



More than a
Dishwasher...



Mountain Towns
Adopting Climate
Action Plans



Before You Use
Your Portable
Generator...

DECEMBER 2023

ENERGYWISE

YOUR SAN MIGUEL POWER MEMBER NEWSLETTER



Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives
The power of human connections®



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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 x2120



SAFETY TIPS

HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS

- Inspect all electrical decorations.
- Water the tree daily.
- Use battery-operated candles.

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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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Can My Dishwasher Help Lower Costs and Reduce our Reliance on Fossil Fuels?

The time during which we use energy is as important as how much we use. Most home dishwasher appliances come with a "Delay Start" function. Although each dishwasher model is different, a quick review of the online user manual will remind you of how to set it. Will doing this really reduce local power costs and reliance on fossil fuels?

Absolutely.

The SMPA electrical load tends to follow a certain trend. Most often, there is a peak usage period from 4 PM to 9 PM, which places a high demand on infrastructure and relies heavily on the burning of fossil fuels. There is no doubt that, if enough SMPA members made a habit of using discretionary electrical loads outside of the 4 PM to 9 PM window, it would change our load shape and reverse these effects.

As the energy landscape continues to evolve, a dynamic pricing model could empower our consumers to make environmentally-conscious choices while promoting a more resilient and responsive electricity infrastructure. If SMPA can reduce its peak demand, it could lower costs while reducing our reliance on fossil fuels.

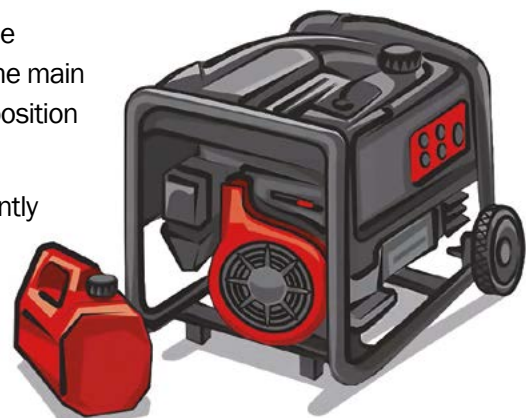


Preventing Electrocutions Associated with Portable Generators Plugged into Household Circuits

When power lines are down, residents can restore energy to their homes or other structures by using another power source such as a portable generator. If this is necessary, manufacturer recommendations and specifications must be strictly followed.

When using gasoline- and diesel-powered portable generators to supply power to a building, switch the main breaker or fuse on the service panel to the "off" position prior to starting the generator.

This will prevent power lines from being inadvertently energized by backfeed electrical energy from the generators and help protect utility line workers or other repair workers or people in neighboring buildings from possible electrocution.



SMPA Secures DOLA Microgrid Planning Grants to Support Community Resiliency, and Advance Community Climate Goals

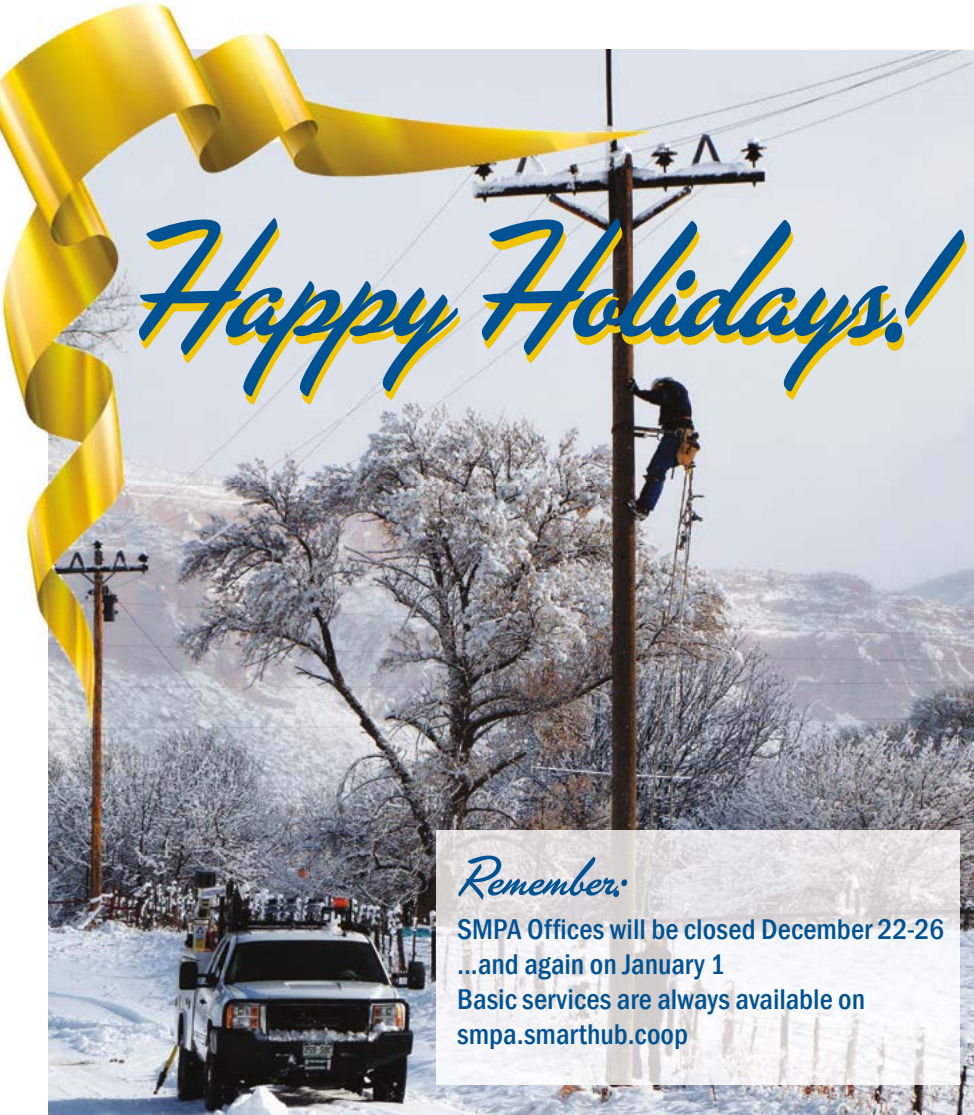
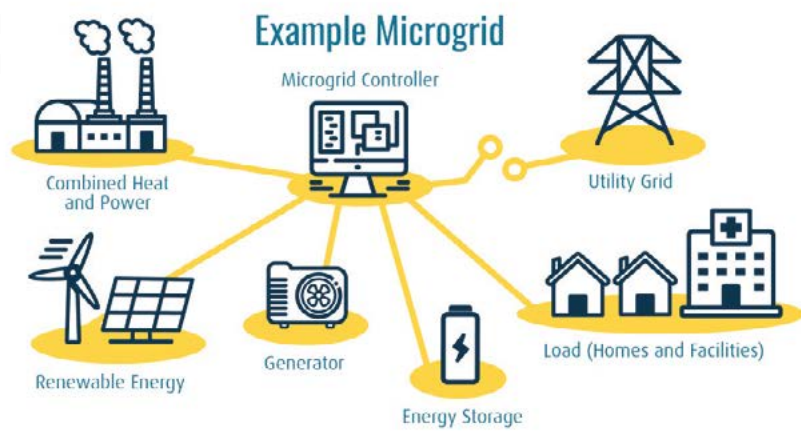
The recent “Mountain Town 2030 Climate Solution Summit” highlighted the proactive role of mountain communities in adopting climate action plans over the past decade. A key focus was on beneficial electrification and implementing sustainable infrastructure. At the summit, Terry Schuyler, from the San Miguel Power Association (SMPA), presented the four Microgrid for Community Resilience (MCR) planning grants SMPA had secured from the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA).

Microgrids, defined as independent electric distribution systems with distributed energy resources like solar arrays and batteries, offer backup power during outages. SMPA’s initiative responds to the needs of towns like Silverton, Rico, Ophir, and Ridgway, which have experienced power outages or that need backup power sources. The grants are for exploration of the feasibility of microgrid projects in these towns. If the projects move forward, they could not only enhance emergency resiliency but also contribute to climate action by harnessing solar energy and reducing reliance on centralized fossil-fuel-generated power.

Despite the benefits, there are concerns from some community members about the visual impact of local

microgrids and over their potential effects on open spaces, and property values. SMPA aims to work with each community to identify and address these concerns through feasibility studies designed for maximum community benefit.

Proponents of microgrids express hope that these initiatives will enable mountain communities to reduce dependence on centralized power and support climate action goals while maintaining community input in decision-making processes. Community Microgrids that include locally-sited renewable energy are widely believed to be an important element of the transition to the new energy future.



Remember:
 SMPA Offices will be closed December 22-26
 ...and again on January 1
 Basic services are always available on
smpa.smarthub.coop



SMPA POWER PLAY

This Month's Puzzle:
ALL HAIL A CORECT SPEED
 Hint...Peaks and Valleys

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

EnergyWise
 PO Box 1150
 Ridgway, CO 81432

ELECTION ANNOUNCED:

The SMPA Board District #1 and District #4 elections will be held on June 6th, 2024 at the 85th Annual Meeting at 170 W. 10th Ave. in Nucla.

Learn more at www.smpa.com/content/annual-meeting-election.