

ENERGYWISE

YOUR SAN MIGUEL POWER MEMBER NEWSLETTER



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 • 7:00am – 5:30pm

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

MAY IS ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH!

- Have all electrical work done by a qualified electrician.
- Test AFCIs and GFCIs once a month to make sure they are working properly.
- Only plug one heat-producing appliance (such as a coffee maker, toaster, space heater, etc.) into a receptacle outlet at a time.

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.

FEATURE STORY

Timing Matters.

Good timing leads to success in so many ways. Now, SMPA wants to show you another way to benefit from great timing.

Timing your energy use can provide benefits that are:

Cost-effective: Helps SMPA lower costs—good for all rate payers.

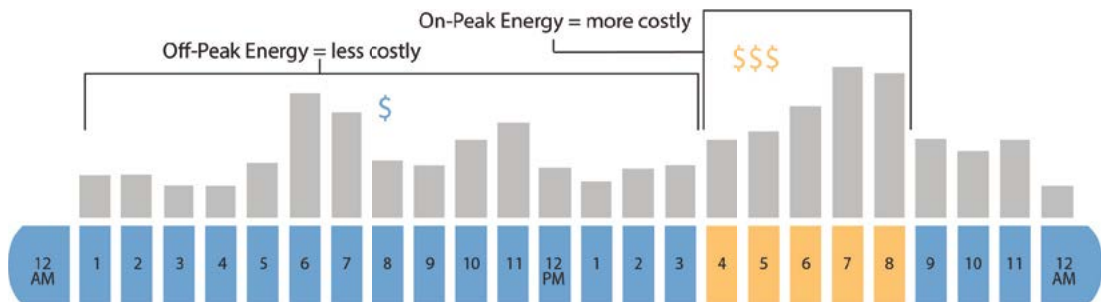
Fair: Helps balance economic participation of members with different energy use patterns.

Clean: Helps lower carbon emissions.

High-Quality: Helps promote beneficial electrification.

Flexible: Helps strengthen consumer choice.

Easy: By the way, we can help you with rebates and tools!



SMPA Board Candidates Announced

Each year, one or two directors, representing their geographic district, are elected to the SMPA Board of Directors. This year, one Board election is for District #1, including the West End of Montrose County as well as Basin and Slick Rock. In this district, two candidates, Tom Loczy and Bette Nickell are running against each other for the seat. Voters may vote online, or via paper ballot, which may be mailed or dropped off at the SMPA office in Nucla.

In District #4, which includes Colona, a portion of Log Hill Village and Telluride., the incumbent director, Toby Brown is running unopposed. He will be deemed re-elected per SMPA bylaws. No ballots will be sent to voters in this district.

Member Question: As a non-profit, does SMPA pay property taxes?

Answer: San Miguel Power Association (SMPA) is organized as a 501(c)(12) under the U. S. Internal Revenue Code. This status is exempt from state and federal tax. However, as a community-focused non-profit cooperative, SMPA does pay property taxes to the counties in its service territory. Last year, SMPA paid over \$396,000 in local property taxes.

Counties and municipalities use property taxes to fund a wide range of services and infrastructure projects that benefit the community. These services typically include:

- 1. Education:** A significant portion of property tax revenue often goes towards funding local public schools, including teacher salaries, facility maintenance, and educational programs.
- 2. Public Safety:** Property taxes can support police and fire departments, emergency medical services, and other public safety initiatives aimed at ensuring the well-being and security of residents.
- 3. Infrastructure:** Property tax revenue is often used to maintain and improve infrastructure such as roads, bridges, sidewalks, and public transportation systems. It may also go towards water and sewage systems, parks, and recreational facilities.
- 4. Social Services:** Municipalities may allocate funds from property taxes to support social services such as public health programs, libraries, senior services, affordable housing initiatives, and homeless shelters.



SMPA's tax contributions are a significant source of revenue for local governments, enabling them to provide essential services and maintain the quality of life for residents within their jurisdictions.

SEE IF YOU QUALIFY

SMPA IQ

INCOME - QUALIFIED WEATHERIZATION

REDUCE YOUR ENERGY BILLS FOR FREE.

Energy assessment & free energy efficiency upgrades for low to middle income households --at no cost to you!

www.ecoactionpartners.org/smpa-iq

CARE
COLORADO'S AFFORDABLE RESIDENTIAL ENERGY

ECOACTION PARTNERS

ENERGY OUTREACH COLORADO
Together We Power Stability

I.Q. PROGRAMS
SAN MIGUEL POWER ASSOCIATION

ELECTRICAL SAFETY Month

Electrical safety is always important. However, the Electrical Safety Foundation and San Miguel Power want to use the month of May raise awareness around those chores that tend to slip through the cracks. Make electrical safety your priority today.

- When buying or remodeling a home, have it inspected by a qualified electrician.
- Major appliances (refrigerators, dryers, washers, stoves, air conditioners, etc.) should be plugged directly into a wall receptacle outlet. Extension cords and plug strips should not be used.
- Arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs) are a kind of circuit breaker that shuts off electricity when a dangerous condition occurs. Consider having them installed in your home. Use a qualified electrician.
- Use ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) to reduce the risk of shock. GFCIs shut off an electrical circuit when it becomes a shock hazard. They should be installed inside the home in bathrooms, kitchens, garages and basements. All outdoor receptacles should be GFCI protected.
- Check electrical cords to make sure they are not running across doorways or under carpets. Extension cords are intended for temporary use. Have a qualified electrician add more receptacle outlets so you don't have to use extension cords.
- Use light bulbs that match the recommended wattage on the lamp or fixture. There should be a sticker on the lamp that indicates the maximum wattage light bulb to use.

SMPA's Vegetation Management

Trees can impact electrical service by interfering with power lines. Branches or entire trees falling onto power lines during storms can cause outages. Proper tree management near power infrastructure is essential for ensuring reliable electrical service and minimizing outages.

As part of a four-year work plan that prioritizes system hardening and system improvements, SMPA has recently added to its list of qualified contractors and has been following a strict schedule of trimming and maintenance in order to properly maintain the rights-of-way.

Of course, outages that were prevented don't make headlines, so it's not always easy to tell if all the effort is paying off. Moreover, there are still many other potential causes of power outages, besides vegetation impact. Nonetheless, there's no doubt that regular vegetation trimming and maintenance ensure that branches remain a safe distance from power lines, reducing the likelihood of outages due to vegetation-related incidents. Moreover, proper management minimizes the risk of wildfires sparked by contact between vegetation and power lines. So, SMPA and its contractors will continue to maintain critical rights-of-way as long as it's needed.

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

SMPA POWER PLAY

THIS MONTH'S PUZZLE:
I L CET A NICE FRIED QUAIL
Hint...Smart and Safe

Last Month's Answer: STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE
Last Month's Winner: Frank & Teresa Leonardi

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

EnergyWise
PO Box 1150
Ridgway, CO 81432

IN OBSERVANCE OF MEMORIAL DAY



Our Offices will be CLOSED
Monday, May 27th

Basic services always available at:
smpa.smarthub.coop/Login.html