

# ENERGYWISE

YOUR SAN MIGUEL POWER MEMBER NEWSLETTER



## CONTACT INFORMATION

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Ridgway, CO 81432  
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**Both Offices Open:**  
M - TH • 7:00am – 5:30pm

[www.smpa.com](http://www.smpa.com)  
[www.facebook.com/SanMiguelPower](https://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](mailto:energywise@smpa.com)  
(970) 626-5549 x2120

## SAFETY TIPS

### ELECTRICAL SAFETY & SPRING CLEANING

- Keep any and all long, metal tools away from electrical lines.
- Do not attempt to trim branches near power lines yourself.
- Ensure your outdoor outlets are ground fault circuit interrupters.

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.asc.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.asc.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](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

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

## FEATURE STORY

### Space-to-Create can also be a Space for Ridgway Power Resiliency



Ridgway's latest arts-oriented live/workspace may soon be able to serve as a resilience hub should the town's power go out. This is thanks to a grant from the State of Colorado's Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) Microgrids for Community Resiliency (MCR) program.

To support the Town of Ridgway's resiliency goals, SMPA applied for the grant, which was awarded in the amount of \$46,900, for a proposed microgrid project for the town's Decker Community Room in the Space-to-Create building.

A microgrid is defined as a group of interconnected loads (like climate control and power outlets in the Decker Community Room of the Space-to-Create building) and distributed energy resources (like a battery-backed solar array on its rooftop) within clearly defined electrical boundaries. This complete electrical grid can act as a single controllable entity with respect to the containing grid, and, with battery backup, it can continue running on its own, if the main grid goes down.

"The MCR grants have given our membership a conduit towards improved resiliency planning and reliability resources. We value sharing the lead on ground-breaking projects like these and developing stronger partnerships with our member communities" Jeremy Fox, SMPA's Chief Operating Officer (COO).

Thanks to SMPA grant-writing efforts, additional State monies are also available for potential projects in Ridgway, Rico, Ophir and at SMPA facilities for internal communications purposes. Additionally, the Town of Silverton is utilizing a Federal prize money to explore feasibility of a microgrid as part of their Silverton GOLD (Goal Of Less Dependency) initiative and Town of Silverton Compass Master Plan.

*“We encourage preparedness among all our members and member communities and we're thrilled that we could help The Town of Ridgway progress toward their power resiliency goals.*

— JEREMY FOX, SMPA'S CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER



## Solar's Great; Scams Aren't

If you're considering solar, it's important to do your research and be aware of the potential for scams. Get multiple quotes from different LOCAL solar companies.

You can also contact SMPA. We have worked with hundreds of SMPA members who have successfully adopted solar, and we can help walk you through the policy requirements for net metering.

Learn more at [www.smpa.com/net-metering#solarscams](http://www.smpa.com/net-metering#solarscams)



## Timing Matters: What is the “Peak?”

The “peak” in terms of electrical transmission refers to the maximum amount of electricity that must be generated, transmitted, and distributed to meet the needs of consumers at that particular moment.

Peak demand occurs when electricity usage reaches its highest point, often coinciding with periods of increased activity such as in the evenings when households are using appliances, lighting, and electronics.

Meeting peak demand presents challenges for electrical transmission systems as they must be designed and operated to handle these occasional spikes in consumption. Failure to meet peak demand can result in power outages, brownouts, or strained grid infrastructure.

One method of managing peak demand is “Load Shifting.” This means encouraging consumers to shift their electricity usage to off-peak times. For SMPA, the first step has been to define the period during which our peak most often occurs (4 PM to 9 PM) and to publish on the monthly power bill, our consumers’ energy use during this period.

This can help build awareness among our membership, accustomed to paying the same rate for electricity without regard to time, that the peak exists and that use of extraneous load during this time does have consequences.

**In short...Timing matters. Learn more at [www.smpa.com/timing-matters](http://www.smpa.com/timing-matters).**



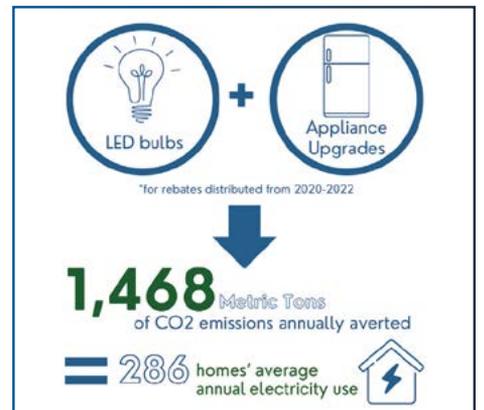
## What Good has come of the Green Fund?



What’s the point of having a regenerative fund set aside for green projects within SMPA’s service territory? It channels member interest into climate action without affecting the retail electric rates. Moreover, it helps make measurable progress on local climate action goals.

Did you know that LED bulbs and appliance upgrades, purchased with the help of green fund rebates have prevented an estimated 1468 metric tons of CO2 emissions? That’s equivalent to 286 average home’s annual electricity use. Super cool!

**...want to know how you can help? Consider signing up to be Totally Green. Learn more at [www.smpa.com/content/sign-totally-green](http://www.smpa.com/content/sign-totally-green)**



**LAST CHANCE FOR SCHOLARSHIPS!**  
Hey college seekers, the deadline to apply for a \$3000 Collegiate or Vocational scholarship is March 11th. Don't miss out!

**up to 19 scholarships for graduating seniors!**  
| Nucla | Norwood | Paradox |  
Ridgway | Telluride | Silverton | Ouray

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

**FOLLOW US**

## Notice of the Annual Meeting of San Miguel Power Association, Inc



The 85th Annual Meeting of the Members of San Miguel Power Association, Inc. (SMPA) will be held at the SMPA Nucla office (170 West 10th Ave. Nucla, Colorado) on the 6th day of June 2024. Members may attend in person or via virtual interface. A registration link will be provided on the association website, [www.smpa.com](http://www.smpa.com). The business meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m. This meeting will be held for the following purposes:

- The announcement of elected directors to the Board of Directors for District #1, including parts of Montrose, San Miguel, Ouray and Dolores Counties including Basin, Bedrock, Naturita, Nucla, Paradox, Redvale, Slick Rock and Uravan and for District #4, including parts of Montrose, Ouray and San Miguel Counties including Colona and a portions of Log Hill Village and Telluride.
- The reports of Officers, Directors & Committees.
- Any other business that may properly come before the meeting.

**...live in one of the above districts? ...interested in running for the Board of Directors?**

Petition Packets are now available. Visit our lobby or [www.smpa.com/content/elections](http://www.smpa.com/content/elections) to pick up a packet. The deadline for nomination signatures is April 4th.

**Let's Play...**

**NAME THAT ELECTRIC INDUSTRY TERM!**

What term has ten syllables and would have you replace gas-engine tools like leaf blowers, weed whackers or even your car with electric alternatives? Here’s a hint—it counts if it satisfies of one of these four conditions without adversely affecting the others:

- Saves Consumers Money
- Reduces Greenhouse [GHG] Gas Emissions
- Improves Product Quality or Consumer Quality of Life
- Fosters a More Resilient Grid

## SMPA POWER PLAY

**THIS MONTH'S PUZZLE:**  
**C I M D O G S I R R**  
Hint...Best to Bounce Back

Last Month's Answer: MEMBER DIVIDENDS  
Last Month's Winner: Anthony Ramsey, Ridgway

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

EnergyWise  
PO Box 1150  
Ridgway, CO 81432

If you said “Beneficial Electrification,” you’re right! You deserve to access rebates for your recent purchase of a “beneficially electric” appliance.

Go to [www.smpa.com/energy#berebates](http://www.smpa.com/energy#berebates) to apply. While you’re there, you can also find rebates for energy-efficient and renewable energy equipment as well!