



It's that time!
Member
Dividends



IQ Programs:
Do You
Qualify?



Attention High
School Seniors:
Got Money?

JANUARY 2024

ENERGYWISE

YOUR SAN MIGUEL POWER MEMBER NEWSLETTER



Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives
The power of human connections®



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



WINTER SAFETY TIPS

Never...

- Leave a space heater unattended.
- Fold an electric blanket while using it.
- Use your oven, grill or clothes dryer to heat your home.

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 place 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.

Yay! Thanks to everyone who brought in food items for our Shred Day / Food Drive last month. We dropped off the food at the Norwood Colorado Food Pantry, who distributes it to families in need. Happy New Year, everyone!



Agrivoltaics: What it Means—What it Could Mean?

Agrivoltaics, a blend of the terms “agriculture” and “photovoltaics,” refers to the practice of co-locating solar photovoltaic panels with agricultural activities on the same land. The solar panels provide shade, reducing water evaporation and temperature extremes, thus creating a more favorable microclimate for crops. This synergy between solar energy and agriculture also addresses the challenge of competing land use between food production and renewable energy generation.

Furthermore, the financial benefits for farmers are noteworthy. By diversifying income streams through dual land use, agrivoltaics can potentially improve economic viability for agricultural communities. The evolving field of agrivoltaics also presents opportunities for research and technological advancements, including the development of solar panels optimized for agriculture and the exploration of synergistic plant and solar interactions.



Who needs money for college?

San Miguel Power now awards up to \$47,000 in college scholarships to students who are dependents of SMPA members. We award up to seventeen scholarships to deserving graduating seniors.



The following scholarships are available:

- \$1,500-\$3,000+: Rocky Mountain Electrical League Foundation Scholarship Application (Deadline: Feb 9, 2024)
- \$1,000: Basin Electric Scholarship (Deadline: February 19, 2024)
- \$3,000: San Miguel Power Association Scholarship (Deadline: March 11, 2024)
- \$3,000: San Miguel Power Association Vocational Scholarship (Deadline: March 11, 2024)

Energy Workforce Development Program

EcoAction Partners, in collaboration with the Telluride Foundation and San Miguel Power Association (SMPA), has launched the Energy Workforce Development Program to bolster renewable energy and energy efficiency technology deployment in the region. This initiative aligns with the 2021 Regional Climate Action Plan, focusing on Energy Supply, Building Energy Use, and Transportation sectors.

The program offers training opportunities for residents in San Miguel, Ouray, west Montrose County, or Rico, covering areas such as air source heat pumps,

photovoltaics, building science, and electric vehicle charging. With residential and commercial energy use contributing significantly to the region’s greenhouse gas emissions, the program aims to address these challenges by fostering a well-trained workforce. The Telluride Foundation and SMPA provide funding, emphasizing the importance of workforce development in achieving the goals outlined in the Regional Climate Action Plan.

For more information or to apply, visit www.ecoactionpartners.org/energy-workforce.



SMPA is Your Not-for-Profit Cooperative

Any profit it makes (revenue, less expenses) over time, goes back to its members. Every year, SMPA allocates this profit, called “margins,” to each member. Your portion of the margins depends on how much money you put into the co-op that year. When the Board says the time is right, your money comes back to you. This month, SMPA is sending out about \$1 million in Member Dividends to long-time members of our cooperative. Thanks for being a member!



SMPA Nucla Office Remodel

SMPA has had a goal of modernizing our front office interiors for improved member and staff health and convenience. Pandemic-related delays and material price surges delayed projects, but now, we will complete the Nucla lobby remodel, emphasizing in-person service and community presence.



The new space in Nucla will feature an updated atmosphere, enhanced security, and improved ergonomics. Remodeling begins on January 3, 2024. A temporary lobby for business operations will be set up and accessible via the front entrance to the west of the main entrance.

We appreciate member understanding during this period and we’re looking forward to welcoming our walk-ins to the improved lobby upon completion.

Tips to \$ave Energy this Winter

- Use the Best Thermostat Settings for Winter.
- Use a Programmable Thermostat.
- Use Curtains to Your Advantage.
- Wear Layers Indoors.
- Change the Direction of Your Ceiling Fan.
- Close Doors and Vents.
- Lower the Temperature of Your Water Heater.
- Change Your Furnace Filter.



SMPA
POWER PLAY

This Month’s Puzzle:
A VICTOR GOAL
Hint...Two birds...

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