



Ouray Goes TOTALLY Green!



Board Election Reminder!



Member Dividends at Work

FEBRUARY 2022

ENERGYWISE

YOUR SAN MIGUEL POWER MEMBER NEWSLETTER



Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives
The power of human connections®



CONTACT INFORMATION

Nucla
170 W. 10th Ave.
P.O. Box 817
Nucla, CO 81424
(970) 864-7311
Toll Free: (877) 864-7311

Ridgway
720 N. Railroad St.
P.O. Box 1150
Ridgway, CO 81432
(970) 626-5549
Toll Free: (877) 864-7311

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

SPACE HEATER SAFETY

- Give your space heater space and stability
- Make sure there's an automatic shut-off function
- Never, ever plug a space heater into a power strip

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(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.

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City of Ouray Goes Totally Green

At last month's City of Ouray Council Meeting, the City joined the Town of Ridgway and Ouray County in going Totally Green. By participating in the San Miguel Power Association (SMPA) Totally Green program, the City now consumes 100% renewably sourced electricity.

In many cases, renewable energy from the open market is used to fulfill Totally Green requirements. In the case of Ouray however, 100% of the city's municipal electricity use is covered by the output of the Ouray Hydroelectric Plant, which recently began producing electricity again after partnering with the Ouray Ice Park to make repairs following a six-ton rockfall event that damaged the facility's penstock in March of 2021. (See last month's story, "Cooperation Carries the Day") Given this unique situation, it is truthful to say that Ouray now generates its own power. (By the way, the statement also holds true for the County of Ouray, which is also a Totally Green participant for their municipal accounts).

The net proceeds from the City's contribution goes to the SMPA Green Fund. It is the Green Fund which enables SMPA to develop more locally sourced renewable energy projects. This fund is also the source

for the Energy Efficiency and Beneficial Electrification rebates offered to SMPA members, including significant rebates for larger projects (such as the pending Telluride Foundation Affordable Housing project being planned in Ouray). We commend the City of Ouray for further stimulating conservation and local, renewable generation in the beautiful mountain community of Ouray.



SMPA Communications Executive, Alex Shelley presents the Totally Green 'Living Trophy' to City of Ouray Mayor, Ethan Funk at the Ouray City Council Meeting, in January.



What Other Local Governments are Totally Green?

- Ouray County
- The Town of Ridgway
- San Miguel County
- The Town of Telluride

Skijoring Beats the Odds... and the Mud

Congratulations to San Juan Skijoring for holding a successful sixth annual event during the first weekend in January. Despite high temperatures and lack of natural snow, organizers put together an event that continued to delight competitors and audiences from all across the west. Thanks to our power providers, Tri-State Generation & Transmission, and Basin Electric Power Cooperative for helping us sponsor the event.



Take the survey.
ecoactionpartners.org/survey



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SMPA Member Dividends to Help Affordable Housing Efforts in Mountain Village

VILLAGE COURT APARTMENTS EYES ENERGY EFFICIENCY INVESTMENTS

It's been said that cooperative membership has its privileges, and one that was recently realized, was the distribution of over \$1 million in Member Dividends to long time members of SMPA. A point that is not always mentioned is the impact that these funds can have on local organizations that, in turn, help their communities.

One such organization is the Village Court Apartment (VCA) complex in Mountain Village. The scarcity of affordable housing in this area is no secret, but the Town of Mountain Village Housing Authority works to mitigate the problem by providing a 220 unit rental complex with 88 units subject to reduced rents in the 50-60% average median income range. In fact, all 220 units provide affordable rental rates to the community with similar rental rates extended to all units in the complex.

"We were thrilled!" said Michelle Haynes, Planning and Development Services Director and Housing Director for the Town of Mountain Village, when asked how the VCA responded to a Member Dividends check of over \$9,400 for dividends from its units. "We intend to apply the dividend towards replacing unit hot water heaters that have exceeded their lifespan with more efficient ones.

Energy Efficiency upgrades can help low, moderate and middle-income individuals and families save even more on their monthly utility bills. Co-op member dividends help make these efforts possible. Haynes also mentioned other benefits of co-op membership: "We appreciate having representation, proactive rebate and incentive programs, and membership weigh in."

At SMPA, we applaud VCA's work to provide affordable housing and promote energy efficiency, and we're glad to help.



Niyol Wind Comes Online

NextEra Energy Resources, LLC and Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association celebrated the commissioning of the Niyol Wind Energy Center – with a dedication ceremony near Fleming, Colorado.

The project is the second of eight planned wind and solar projects to be constructed for Tri-State by 2024 under its Responsible Energy Plan.

The addition of Niyol Wind and the earlier Crossing Trails Wind project in 2021, brings the portion of carbon-free energy consumed by Tri-State's members, including SMPA, up to 40% of the total. With the addition of other renewable projects, this number is forecasted to rise to 50% clean energy by 2024.



The Niyol Wind Energy Center features 74 wind turbines capable of generating up to 200 megawatts of clean, renewable energy.

2022 Board Election

Notice of Right to Nominate Directors

San Miguel Power Association, Inc. (Cooperative) will hold its Annual Election of Directors to be concluded on Thursday, June 9, 2022. Two directors will be elected: one from District #3, covering parts of Montrose, San Miguel, Ouray, Dolores and San Juan Counties including Dunton, Norwood, Placerville, Rico and Sawpit, and one from District #6, covering part of Ouray County including Ridgway and much of Log Hill Village. If you live in or near one of these communities, you'll receive an election information insert along with this newsletter. If so, you may be eligible to run. See the insert for more information.

Nominations may be made only by petition, which must be signed by fifteen (15) or more members certified from the district in which the election is being held.

For your complete Notice of Right to Nominate Directors, please visit www.smpa.com/content/elections.

Petitions DUE April 7th

To those interested in running for a seat on our Board of Directors: Get your Petition Packet by emailing alex@smpa.com next month. Completed packets are DUE before the close of business on April 7.

Helpful Hint: Get more than the minimum 15 signatures and bring in your packet early, so we can verify them for you.

Ballot Addressing

Ballots are mailed to your member mailing address. This may differ from your billing address.

Please call us to ensure your membership contact information is up-to-date.



SMPA Collegiate & Vocational Scholarships Deadline is March 14, 2022!



To Apply:

www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=telluridescholarship

SMPA POWER PLAY

This Month's Puzzle: TIS R ORB OF OD CADRE

Hint: Sets the course.

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

Last Month's Scramble Answer: ACCESS FEE



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