



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
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



SUMMER ELECTRICAL SAFETY

- Avoid plugging in electronics close to a pool.
- Convert basic outdoor outlets to GFCI outlets.
- While trimming or climbing trees, watch out for nearby power lines

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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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The 2023 Annual Meeting: SMPA's Time to Shine!

The San Miguel Power Association held its 84th Annual Meeting of Members, with both online and in-person attendees.

The meeting was called to order by Dave Alexander, Vice President of the San Miguel Power Board. The CEO, Brad Zaporski, gave a report on the major advancements made by San Miguel Power in 2022, including fire mitigation efforts and the installation of high-definition cameras with artificial intelligence for early detection of fires. The collaboration with the Fire Protection district was highlighted as a valuable relationship in the event of natural disasters.

Another strategic objective discussed was community resiliency and system hardening, which involved the construction of a microgrid in collaboration with San Miguel County. The project received a \$1.1 million grant and included beneficial electrification, renewable energy, and resiliency rebates. San Miguel Power also received planning grants to explore microgrid systems and community solar arrays in other locations.

Zaporski addressed future expenses, mentioning changes at their power supplier, Tri-state, which is now regulated by the Federal Energy



A young member gets an up-close look at an SMPA drone with line technician and drone pilot, Tom Brew explaining it's operation.

Regulatory Commission (FERC). This regulation may result in the direct assignment of radial transmission costs, potentially increasing expenses for San Miguel Power. Tri-state announced a 6.6% increase in wholesale power bills starting in 2024, which may require retail rate adjustments. The company's long-term financial planning helped mitigate cost increases in the past, with electric rates rising one-fifth the rate of inflation over the past four years.

The importance of intelligent timing in power usage was emphasized to cut costs and carbon emissions. Net metering, the solar energy program, was discussed, noting the issue of

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In an effort to serve you better, we ask you to please make sure we have your most current information so we can contact you in case of emergency. This includes your mailing address, phone number and email.

Thank you for your cooperation.

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power produced at off-peak times having lower value. Discussions with net metering accounts, solar installers, and other stakeholders are ongoing to find equitable solutions. The billing statement now includes information on peak and off-peak energy usage to educate members on the value of timing.

Doylene Garvey, the Board Secretary and Treasurer, provided a recap of the previous year's meeting and reported on the cooperative's financial position. Revenues in 2022 reached nearly \$31 million, with the majority coming from residential members. Power and transmission expenses accounted for the largest cost. Financial ratios were met or exceeded, and member equity grew by over \$46 million. The Treasurer's report demonstrated sound financial health and strategic optimization.

The Board President's Report acknowledged the importance of member opinions and engagement. They discussed changes to the idle services policy and

sought member input to ensure fairness and equity. The cooperative aimed to address the region's affordable housing needs by supporting the nonprofit developer, Rural Homes for Sale, for Locals.

The meeting also focused on another potential solution to the issue of timing in electricity use. Vehicle-to-grid integration or "V2G." is a technology that enables electric vehicles to not only consume electricity from the grid, but also to return excess electricity to the grid during times of peak demand. Guest speaker, Diego Lopez, executive director of the Save Energy Coalition covered this topic, providing context and resources for members interested in investigating electric vehicles or V2G on their own.

Overall, the meeting covered updates on fire mitigation, community resiliency, future expenses, intelligent power usage, and financial health. The cooperative emphasized collaboration, member engagement, and their commitment to affordability and sustainability.

EV 101 - SMPA's Annual Meeting Keynote Address

At last month's Annual Meeting, one topic that received special attention was something that may soon be saving significant amounts of energy, money and carbon emissions throughout the territory: Electric Vehicles (EVs) and Vehicle-to-Grid Integration (V2G). The presentation was delivered by Diego Lopez, the Executive Director of the Save Energy Coalition, a non-profit organization focused on promoting energy and transportation solutions.

Lopez started by providing an introduction to EVs and their importance in addressing pollution and reducing emissions. He highlighted that transportation is one of the largest emitters of pollution, with 30% of emissions coming from vehicles. EVs produce fewer carbon and ozone emissions, even when charged from a grid that is partially powered by fossil fuels. Moreover, they offer economic benefits, as electricity is cheaper than gasoline, and EVs are more fuel-efficient.

The main barrier to EV adoption discussed in the presentation was the upfront costs of electric vehicles and charging stations. The Save Energy Coalition aims to alleviate these costs through grants and funding programs. Diego Lopez presented various grants available for businesses, schools, and workplaces to

install charging stations, covering up to 80% of the costs. He also mentioned tax incentives for consumers purchasing EVs and for installing public charging stations.

Lopez touched on the topic of vehicle-to-grid (V2G) technology, which enables electric vehicles to not only consume electricity from the grid, but also to return excess electricity to the grid during times of peak demand. He explained the necessary components for V2G to work, including smart grids and compatible vehicle plugs.

The presentation provided an overview of the importance of EV adoption, the benefits of charging infrastructure, available grants and incentives, and resources to support individuals and organizations in transitioning to clean energy and transportation solutions. Additional resources at smpa.com/evs-what-why-&-how



Diego Lopez, executive director of the Save Energy Coalition, spoke about EVs at the Annual Meeting

Fire Mitigation & Vegetation Management: An SMPA Top Priority



By prioritizing [vegetation management](#) and [wildfire mitigation](#), SMPA is contributing significantly to reducing the risk of electrical infrastructure-related wildfires, enhancing public safety, and maintaining reliable power supply.

SMPA actively manages vegetation growth around power lines and equipment. We conduct regular inspections and implement trimming or clearing programs to maintain proper clearance distances.

Additionally, SMPA conducts risk assessments to evaluate areas prone to wildfires. Analyzing historical data, weather patterns, and other factors helps to identify high-risk zones.

In the event of a wildfire, SMPA will coordinate closely with fire authorities and take proactive measures to safeguard power infrastructure and ensure the safety of personnel and customers. This may involve temporarily de-energizing power lines in affected areas to prevent equipment damage and reduce the risk of igniting fires.

SMPA
POWER PLAY

This Month's Puzzle:
DIG ON T RETRIEVE A LIGHT COIN

Hint... Driving savings.

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

EnergyWise
PO Box 1150
Ridgway, CO 81432



GIVE BLOOD

vitalant.org

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16
11:30 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.
170 W. 10TH AVE., NUCLA