

SANGRE DE CRISTO ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

The Outlet

APRIL 2019



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Facebook.com/SDCEA.Inc
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Your community electric service provider.



SAVE THE DATE:

SDCEA Annual Meeting
June 20, 2019
Cliff Lanes, Westcliffe.

Details to follow.



Trout Creek solar overview Photo credit SDCEA/Colton Blankenbeckler.

TROUT CREEK SOLAR FACILITY

Sangre de Cristo Electric Association Inc., announced the 2-megawatt Trout Creek Solar facility began commercial operation January 31. The project is located on the Colorado Department of Corrections' Buena Vista Correctional Complex property south of Buena Vista.

Trout Creek Solar will generate approximately 4.7 percent of SDCEA's annual energy usage. Additionally, 310 SDCEA consumers are participating in private solar production determined by net meters, meters that measure the generation of power through individual solar, wind or hydro generation, such as that found from roof-top solar panels or wind turbines at a home or business. Adding the consumer net-meter output to Trout Creek Solar's estimated production, more than 7 percent of SDCEA's power will be from locally-produced, renewable energy.

Tri-State Generation and Transmission, SDCEA's wholesale power provider, obtains about 30 percent of its energy mix from renewable sources including solar, hydro and wind sources. Combined with the percentages above, about 40 percent of SDCEA's power supply is provided by renewable sources.

Trout Creek Solar's array will generate about 5,752 MW hours of energy, or enough electricity to supply about 685 typical SDCEA consumer homes in a year. SDCEA chose a sun-tracking system to maximize the output of the array, given that it is located in a mountain valley.

Trout Creek Solar was approved for construction at the end of August when SDCEA signed a 36-year site license agreement after 13 months of negotiations with the Colorado Department of Corrections.

[continued on page 8]

Trout Creek Solar:

- Will generate 4.7 percent of SDCEA's annual energy usage.
- Roughly 40 percent of the energy now supplied on SDCEA lines is from renewable sources now that Trout Creek Solar is in operation.
- Has 7,952 panels which are on a sun-tracking system to maximize power production.
- Will generate 5,752 MW hours of energy, enough electricity to supply about 685 typical SDCEA member homes.
- Engineered to withstand 105 mph winds.
- Sits on 20 acres of Colorado Department of Corrections property south of Buena Vista.

Trout Creek Solar, continued from page 7

“We are pleased, through our partnerships with CDOC and juwi, Inc., to have the Trout Creek Solar facility fully operational and providing renewable energy to our consumers,” Paul Erickson, SDCEA chief executive officer, said.

An international wind and solar energy company, juwi, Inc., was commissioned by SDCEA to build the solar facility. SDCEA will purchase all the power generated from the solar facility to supply to its consumers.

Once final construction cost data is reviewed on the project, details of a potential community solar carve-out will be developed.

SDCEA is based in Buena Vista, with a service warehouse in Westcliffe. SDCEA provides electricity to more than 13,000 consumers in the mountains of central Colorado. For more information about SDCEA, visit the company’s website, myelectric.coop.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony for the project is planned for early summer 2019.

SDCEA WELCOMES JOEL GARZA



SDCEA welcomes Joel Garza, who moved to the area from Blackwell, Oklahoma, where he worked for Kay Electric Cooperative. Joel accepted the staking technician III position in the Buena Vista office.

Garza grew up visiting family in central Colorado and loved all the outdoor activities this area has to offer, as well as the laid-back culture of the mountain communities of this region.

“Having the opportunity to work and play in the place I love is a dream come true,” Joel said.

Joel’s arrival coincided with significant snowfall in the area, which creates unique field visits.

“I never had to snowshoe in to a site visit in Oklahoma, so that’s interesting,” Garza said. **Welcome, Joel!**



New Phone Number or Email?

If you’ve changed your phone number or email address since taking service with Sangre de Cristo Electric Association, please update your information with us.

Without a current phone number or email address, we cannot get in touch with you to let you know about planned outages, to confirm power restoration in the event of an unplanned outage or to let you know about possible issues with your billing, such as expired credit cards on auto pay accounts.

You may go to our website, myelectric.coop, to the login box to create an account with updated information, or you may update information online if you already have an account.

Would you like to check in with us instead? Call us 8 a.m.-5 p.m. M-F at 719-395-2412 or toll-free 844-395-2412.



REBATES

Sangre de Cristo Electric Association, Inc., and its power supplier, Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc., have teamed up to bring you rebates for installing Energy Star-rated electric water heaters and Energy Star-rated electric appliances.

Want to learn more? Go to our website, myelectric.coop, click on Save Energy & Money and head to the rebates tab.



OUTAGES

Do you have an outage to report? Don’t hesitate to call 719-395-2412 or toll-free 844-395-2412. Outages may be reported 24 hours a day, seven days a week, including holidays.

DO NOT email your outage information or post your outage information on social media. SDCEA cannot monitor that information effectively, especially after hours. The only way to be sure we know you have an outage is to phone it in.



April 2019 Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Streaming content with electronic equipment that has earned the Energy Star rating will use 25 to 30 percent less energy than standard equipment.

Source: energy.gov

Partner With Sangre de Cristo and Contribute to Your Community

Operation RoundUp gives Sangre de Cristo Electric Association consumers an easy way to help their community. By agreeing to “round up” their electric bill to the next dollar, consumers can work together with other consumers to help organizations in our local area.

For example, a monthly bill of \$52.74 would be rounded up to \$53.00. The extra 26 cents is placed in an account administered by the Operation RoundUp Association Board of Directors, along with the pennies rounded up by all other participating consumers.

Consumers who have signed up to participate will notice their electric bills include a line item showing the amount that has been “rounded up.” All donations are tax deductible, and every January and February

a summary of yearly contributions will be included on each participating consumer’s bill.

Operation RoundUp extends SDCEA’s commitment to the people and the communities that make up our cooperative. It’s a way for a few cents to make lots of sense.

To contribute to Operation RoundUp: contact us at 844-395-2412 or 719-395-2412, visit our website, myelectric.coop and find Operation RoundUp under the community tab or email info@myelectric.coop with “Operation Round Up” in the subject line and let us know you want to sign up.

THE MOST IT WILL COST YOU IN ONE YEAR IS \$11.88! GIVE A LITTLE, HELP A LOT.



Examples of Operation RoundUp funding recipients include:

- Buena Vista Heritage ElevateHER
 - Fremont County Historical Society
 - Articipate
 - Chaffee County Public Health
 - Collegiate Peaks Forum, Inc.
 - Wet Mountain Rotary Club
 - Historic St. Elmo & Chalk Creek Canyon, Inc.
 - KHEN Radio
 - Salida Circus
 - Buena Vista Circus
 - Ark Valley Humane Society
 - Darren Patterson Christian Academy
 - First Presbyterian Church food pantry
 - Guidestone Colorado
 - Colorado Farm to Table
 - Chaffee County Oral Health Program
 - Buena Vista Pregnancy Center
 - Chaffee County Quilts of Valor
 - Salida Concerts, Inc.
 - Rotary Club of Buena Vista
 - Full Circle Restorative Justice
 - Salida Symphonic!
 - The Grainery Ministries Food Bank
 - Alliance Against Domestic Abuse
 - Chaffee County Boys & Girls Club
 - Chaffee County High School
 - Chaffee County Montessori School
 - The Excellence in Education Committee
 - Chaffee County Mentors
 - Valley Park Recreation and Youth Center
 - Land Trust of the Upper Arkansas
 - Chaffee County Habitat for Humanity
 - Cotopaxi School District
 - Silvercliff Museum
 - Custer 2020 Club
 - Nurturing Parent Program
 - Cornerstone Church TGIF lunch program
 - Fremont Regional Elder Support at HomeValley
 - Park Recreation & Youth Center
 - Rural Philanthropy Days
 - Western Fremont Historical Society
 - Chaffee County Search & Rescue North
 - Arkansas Valley Ambulance
- And so many more!**

Please sign me up for Operation RoundUp®!

Name: _____ Account number: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Yes, I would like to participate and have my monthly bill rounded up.

Yes, round my monthly bill up and add an additional \$ _____ each month.

I would like to make a one-time contribution in the amount of \$ _____

CONNECT WITH US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



FACEBOOK:
Sangre de Cristo Electric Assn., Inc
@SDCEA.Inc



TWITTER:
SangredeCristoElec
@SDCEA_Inc



WEBSITE:
myelectric.coop

What's on That Utility Pole?

BY PAUL WESSLUND

Utility poles are packed with electrical devices, so it's best to stay away from them. You should never nail posters of political candidates or lost pets to utility poles. Nailing or attaching things to utility poles can tear a lineworker's protective equipment, interfering with their safety while on the job.

The equipment and devices up there vary from pole to pole, but think of a utility pole as a layer cake with the electric equipment at the top. Most noticeable are the wires, supported by the crossarms and/or insulators.

AT THE TOP

At the highest levels, they could be high-voltage transmission wires carrying power long distances. More often what you're looking at are medium-voltage distribution lines carrying power into neighborhoods. Beneath those may be service wires with stepped-down power ready to be used in a home or business.

It's important to remember that those are bare wires, which is why you hear regular warnings to stay away if a storm knocks power lines to the ground. That's also why the wires are attached to insulators



that keep them from being in contact with wood, steel or other supporting materials.

IN THE MIDDLE

Just below the electric lines hangs a variety of electric equipment. The big metal cans are transformers that convert high voltages to low voltages. Devices that look like stacks of big gray doughnuts are protective lightning arrestors that act like a fuse or circuit breaker, shutting down the line when they

detect a problem. Collections of what look like metal cereal boxes are capacitors that help improve the efficiency of power flow and regulate voltage. Other switches and regulators monitor and adjust the flow of electricity as energy use changes throughout the day.

Some of the lines you see might be ground wires that carry static electricity, such as lightning, into the earth or balance the flow of power and help ensure safe operation of the system, or they could be guy wires to keep the pole straight.

LOWER LEVEL

The lowest layer carries nonelectric lines: cable television, telephone, internet and traffic light controllers. There's one more layer — any of those lines might go under the ground to get to a house or meet up with other underground lines.

In a nutshell, these are the basic parts of an electric utility pole that get power to the people.

Paul Wesslund writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Q&A With Joe Redetzke, Chairman of the Sangre de Cristo Board of Directors



Job Description: I fulfill an at-large director's position, representing the entire five-county service territory of SDCEA.

Hometown? I am originally from Claflin, Kansas, where I grew up on a family farm. Most of my career has been working and living in Colorado, Kansas, Missouri and Utah.

How long have you been a board member at Sangre de Cristo Electric? I was appointed to the board in January 2016.

What is the most rewarding experience you've had on the board so far? The current state of the energy industry is undergoing rapid and significant challenges never seen before, and it is exciting to keep

abreast of the developing technologies to deliver safe, reliable and affordable power to our members.

If you were driving down the road, what song would you turn up if it came on the radio? The Eagles' Hotel California. It is the best 7 minutes of music ever written.

Name a skill you have, unrelated to board work. I am engaged in consulting internationally in the field of GPS for food production.

Please share a fun fact about yourself. I have had the privilege of developing GPS business in more than 60 countries and experiencing their cultures, customs, friendships and foods.

What do you do outside of board work for fun? Travel, play golf and spend time with family and our eight grandkids.

Anything else you want to add? It is an honor to represent the members of SDCEA in a very evolving era in the search for the proper mix in resources for carbon-free energy.