



What's the
Big Deal
About EVs?



Dividend
Checks are
Back!



Time to
Apply for
Scholarships

DECEMBER 2021

ENERGYWISE



Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives
The power of human connections®

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, 7:00a.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

CHRISTMAS SAFETY TIPS:

- Choose the right light for the job. Light strings and other decorations are rated for indoor or outdoor use.
- Avoid overloading extension cords or circuits with too many decorations.
- Usually, you can safely connect no more than three light strings. Read manufacturers' instructions for directions.

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, audiotype, 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.

EVs: The Savings are Real

ACCORDING TO THE INTERNATIONAL ENERGY AGENCY, WORLDWIDE ELECTRIC CAR SALES IN 2020 EXCEEDED EXPECTATIONS WITH A GROWTH OF OVER 40% IN GLOBAL SALES FROM 2019. THIS WAS DESPITE THE OVERALL 14% DROP IN VEHICLE SALES ASSOCIATED WITH THE GLOBAL PANDEMIC. SO, WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL WITH ELECTRIC VEHICLES (EVS)?

Although there are many benefits of EV ownership, the one most often cited by EV owners in our area is the substantial *savings*.

Currently, the average U.S. household spends nearly one-fifth of its total family expenditures on transportation. Due to this fact, substantial fuel savings can make a big difference in the average family's budget.*

Electricity is less expensive than gasoline and EVs are more efficient than gas-powered vehicles. On a national average, it costs less than half as much to travel the same distance in an EV than a conventional vehicle. Perhaps that is why budget-conscious car-buyers are making the switch to EV in record numbers.

If you're in the market for a new car, you may want to visit chooseev.com. This site has an online EV Savings calculator that can help you estimate your potential savings. (Enter our kWh rate of \$0.134725) We can also help with our EV Charging Equipment and EV Rebates. Learn more about them at www.ecoactionpartners.org/smparebates/#electric-vehicles

* U.S. Department of Energy - Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Saving on Fuel and Vehicle Costs.



Learn what
Impact EV
ownership
might have on
your budget
with
ChooseEV.com



SMPA began to incorporate electric vehicles into its fleet with the new Tesla Model 3. Given its range and expected fuel savings over the life of the car, this will unquestionably equate to a savings compared to the cost of a traditional purchase.

EV's Aren't the Only Way to Replace Fossil Fuels

We also have rebates for these electric alternatives:

- Electric Heat Pumps
- Outdoor Power Tools
- Home Batteries
- Green Medallion (All-Electric) Homes
- Commuter E-bikes & Electric Motorcycles



Learn more at www.smpa.com/content/electric-vehicles-and-beneficial-electrification.

Are You Getting a Member Dividends Check?

SMPA is not-for-profit. In a typical year, SMPA collects more than enough revenue to cover its expenses. The excess revenue, called “margins” is allocated to each consumer in proportion to their contributions for that year. The cooperative reserves this money for a period of time. If you receive a check from SMPA in January, 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!



Home Generator Safety Tips

Know the risks of using a portable generator.

- Position generators outdoors and well away from any structure.
- Always follow the manufacturer’s directions and warnings.
- For hardwired connections, always use a licensed electrician.
- Make sure your generator is properly grounded.
- DO NOT plug the generator into a wall outlet.

Learn more about home generator safety at: www.smpa.com/content/outage-information-0



No Rate Increase in 2022

For another year, SMPA members can rely on their access charge and energy rate to remain the same. The SMPA Board of Directors approved the staff-recommended 2022 budget without a rate increase. The Board has discussed raising the access charge in the future as a way to help mitigate risk for the cooperative. However, they determined that this strategy was not necessary in 2022.

Check this newsletter around this time next year, and in the future, to learn about SMPA’s ongoing financial performance and future plans.

SMPA Scholarships Available

High school seniors, now’s the time to start applying for scholarships. SMPA has \$2,000 scholarships available for both college-bound and vocational school-bound students from each of these area high schools:

- Silverton High School
- Ouray High School
- Norwood High School
- Telluride High School
- Ridgway Secondary School
- Nucla High School
- Telluride Mountain School
- Paradox Valley Charter School

As an SMPA member, you may also access scholarships from Basin Electric Power Cooperative and the Rocky Mountain Electrical League Foundation. Check out these opportunities at www.smpa.com/content/scholarships



SMPA COLLEGIATE & VOCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

- Deadline: March 14, 2022
- www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=telluridescholarship

BASIN ELECTRIC SCHOLARSHIP & RMEL ELECTRIC INDUSTRY SCHOLARSHIPS

- Deadline: January 31, 2022
- www.smpa.com/content/scholarships



Have you changed your phone # or email?
Let us know at 1-877-864-7311

SMPA POWER PLAY

This Month’s Puzzle: DENG EM ONE LAIR

Hint: Your all-electric home might win one.

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



REMINDER:
SMPA Offices will be closed Dec. 22nd thru Dec. 24th ...and again Dec. 30th & 31st
We wish you the happiest of holidays!