

CHOOSING RELIABILITY SHOULD NOT BE A BUSINESS DECISION

BY REG RUDOLPH GENERAL MANAGER

Have you ever wondered how something works? The more technical and complicated something is, the harder it is to understand. With most things in life we do not give a second thought to how they work. We just trust someone else knew what they were doing and enjoy the outcome of the innovation.

It is probably safe to trust and enjoy. When I get on an airplane, I know there are inherent risks, but there are a lot of people working to make the entire process work, so I can trust and enjoy the trip. So far, my takeoffs have equaled my landings.

Last February, the United States was in a nationwide cold spell. States that never get cold experienced snow and ice, which caused people to use more energy. What we witnessed firsthand in Texas was devastating. Natural gas supply froze up, and electricity generation of all types failed to meet the demand.

Texas has enjoyed extremely competitive energy prices, driven by open competition. However, in February, when weather conditions reached extreme levels, the system

failed to meet the demand of consumers.

Last year, California experienced a power supply constraint and had rolling blackouts. This event pointed back to poor planning. A public utility that is given near-monopoly power must accept the obligation to serve in every condition. In both Texas and California, they failed to meet that obligation.

This February, San Isabel Electric and its power supplier, Tri-State Generation and Transmission, faced the same extreme weather. We survived without widespread rolling blackouts and financial devastation for our member-owners. Most Colorado utilities survived without rolling blackouts. Some were hit hard financially, but our cooperative model endured.

Competition makes people better and profit is a motivator in business, but not every organization is going to make the right decision for the consumer in lieu of seeking profit. A utility has an obligation to serve. A cooperative does not exist for profit, but service, which is why San Isabel Electric survived the February extreme



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weather event.

The electric utility industry is technical and complicated. Most people expect those responsible to be responsible so they can enjoy the benefits of electricity. Colorado's legislature is taking aggressive steps to remove carbon-producing generation sources. San Isabel Electric does not argue that decarbonization of generation sources in the long term is the right thing to do, but after seeing two major grid failures in the last year, there is reason for concern.

As laws are passed in Colorado, reliability needs to be included in the discussion and it is currently not. San Isabel Electric knows how the grid works and we have growing concerns. We take our obligation to serve seriously and know you entrust us to keep your lights on. California and Texas were not accidents, they were risks assumed. Those are risks we do not need to take in Colorado.

San Isabel Electric

CALLING YOUNG BUDDING ARTISTS!

SIEA is looking for help to promote and celebrate National Safety Month in June. Students in grades one through five can enter their hand-drawn artwork for our Electric Safety Poster Contest.

Visit siea.com/safety-power-lines/ to learn more!

ENTRIES DUE MAY 7

Cooling Your Home With a Whole House Fan: Things to know before you buy

If you are thinking about buying a whole house fan, there are a few things you need to know before making the investment.

Most whole house fans require an attic to run the ductwork. Whole house fans are meant to run with a few windows open in the early morning, late evening and overnight, when the air outside is cooler than the air inside. The outside air is pulled through the open window, through your home and ventilated through a short, wide air duct out of the attic.

Whole house fans are a great way to lower your home's temperature without spending a large amount of money. If you live in a warmer climate, they are not likely to eliminate the need or desire for an air conditioner unit, or evaporative cooler. Homeowners with whole house fans in warm climates will continue to use their air conditioner, on occasion, during late afternoons or when the early morning and nighttime temperatures are not cool enough to run the fan. However, they don't need to use it as long or as often, saving money on air-conditioning costs.

Cooling the core of your home

Homes cooled with whole house fans do not reheat as rapidly. Thermal mass cooling is the key principle to why whole house fans work so well in southern Colorado climates, because the outside temperatures are cool enough to run whole house fans often 10 to 12 hours a night. The longer you run a whole house fan with a few windows open, and when the air is cooler outside than inside, the more heat is pulled out of your home, cooling the thermal mass of your home, such as furniture, the walls and flooring. When heat is pulled out of the mass, the home becomes truly cooled down. This process is called thermal mass cooling. It is important to turn off the fan, close the windows, and close window coverings before it starts heating up outside, to keep your home from reheating rapidly. At the end of the day, your home feels cooler and more comfortable because it resisted the heat better than it would have without the whole house fan. This is why the air conditioner doesn't have to work as long or as hard.

Cut your electric-related cooling costs by up to 50%

There are multiple lines of fans in several different sizes to accommodate varying square footages, and pricing varies depending on model, accessories and sizes. Whole house fans have one of the fastest return on investment of any green energy product on the market. In most cases, the system will be fully paid for in one to three years, due to the amount of energy saved from lowering the time and frequency the air conditioner is used. This can cut

electric-related A/C costs by 50% to 90%, and can increase the life of your A/C unit.

Healthier, fresher home

Whole house fans have many benefits besides just cooling the home and helping reduce electricity costs. They help improve the indoor air quality of a home by exhausting and ventilating the stuffy air, pet dander, allergens, germs, dust and other pollutants inside the home. QuietCool whole house fans complete 15 to 20 air exchanges per hour. One complete air exchange occurs within a few minutes. QuietCool fans move an average of 1,250 to 6,400 cubic feet of air per minute. That is the equivalent of 50 to 100 typical bathroom fans.

Whole house fans & attic fans

There is a lot of confusion about the difference between an attic fan and a whole house fan. They are different products, but they can work in tandem to cool and ventilate your home during the day and night. A whole house fan is used for cooling both the home and attic. Whole house fans are not effective when they run during the day when it is warmest outside. This is where an attic fan comes in.

Attic fans ventilate and exhaust your attic only and are used primarily during the day, but they work well in the evening and night as well. Attic fans pull air from the outside through existing vents in the attic. This allows the attic to stay within 10 degrees of the outside temperature at all times when the fan is running. Without an attic fan, an attic can get up to 150 degrees during the summer, which can ruin the integrity of your home and cause high electric bills.

Even during the winter months, homeowners can use an attic fan. In the winter, moisture and mold can build up due to the air in the home being extremely warm versus the air in the attic being extremely cold. The snow on the roof then becomes ice and holds the excess water. This is called ice damming and that is what creates mold, mildew and premature roof rotting. With an attic fan, the constant flow of air in the attic lowers the overall humidity level and helps keep the attic healthy.

The best system combines an attic fan and a whole house fan to cool, ventilate and exhaust the entire home, day and night, and all year long.

More information about QuietCool whole house fans and attic fans is available at SIEA.com/QuietCool. Information can also be requested by emailing Empower by San Isabel Electric at empower@SIEA.com, or by calling 800-247-SIEA (7432).

The Most Affordable Cooling System in America

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Built in the USA

On average, QuietCool costs 7-10¢ per hour vs. A/C at \$2-\$3 per hour

Moves up to 10x more air than traditional A/C

Expels odors, germs, smoke & VOC gases

Helps prevent mold & mildew

Removes unwanted heat

Helps remove pet dander



HOW QUIETCOOL WORKS

QUIETCOOL IN 4 EASY STEPS

- 1 Open windows anytime its cooler outside than in.
- 2 Turn QuietCool fan on.
- 3 QuietCool pulls in cool air from outside; expels hot air out attic vents.
- 4 Patented whisper quiet, ducted design allows system to suspend in attic, keeping noise vibration out of the living space.



GET A REBATE
\$100 - \$150

EXPIRES 9.30.2021

Call for more info.
719-647-6250

SIEA.com/QuietCool
empower@siea.com

SIEA ANNOUNCES 2021 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

San Isabel Electric will award their first ever Continued Education and First-to-Attend Scholarships this year. These two scholarships are an addition to the robust and competitive scholarship opportunities the cooperative offers each year.

The Continued Education Scholarship is awarded to students who have been out of high school for a minimum of two years and plan to attend an accredited institute in higher education. The First-to-Attend Scholarship is awarded to students who are the first person in their immediate family planning to attend their first year of higher education at an accredited college or university.

These two scholarships were added this year to provide opportunities to a wider range of individuals. San Isabel Electric recognizes that students come from a variety of backgrounds. The addition of these scholarships helps to make sure that all individuals who desire to pursue higher education can do so.

\$1,000 Continued Education Scholarship recipients:

- Dalton Strickland, Rye High School
- Sarah Pacheco, John Mall High School

\$1,000 First-to-Attend Scholarship recipients:

- Lawrence Indgjer, Rye High School
- Lauren Romero, John Mall High School

The San Isabel Electric Board of Directors scored the applicants based on their resume, cover letter, letters of recommendation, their answer to a 300-word essay, as well as the format, grammar and punctuation of their overall application.

“Education is one of San Isabel Electric’s top values. It is a privilege to have the resources to award so many scholarships year to year. Congratulations to our scholarship recipients who have worked hard to receive these awards. We wish you nothing but success in your college careers and all future endeavors,” said Board of Directors President Jacque Sikes.

Eligibility requirements varied based on each scholarship opportunity, but all the scholarships require the student to have a parent or legal guardian that is a San Isabel Electric member.

The San Isabel Electric Board of Directors will award a total of 26 scholarships totaling \$36,000 for the upcoming academic year. Scholarship funding comes from unclaimed capital credits, unused revenue that the electric co-op tried to return to member-owners but went unclaimed. The current list of unclaimed capital credits is published at siea.com/capitalcredits and is available in the April edition of *Colorado Country Life* magazine.

San Isabel Electric has been awarding scholarships since 1990.

The following students are also receiving a scholarship from San Isabel Electric for the 2021-2022 academic year:

\$5,000 Powered-Up Scholarship recipient



Brooklyn Phillips
Pueblo West High School

Powered-Up Scholarship runners-up:



Eleanor Masinton
La Veta High School
\$3,000



Brendan Bradfield
Pueblo West High School
\$2,000

\$1,000 San Isabel Electric Scholarship recipients:

- Antonio Moltrre, Hoehne School
- Jamilee Just, Hoehne School
- Autumn Gutierrez, Hoehne School
- Kiley Geiser, Hoehne School
- Shauniely Torres, Hoehne School
- Baylee Bloesser, Pueblo West High School
- Xavier Hatch, Pueblo West High School
- Emma Eide, Providence Academy Homeschool
- Hayden Polk, Rye High School
- Jolee Ortiz, Rye High School
- Brayden Sidbury, Connections Academy
- Travis McKinzie, John Mall High School
- Alyssa Torres, Aguilar High School
- Kendall Velarde, Trinidad High School
- John Fernandez, Trinidad High School
- Carson Miller, La Veta High School
- Matthew White, Goal Academy
- Alyssa Winford, Branson School

\$1,000 Vocational Scholarship recipients:

- Isaiah Coca, Aguilar High School
- Cole Miller, Beulah Valley Homeschool Academy
- Nevaeh Browning, Aguilar High School

\$1,000 At-Large Scholarship recipient:

- Alicia Lest, Central High School