



No Rate Increase in 2019!



SMPA Returns Dividends to Members



10 Quick Tips to Conserve Energy and Avoid High Winter Bills

DECEMBER 2018

# ENERGYWISE

YOUR SAN MIGUEL POWER MEMBER NEWSLETTER



Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives  
The power of human connections®



## CONTACT INFORMATION

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720 N. Railroad St.  
P.O. Box 1150  
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(970) 626-5549  
Toll Free: 1-877-864-7311

**Both Offices Open:**  
M - TH, 7:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

[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 x212

## SAFETY TIPS

Enjoy a Safe Holiday Season

- Use battery-operated candles.
- Never connect more than three strings of incandescent lights.
- Keep trees fire-resistant by watering daily.

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(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.intakeusda.gov](mailto:program.intakeusda.gov).

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

## No Rate Increase in 2019! SMPA Board Defers Access Charge Increase



“ Our access fee is the lowest of the co-ops in this region... and we've decided to keep it that way for another year. ”

- Rube Felicelli, SMPA Board President

At the October Board Meeting, the San Miguel Power Association Board of Directors decided to defer an increase to the access charge, which is the fixed fee we all pay to access the grid regardless of how much energy we use. “We did not feel the time was right to raise this charge,” said Board President, Rube Felicelli. The decision followed a report that the cooperative is meeting financial goals and is on good financial footing.

Currently, SMPA recovers much of its fixed costs from the energy charge, which is subject to weather trends and consumer efficiency. Most directors acknowledge the need to raise the fixed access charge soon, but are also keenly aware of the impact on member budgets.

Felicelli said, “Our access fee is the lowest of the co-ops in this region and we've decided to keep it that way for another year.”

## In Your Favor: SMPA Returns Dividends to Members.

SMPA is not-for-profit. Every year, SMPA allocates its profit, (revenues, less expenses) also called “margins,” to each member. If you receive a check from SMPA, it's because the Board has decided the time is right to return dividends for a year during which you were a member. Thanks for your membership!



## Paperless Yet?



<https://smpa.smarthub.coop>



Apple iOS













Android

You won't regret it.

# 10 Quick Tips to Avoid High Winter Bills

Looking to lower your bills this winter? Use the 10 tips below to conserve energy.



- 1  Seal air leaks and insulate well to prevent heat from escaping and cold air from entering your home.
- 2  Reduce waste heat by installing a programmable thermostat.
- 3  Turn off lights when not in use.
- 4  Lower your water heater temperature. The Dept. of Energy recommends using the warm setting (120 degrees) during fall and winter months.
- 5  Unplug electronics like kitchen appliances and TVs when you're away.
- 6  Open blinds and curtains during the day to allow sunlight in to warm your home.
- 7  Close blinds and curtains at night to keep cold, drafty air out.
- 8  Use power strips for multiple appliances, and turn off the main switch when you're away from home.
- 9  Wash clothes in cold water, and use cold-water detergent whenever possible.
- 10  Replace incandescent light bulbs with LEDs, which use at least 75 percent less energy.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy

## Carbon Clear Fact:

Carbon Clear Members have leveraged over

**\$238,400**

of externally-sourced money with the SMPA Green Fund.

Learn how you can join them in making a measurable impact on climate change, locally.  
(970) 626-5549 ext. 212



## Norwood Knowledge Bowl - 2018

Making Memories while using... you know... Memory.



**Top Left:** Nucla's Team shows off their jerseys thanks to a recent sponsorship from SMPA.

**Bottom Left:** Volunteers read questions and keep time.

**Bottom Center:** The familiar 'yellow tape,' that competitors use to 'buzz in' their answers.

**Bottom Right:** SMPA Director Rube Felicelli checks answers of the written portion.

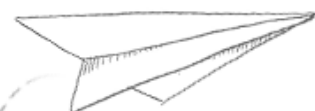


**Offices Closed**  
December 25th

Basic services are always available in <https://smpa.smart-hub.coop/Login.html>



**2019 SMPA Scholarships Available!**



[www.smpa.com](http://www.smpa.com)>>community programs  
>>youth programs>>scholarships

**Deadline:**  
**Jan 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

**SMPA**  
**POWER PLAY**

**This Month's Puzzle: VERDEN DIBS DIEM**

**Hint:** We don't profit, you do; thanks to these.

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

**EnergyWise**  
**PO Box 1150**  
**Ridgway, CO 81432**