upcoming board election were announced. In district #7, which includes Silverton and Ouray, the candidates are Rory Cowie and Terry Rhoades, both from Silverton. In District #5, which includes Mountain Village, incumbent director, Rube Felicelli is running unopposed and will be deemed re-elected per SMPA bylaws.

**SMPA POWER PLAY**

**This Month's Puzzle:**  
ONE DREAMING ELL

**Hint:** Apply, and you might get this for your all-electric home.

**SUBMIT YOUR ANSWER** and be entered into a drawing for a fun prize to: **EnergyWise PO Box 1150 Ridgway, CO 81432**