

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

KEEP SAFE WHILE PREPPING FOR WINTER:

- ✓ *Clear dry leaves from outdoor electrical outlets.*
- ✓ *Keep long tools and ladders away from overhead utility lines.*
- ✓ *Inspect electric leaf blowers and trimmers for frayed cords before use.*

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

Protecting Our Communities Through Wildfire Mitigation

Recent Colorado wildfires have reinforced the importance of proactive wildfire mitigation. San Miguel Power Association (SMPA) is committed to reducing the risk of wildfire while improving the reliability and resiliency of the electric system.

SMPA evaluates wildfire risk throughout its service territory, with particular attention to areas identified by the Colorado State Forest Service as having elevated fire risk. In these areas, SMPA conducts enhanced inspections, evaluates vegetation management needs and implements additional system protections when appropriate.

SMPA also maintains continuous situational awareness. System Technicians and contracted dispatch personnel monitor the distribution system 24/7, using real-time metering and outage information from our Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI). When a system fault occurs, it can be identified nearly instantaneously, allowing crews to respond efficiently.

Wildfire preparedness also involves strengthening the physical electric system. SMPA regularly inspects power lines and other energized equipment, often using drones, and examines

poles to identify those approaching the end of their useful life. Specialized fuses and reclosers help minimize sparking and isolate faults, while fire-retardant pole coverings are used in strategic locations to help infrastructure withstand fire.

Vegetation management is another critical component. Regular right-of-way maintenance helps keep trees and branches away from power lines while reducing the amount of vegetation that could fuel a wildfire.

Finally, SMPA has developed enhanced operating procedures for periods of heightened wildfire risk. These operational modes are designed to reduce ignition risk, while additional equipment carried by field personnel helps improve response capabilities.

Wildfire mitigation is an ongoing effort. SMPA will continue investing in technology, infrastructure, training and procedures to protect our members, communities and electric system.



Keep it rolling: Become Totally Green and WIN this E-bike!



From August 8th to October 8th:
Every member who signs up for Totally Green is entered to WIN this Giant ROAM e 19" (Med-Lg)
• All-road capabilities
• Long-range Smart Battery

THE IMPACT:

- ✓ Money stays local.
- ✓ Local benefits.
- ✓ Low cost.

THE OFFER:

During the promotion, all members who sign up are automatically entered for the drawing.

THE PROGRAM:

Offset your energy use with 100% renewable power. Mostly sourced on the Western Slope.



Will You be Charged for Something You Don't Use?

Paper Billing Fee Encourages Savings, Member Choice

Are you still receiving a paper bill? It may be time to assess the value of those monthly mailings—especially if you are already using the convenient SmartHub web and mobile app.

Paperless billing provides members with a faster, more reliable monthly bill. Instead of waiting for postal delivery, members receive an email notification as soon as their bill is available and can securely view and pay it through SmartHub. Members can also set up automatic payments, payment reminders, and account alerts for added convenience.

Reducing the number of paper bills mailed each month also lowers SMPA's printing and postage expenses. Those savings help reduce operating costs and lessen pressure on future electric rate increases, benefiting the entire membership.

To encourage greater paperless adoption, San Miguel Power Association (SMPA) will implement a \$2 Paper Billing Fee for members who choose to receive a printed monthly bill, beginning with bills generated in October, 2026.

The new fee reflects the actual cost of printing and mailing paper bills and helps ensure that members who have already enrolled in paperless billing are not subsidizing those expenses. As a member-owned electric cooperative, SMPA is committed to keeping costs as fair and transparent as possible.

Members who prefer to continue receiving a printed bill may certainly do so by paying the \$2 monthly Paper Billing Fee. However, members who enroll in paperless billing before October 29 will avoid the fee while enjoying the convenience of faster



bill delivery and 24-hour access to their account information.

To enroll in paperless billing, simply log in to your SmartHub account online or through the SmartHub mobile app and update your billing preferences.

THERE'S SO MUCH TO KNOW ABOUT ELECTRIC VEHICLES...

WHERE DO I EVEN START?



Check out sanniguelpower.chooseev.com.

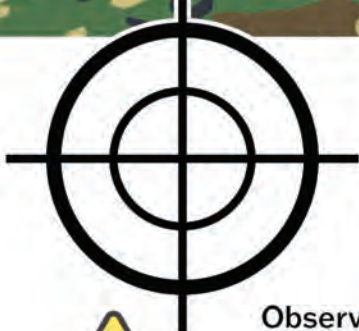
- EXPLORE ELECTRIC VEHICLE MODELS.
- CALCULATE SAVINGS & CHARGING TIME.
- LEARN ABOUT INCENTIVES & TAX CREDITS.
- SAVE WITH TIME-OF-USE STRATEGIES.

WINTER IS COMING



Learn How To Make Time-of-Use Work For You.





Electrical Safety Tips for Hunters



Observe all posted warnings and notices—Keep clear of nearby electrical equipment.



Never aim in the direction of power lines or insulators—especially in heavily wooded areas.

October is Co-op Month



CO-OPS ARE THE Perfect Blend

Come to SMPA's Member Appreciation Days!

First Week in October



SMPA POWER PLAY

THIS MONTH'S PUZZLE:
I A STALWART SON USE A EIN
Hint: What's Going on?

Last Month's Answer:
BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM
Last Month's Winner:
Lee Haefner, Ridgway

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

EnergyWise
PO Box 1150
Ridgway, CO 81432