



Keeping the Rate Increase Minimal



The Grid: Past & Future



More Funding for College Scholarships!

DECEMBER 2022

ENERGYWISE

YOUR SAN MIGUEL POWER MEMBER NEWSLETTER



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CONTACT INFORMATION

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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

Electrical Safety Tips for the Holiday Season:

- Avoid stapling Holiday lights to your home's exterior.
- Never use indoor-only extension cords, lights, and electrical decorations outdoors.
- Use caution with multi-outlet converters and power strips.
- Keep an eye on pets, especially puppies and kittens.

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(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.

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Board Approves Rate Increase for 2023, Strategy Deployed to Keep Increase Minimal

MOST RESIDENTIAL ACCOUNTS TO SEE \$2/MONTH INCREASE

At its November meeting, the San Miguel Power Association (SMPA) Board of Directors elected to implement a two dollar increase to the SMPA electric access charge with no change to the kWh energy rate for all electric accounts, including all rate classes and lighting tariffs.

For most residential consumers, the increase will amount to \$2 per month on the access charge, or \$24 per year above the current charge. www.smpa.com/rates

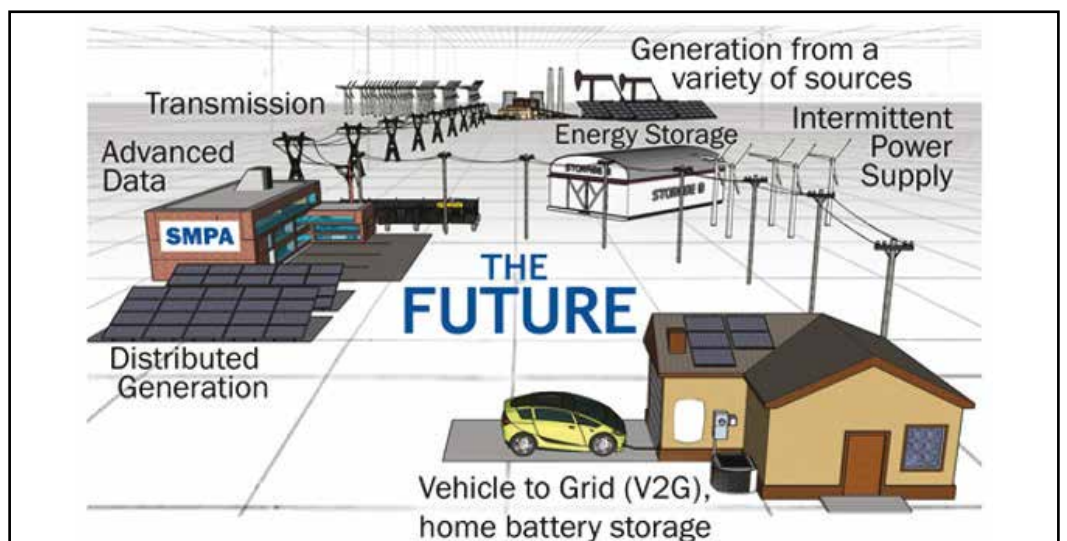
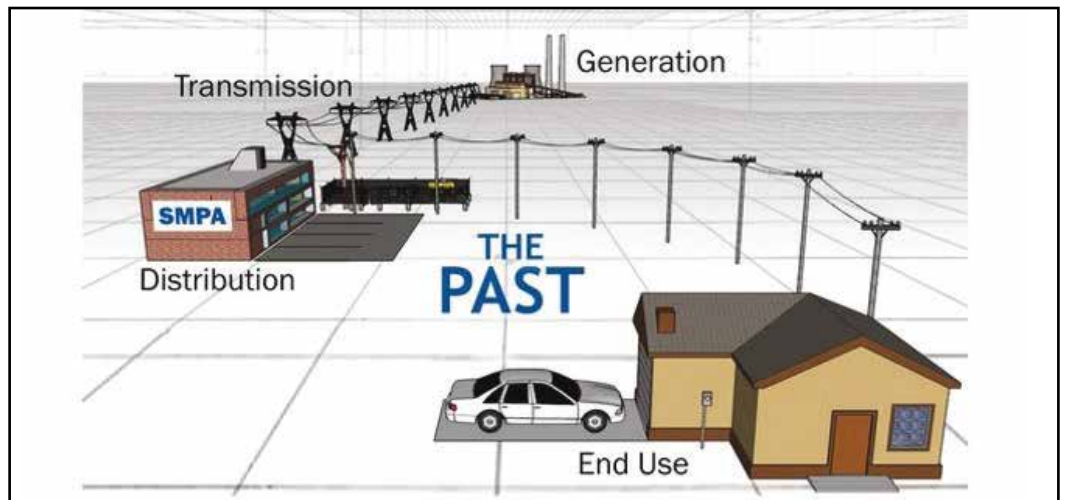
Chief Executive Officer, Brad Zaporski summarized the 2023 rate increase by saying, "I am proud of the SMPA staff's efforts in cost containment, as well as our Board's multi-year financial strategy of using deferred revenue to keep this rate increase to a fraction of the rate of inflation."

Before the board voted, they heard from members who wished to comment on the proposal. Once all comments had been made, the board continued with its meeting, and unanimously approved the recommended \$2 increase.

With this action, SMPA has kept the increase to 1.1% despite inflationary cost pressures through careful financial planning, deferred revenue, and delayed major capital projects.

This Ain't Your Grandparents' Electrical Grid...

One of the challenges of operating the modern electrical grid is transforming it from its original uni-directional, fossil-fuel-reliant design to the clean, flexible, decentralized system that we need as we march into the future. We look forward to partnering with our members to help make it happen.





We've Increased our Amounts!

San Miguel Power now awards up to \$51,000 in college scholarships to students who are dependents of SMPA members. We award up to nineteen scholarships to deserving graduating seniors. www.smpa.com/content/scholarships

The following scholarships are available:



- \$1,000 Basin Electric Scholarship (Deadline: February 20, 2023)



- Rocky Mountain Electrical League Foundation Scholarship Application (Deadline: Feb 25, 2023)



- \$3,000 San Miguel Power Association Scholarship (Deadline: March 13, 2023)



- \$3,000 San Miguel Power Association Vocational Scholarship (Deadline: March 13, 2023)

Following the Code: Electrical Safety, Fire Prevention and Your Electric Cooperative



Home electrical fires account for an estimated 46,000 fires each year, nearly 400 deaths, more than 1,300 injuries, and \$1.5 billion in property damage. Nationwide, home electrical systems are the third leading cause of home structure fires. These facts are sobering reminders of how dangerous electricity can be.

Fortunately, we have several protections, working in the background, that, when followed, substantially reduce the risks associated with electrical fires. The National Electrical Code (NEC), or NFPA 70, is a United States standard for the safe installation of electrical wiring and equipment. While the NEC is not itself a U.S. law, NEC use is commonly mandated by state or local law. In Colorado, the Colorado Electrical Board, which licenses, registers, and regulates electricians, apprentices, and electrical contractors, refers to the NEC in its enforcement of the Colorado State electrical statutes.

As part of our mission to provide safe electric service, SMPA recognizes the importance of national and state efforts to promote the safe use of electricity. It's difficult to appreciate what is saved by a fire that never occurred, yet we know that these documents and mandates, which remain largely invisible to the average consumer, can be credited for saving lives and property, every day.

Source: NFPA report



Wishing You a Joyous Holiday Season!

Remember:

SMPA Offices will be closed Dec. 22nd thru Dec. 26th ...and again, on Jan. 2nd. Basic services are always available on www.smpa.smarthub.coop

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Application Deadline: January 16th, 2023

SMPA POWER PLAY

This Month's Puzzle:
HELLION ET TACTICAL DRONE ACE
Hint... A Great Protector

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

EnergyWise
PO Box 1150
Ridgway, CO 81432



Have you changed your phone # or email?
Let us know at 1-877-864-7311