



Ouray Ice Park and Sharing Success Grant



New Strategic Objectives for SMPA



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NOVEMBER 2020

ENERGYWISE



Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives
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YOUR SAN MIGUEL POWER MEMBER NEWSLETTER



CONTACT INFORMATION

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(970) 864-7311
Toll Free: (877) 864-7311

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720 N. Railroad St.
P.O. Box 1150
Ridgway, CO 81432
(970) 626-5549
Toll Free: (877) 864-7311

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

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 x212

SAFETY TIPS

KITCHEN SAFETY MENU:

- Plug counter top appliances into GFCI-protected outlets.
- Keep appliance cords away from hot surfaces like the range or toaster.
- Keep appliances away from the sink.

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.

Defiance and Determination Wrought in Ice

“When the crampons and tools become extensions of my body, the movement feels natural, fluid, rhythmic, and the surrounding cold air and quiet beauty make me feel relaxed and alive.”

For the uninitiated, the words of Mountaineering Guide, and seasoned ice climber, Andrea Charest may help explain the strange obsession that has given rise to one of the most daring sports of modern culture, ice climbing.

Even those locals who prefer to celebrate life on solid ground will have to admit that the sport has brought, not only excitement, but increasing economic benefit to the mountain town of Ouray during winter seasons over the past few decades. “Starting every November, using overflow water from the City of Ouray and more than 250 sprinklers and showerheads, Ice Farmers spray water down the canyon walls of the Uncompahgre Gorge to form awe-inspiring walls of ice,” reports Peter O’Neil, Executive Director for the Ouray Ice Park.

“But the Ouray Ice Park needs more water than it gets to realize its full potential,” says O’Neil. With this in mind, he and the small non-profit team that manages the Ice Park began the formidable task of raising funds to secure another permanent water supply line from the nearby Weehawken Creek. In 2019, The Ice Park won a \$6000 Sharing Success Grant from San Miguel Power Association to support the cause.

“The COVID-19 health crisis has added another very unpredictable variable in the Ice Park’s operations,” says O’Neil. Even though Ice Park management is planning for the best-case scenario, their commitment to safety demands that they invest in additional training and staff to help protect visitors. Still, O’Neil is optimistic. “Ouray’s unique mountain location along with ice climbing being socially distant in nature makes us hopeful we will be able to host a safe ice climbing season beginning in December.”

Handling the extra demands of a season impacted by COVID-19, hasn’t kept the organization from moving forward with a feasibility study for the water diversion project. “The Ouray winter economy is depending on us,” says O’Neil. Perhaps the determination of this organization shouldn’t be surprising, given the nature of the sport that it promotes. “None of the other daily problems or tasks matter when you’re on the wall,” says Charest. “...the mental side of climbing has to take over—the reassurance that your body can do this. Breathing. Facing fears and working through them, knowing that you’ve mitigated as much risk as possible...it’s a powerful feeling.”



SMPA and CoBank Announce the Sharing Success Economic Development matching grants for 2020!

Member organizations and businesses may apply for up to the fund maximum of \$20,000 (rounded to the nearest \$500) depending on the costs of their initiatives. Initiatives may vary in size and scope but should aim to benefit the entire business community of a region, not just individual businesses.

APPLY ONLINE: www.smpa.com/content/sharing-success-matching-grants

Application Deadline: November 11, 2020



SMPA Board Publishes New Strategic Objectives

“Our democratic governance depends upon our Board representatives bringing their individual and regional concerns and perspectives to the table...” said Rube Felicelli, Board President of San Miguel Power Association (SMPA), about the two-day planning session that took place in mid-July 2020. The last strategic planning session was in 2017, and regular updates are scheduled every three years. Working with a consultant, the board reviewed the cooperative’s strategic direction in these fields:



RELIABILITY & RESILIENCY

Strategic Objective: Identify and prioritize reliability and resiliency risks and issues. Initial focus shall be on a fire mitigation.



FINANCIAL/POWER SUPPLY/RATES

Strategic Objective: Determine the optimal long-term power supply strategy that best achieves safe, reliable, cost effective, and environmentally responsible service to our members.



SAFETY/CULTURE/PEOPLE

Strategic Objective: Continue to improve SMPA’s overall safety and work culture.



TECHNOLOGY

Strategic Objective: Fully optimize all technology.



COVID19 & CRISIS MANAGEMENT

Strategic Objective: Further develop Crisis Management Plan in order to best respond to external threats or crisis.



This time tested process is a way for our Board to connect with the staff, who will be responsible for carrying out the strategic direction that the Board sets. With the announcement of the Strategic Objectives, the staff now has their marching orders for the next three years. We’re looking forward to getting to work and of course, we also invite the member-consumers to hear our progress at our monthly Board Meetings.

— BRAD ZAPORSKI, SMPA CEO

Details on how to join these meetings are available at www.smpa.com/content/board-meeting-schedule.

2021 SMPA Scholarships Available!

Each year, San Miguel Power awards up to \$27,000 in college scholarships to students who are dependents of SMPA members. We award up to sixteen scholarships to deserving graduating seniors. This year’s deadline for completed SMPA/Tri-State and Vocational scholarship applications is March 15. The Basin Electric Scholarship applications are DUE February 8.

The following scholarships are available for the 2021 School Year:

- \$2,000 San Miguel Power Association Scholarship
- \$2,000 San Miguel Power Association Vocational Scholarship
- \$500 Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association Scholarship
- \$1,000 Basin Electric Power Cooperative Scholarship



Learn more and apply at: www.smpa.com/content/scholarships

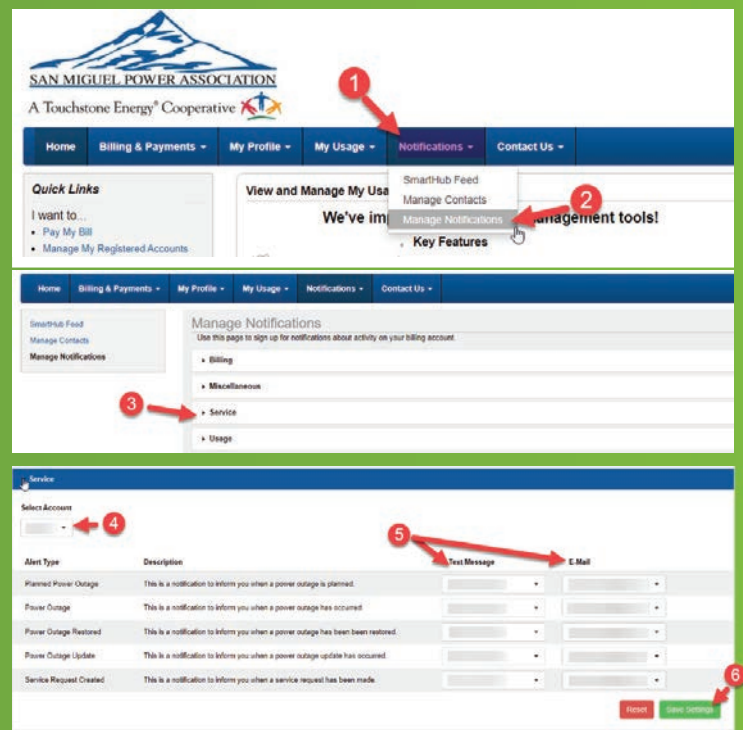
You Can Now Receive Outage Notifications Via Text or Email – Here’s How:

You will need to have a SmartHub account here: <https://smpa.smarthub.coop/Login.html>



Once logged on to your account via computer:

- 1 Click on the drop down for Notifications
- 2 Click Manage Notifications
- 3 Click on Service
- 4 Add the Phone number and or E-mail you would like for each Alert Type you would like to be notified about.
- 5 If you have more than one account, click the drop down and repeat step 4 on each additional account.
- 6 Click the Save Settings Button



SMPA POWER PLAY

This Month’s Puzzle: C I STAGE R VICE JOB TEST

Hint: It’s how we know where the board wants to go.

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

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



PLEASE NOTE:

Our offices will be closed on November 25th and 26th in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday.

Basic services are available 24/7 though SmartHub. smpa.smarthub.coop