



Energy Efficient Upgrades – For FREE!



Electrical Reliability & Broadband Project Ahead



Sharing Success Grants are Back!

NOVEMBER 2023

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 x2120



✓ KITCHEN SAFETY TIPS

Keep the floor clear of toys, bags and clutter

✓ Ensure that appliance cords are out of children's reach

✓ Give smoke alarms a test—it only takes a moment.

San Miguel Power Association is an equal opportunity provider and employer. In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Person with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202)720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800)877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call

(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.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Can I really get energy-efficient upgrades for FREE?

If you qualify, the answer is 'yes.'

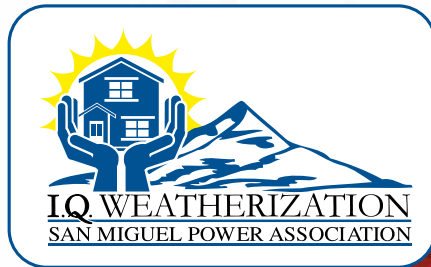
Step 1: Find the "Care Program" on the EcoAction Partners website: ecoactionpartners.org/smpa-iq

Step 2: Check the eligibility chart for your county. If you qualify...

Step 3: Fill out the CARE Program Application. (the Green button at the bottom.)

Step 4: Mail or email your application to Energy Outreach Colorado (address on page)

Step 5: Watch the magic happen! If you are approved for the CARE Program, you will receive a free home energy audit to determine what work your home will need, followed by the work being completed by our trusted contractors. The scope of work may include the following: LED light bulbs, Energy Star refrigerator, air sealing, insulation, mechanical systems replacement/tune-up, and more. **Wow!**



THIS IS OUR TIME.

Apply for the trip of a lifetime. The Rural Electric Youth Tour is an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C. You'll experience a week of visiting historic monuments, touring world class museums and meeting elected officials. You'll also develop life-long friendships with delegates from across the country!

June 17-23, 2024 | Apply by January 1, 2024



www.smpa.com/youth-tour-and-youth-camp

The Strategic Objectives of San Miguel Power Association

SMPA's democratic governance depends upon the Board Representatives bringing their individual and regional concerns and perspectives to the table. Throughout a two-day session in July of 2023, the representatives worked with a consultant to review the cooperative's strategic direction. These resulting objectives address the following business aspects and serve as guidance for all the cooperative's activities and projects.

- Safety
- People & Culture
- Member Engagement & Education
- Technology
- Power Supply | Rates | Financial
- Reliability & Resiliency

Members may review these as well as past Objectives and achievements at smpa.com/strategic-objectives.



Business Strategy Facilitator, Phil Bryson leads the SMPA Board and key staff in discussion that will result in actionable objectives.

Re-Building to Begin on Red Mountain Electrical Reliability & Broadband Improvement Project

To continue to serve as backup power source for consumers in the communities of Ridgway and Ouray, the transmission power line that traverses the beautiful and treacherous Red Mountain Pass along US 550, needs to be re-built. Originally constructed in 1928, the Red Mountain line has been maintained, repaired, and upgraded many times, but has reached its functional end-of-life according to San Miguel Power Association (SMPA) Chief Operating Officer, Jeremy Fox. "While the re-build will be costly," states Fox, "a new line, engineered with current technologies and design practices will be safer and easier to maintain in the difficult mountain terrain."

At their September, 2023 meeting, the SMPA Board of Directors

approved a staff proposal to begin the re-construction of 4.5 miles of 44kV transmission line between the Idarado and Red Mountain electrical substations. The work will include the replacement of existing line / structures with new, environmentally-tailored structures that will also be fewer in number.

An additional benefit to the power reliability, is the expansion of fiber optic pathways over the new lines. As communities in the rural western slope look to improve internet access, more connections, and an expanded broadband network reliability is always a desirable end.



A contractor has been selected and SMPA aims to see work begin around June of 2024. Learn more about this project atsmpa.com/re-building-begin-red-mountain-electrical-reliability-and-broadband-improvement-project

Sharing Success Economic Development Grants

Do you have a project that stimulates your local economy? For the past eight years, San Miguel Power Association Inc., in conjunction with its national cooperative partner, CoBank, has sought funding opportunities that stimulate and enhance our local economies, and provided grant monies to authors of winning proposals. Check www.smpa.com/content/sharing-success-economic-development-grants to learn about the next application cycle.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Nov. 25th



Affordable housing projects in Ouray and the West End of Montrose County benefitted from last year's Sharing Success Grants.

 **GIVE BLOOD** | vitalant.org

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20
11:30 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.
 170 W. 10TH AVE., NUCLA



Please note: Our offices will be closed Wednesday, November 22nd through the end of the week.

Offices will open again on Monday, November 27th.



This Month's Puzzle:
HEE A DOOR CONTROL GUY CARE
 Hint...Qualify for upgrades? Check with them.

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

EnergyWise
 PO Box 1150
 Ridgway, CO 81432



San Miguel Power will be closed on Thursday November 9th for an all-employee meeting.

We will be back on Monday the 13th.