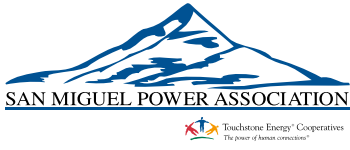


ENERGYWISE

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

Stay Safe this Thanksgiving:

- Don't fold an electric blanket while it's in use.
- Keep heat-producing appliances at least 3 feet away from flammable items.
- Have a qualified professional clean and inspect your fireplace and chimney annually.

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

SMPA Considers 2025 Projected Costs; Access Fee Increase; Time-of-Use (TOU) Structure

At their October Meeting, the SMPA Board of Directors reviewed the SMPA budget for 2025 which considered a 6.2% rate increase from wholesale power provider, Tri-State Generation and Transmission (Tri-State) as well as other operational price increases. The Board is considering raising the SMPA access fee, starting in January 1, 2025, from \$25/mo. to \$28/month – still one of the lowest access charges in the region among similar electric cooperatives.

The additional revenue would not be enough to cover projected costs. To cover the shortfall, the board may utilize “Rate Stabilization” funds, which were deferred from revenue totals of previous years. These two measures will allow SMPA to meet its obligations, while softening the increase to member-consumers.

The Board will also consider a proposed “Time-of-Use” rate design to take effect in May, 2025. This time-based rate would offer a more dynamic and equitable pricing model by charging different rates for electricity depending on the time of day. The proposed rates would be lower than the current rate for most of the day, and higher during peak demand hours of 4-9 PM. **This approach would offer several key advantages:**

VALUE PRICING FOR CONSUMERS:

A “Time-of-Use” rate would allow for a lower energy price to consumers that reflects the times of the day when it’s cheaper to produce and deliver. This could be especially beneficial for those with electric vehicles or smart home technologies that can be programmed to take advantage of lower rates.

GRID EFFICIENCY:

TOU rates would encourage more effective energy use and even more energy storage, which is greatly needed to transition to a fully renewable energy future.

SUPPORT FOR RENEWABLES:

TOU rates would create a market for renewable energy sources, as they often produce electricity during off-peak hours when it’s most valuable. This can accelerate the transition to a cleaner energy system.

FAIRNESS:

TOU rates would be a fairer way to distribute the cost of electricity, as those who use more energy off-peak can lower their overall energy bill while at the same time helping to make grid operations more cost effective for everyone.

The proposed Time-of-Use structure would also include an opt-out demand rate to give flexibility to members whose energy use profile positions them to take advantage of it. SMPA personnel and information tools can help consumers make informed decisions.

The Board of Directors will consider the proposal as well as any feedback from the membership at this month’s meeting. (November 19th) At that time, there may be a motion to approve. If the rate design is approved, the access charge increase would take effect January 1, 2025 and the Time-of-Use rate would not take effect until May, 2025 in order to allow time for a smooth transition of billing processes.

The SMPA Board is actively seeking input from the member-consumers. If you have comments for the Board to consider, please email comments@smpa.com. There will also be a member-consumer comment period at the start of the November 19th meeting, which will be held in person at the SMPA Ridgway office as well as virtually over the Zoom® platform. **(Register at www.smpa.com/board-meeting-agendas-and-minutes).** All members are invited to participate.



SMPA I.Q. Weatherization Program Provides Warmth & Safety

The approval of their application for the Income-Qualified ("I.Q.") Weatherization program couldn't have come at a better time. Megan and Dale had been huddling in their living room to stay warm by their only heat source, a small fireplace. Meanwhile, the rest of their house was freezing. Their situation was getting worse, with pipes bursting and flooding due to their outdated non-functioning furnace. "We were able to provide them with a new high-efficiency gas furnace," said Jay Saxton Energy Auditor for EcoAction Partners, which administers the program, funded, in part, by SMPA. "We were also able to make a drastic improvement in the level of comfort of the home by adding storms to their single-pane windows."



Along with that I.Q. Program contractors also insulated the crawl space under the house. As well as adding comfort, these measures also reduced their energy consumption which in turn saved them money on their bills. "What is also so great about this program is that all areas of the home are tested and checked," says Saxton. "During that process, we accessed the fact that their water heater was improperly venting and causing an unknown health and safety issue. We were able to address and remedy the situation. It's successful stories like this that help propel our program and reach the people most in need."

Megan, the CARE client, had this to say, "Thank you so much to SMPA and EcoAction Partners for the lifesaver of a program! We went through the entire winter, pretty chilly with a broken 70's era furnace and the I.Q. program got us up to date, energy-wise and warm again. They were so kind and helpful throughout the entire process. What a blessing! We would recommend this program to anyone!" Stories like Megan's drive home the importance of addressing climate action on a holistic level, exploring opportunities to reduce energy use, lower utility bills, and bolster resiliency and health and safety for our community members.

I.Q. Weatherization Works!

In 2023, we served 35 homes with over \$129,400 in weatherization upgrades reducing over 34 metric tons of est. annual CO2 savings.

So far this year, the SMPA I.Q. Program has served 20 homes, has 14 in progress and 4 in queue. In the completed homes we have installed:

- Over 223 LED lights
- 21 low flow aerators
- 6 low flow showerheads
- 3 high efficiency furnaces
- 3 heat pump water heaters
- 43 storm windows
- Over 7,250 sq. feet of insulation
- Replaced 7 refrigerators

SMPA Wants to Help with Your Purchase of these Beneficial Appliances

Are you purchasing a new appliance? SMPA provides rebates for appliances that can help save energy and move electrical load to the less-costly off-peak periods of the day. Find rebates for these items at www.smpa.com/energy#berebates:

- Heat Pumps
- Smart Thermostats
- Induction Cooktops
- Electric and Heat Pump Water Heaters
- Electric Thermal Storage
- Outdoor Power Tools
- Electric Vehicle Charging Equipment
- Home Batteries
- ...and more



When Will My Power Come Back On?

If you find yourself in a power outage, but you still have internet connectivity and a battery-powered device, check SMPA's Facebook page. Outage Updates are always posted there first.

You can also see updates and an Outage Map on the www.smpa.com.



ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE YOUTH TOUR WASHINGTON, D.C. 2025

June 16th - 22nd

EMPOWER
Application Deadline:
January 9, 2025



...a way to buy power that puts me in charge.

- No deposits, late fees, or reconnect fees.
- Pay whenever it makes sense for me.
- Convenient texts or emails help me keep track of my balance.

www.smpa.com/content/smartpay



Happy Thanksgiving!

Our offices will be closed Wednesday, November 27th through the end of the week. Offices will open again on Monday, December 2nd. Basic services are always available on smpa.smarthub.coop/Login.htm

SMPA POWER PLAY

THIS MONTH'S PUZZLE:
O IF I COUNT A GIANTS TOE
Hint...Get 'em online.

Last Month's Answer: RATE STABILIZATION

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

EnergyWise
PO Box 1150
Ridgway, CO 81432