

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

FOR THIS WINTER SEASON:

- Keep flammable items away from heat sources.
- Never leave heaters unattended.
- Monitor usage of electrical outlets.

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 Snowmelt Systems for Maximum Benefit

Using a snowmelt system on a time-of-use (TOU) rate structure requires strategic planning to minimize energy costs while maintaining effective snow and ice removal. TOU rates charge different electricity prices based on the time of day, with higher rates during peak hours and lower rates during off-peak hours. Here's how to optimize your snowmelt system:



- 1. Understand Your TOU Rates:** Starting in May, SMPA's peak period will run from 4 PM to 9 PM every day. Outside of this period, energy will be less expensive (11c/kWh) than it is today (13c/kWh).
- 2. Leverage Off-Peak Hours:** Next winter, program the snowmelt system to operate primarily during off-peak times. Preheat the surface early in anticipation of snow or ice, as this can reduce the system's workload during more expensive hours.
- 3. Use of Smart Controls:** On the market today, there are snow sensors and thermostats with advanced controls that can automate a snowmelt system. Modern controls can monitor weather forecasts, start the system ahead of snowfall, and shut it off when the surface is clear, avoiding unnecessary operation during peak rates.
- 4. Optimize Insulation:** Ensure the snowmelt area is well-insulated to retain heat longer, reducing energy usage and allowing the system to cycle off during peak times without compromising performance.
- 5. Hybrid Approaches:** Installing a new system? It is possible to combine electric resistance heat tape with a supplemental heat source like a boiler during peak times to reduce electricity demand.
- 6. Monitor and Adjust:** Track energy usage and system performance regularly. Analyze patterns to fine-tune the operation schedule and maximize efficiency.

By aligning your snowmelt system's operation with TOU rate structures, you can reduce energy costs while maintaining safety and convenience during winter conditions.

MEMBER DIVIDENDS

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. When the Board says the time is right,

dividends are retired back to the members.

This year, SMPA is sending out \$1.1 million in Member Dividends.



Reminder: San Miguel Power Association, Inc. (SMPA) has increased its access charge by \$3 for all non-demand electric accounts. For most residential consumers, the access charge will go from \$25/mo. to \$28/mo.--still one of the lowest access charges in the region among similar electric cooperatives. This change takes effect this month, and will be reflected in next month's bill.

Can You Use the Ceiling Fan to Keep the House... Warm?

Ceiling fans can effectively help maintain comfortable temperatures year-round by improving air circulation. Here's how homeowners can use them for both winter and summer:

Keeping Comfortable

- In Winter, Reverse the Fan's Direction: Most ceiling fans have a switch to reverse their blade rotation. Set the fan to spin clockwise at a low speed. This creates an updraft that gently pulls cool air upward and pushes warm air, which naturally rises, back down into the living space.
- Use Strategically: Run the fan in occupied rooms, especially those with high ceilings, where heat tends to collect near the top. This helps distribute warmth more evenly and reduces heating system workload.
- In Summertime, Set Fan to Spin Counterclockwise: In summer, the blades should spin counterclockwise at a higher speed to create a wind-chill effect.



General Tips for Ceiling Fan Use

1. Turn Off When Not in Use: Ceiling fans cool or redistribute air; they don't change the room's temperature. Save energy by turning fans off when leaving a room.
2. Seasonal Maintenance: Clean fan blades regularly to prevent dust buildup and ensure efficient operation.

By using ceiling fans effectively, homeowners can reduce their reliance on heating and cooling systems, saving energy and money year-round.

SMPA SCHOLARSHIPS!

Helping Our Youth Access Higher Education & Training!

\$45,000 in college scholarships to high school graduates in:

- Norwood
- Nucla
- Ouray
- Ridgway
- Silverton
- Telluride
- Telluride Mountain School

smpa.com/content/scholarships

SAN MIGUEL POWER ASSOCIATION
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Deadlines: February 7, 2025 & March 10, 2025

See how and when you're using power. Use the power of information.

SMART MANAGEMENT. SMART LIFE. SMARTHUB.

A New Year's Resolution for Your Home

Drafty windows? Poor insulation? Outdated appliances? Some homes could stand to make a New Years Resolution to use energy more efficiently. You can start by getting an energy audit to discover "low-hanging fruit" solutions that can make a big difference with a small investment.

Start here - www.smpa.com/energy-audits

Can't afford the improvements? Our I.Q. (CARE) Program may be just the right fit. If you qualify, you can get the upgrades at no cost to you!

Check out www.ecoactionpartners.org/smpa-iq to see if you qualify.



Alert: Don't Be Deceived by Impostors & Scams

Scammers continue to target utility customers. Typically, they pose as utility "collection" employees and threaten to disconnect electricity service unless a payment is made immediately using a pre-paid cash card. This is a scam.

If you wish to know your account status, you can check it on SmartHub <https://smpa.smarthub.coop/> or call the SMPA Office during regular business hours at 1-877-864-7311.

Thank you to everyone who brought in food items for our Shred Day / Food Drive last year. We dropped off the food at food pantries, who distribute it to families in need. Happy New Year, everyone!

SMPA POWER PLAY

THIS MONTH'S PUZZLE:
PEF - WEAK PROOF
Hint... Use it for less

Last Month's Answer: SMART THERMOSTATS
Last Month's Winner: Lita Bilotti

SUBMIT YOUR ANSWER
and be entered into a drawing
for a fun prize to:
EnergyWise
PO Box 1150
Ridgway, CO 81432