

# SANGRE DE CRISTO ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

*The Outlet*

DECEMBER 2021



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## Your Community Electric Cooperative



## Refund to Consumers

on November Bill



SDCEA, your community electric cooperative, is pleased to announce consumers will get a one-time refund credited to their November bill that they will receive in early December, just in time for the holidays!

SDCEA saw higher-than-anticipated energy sales in 2021. Higher energy sales, along with a small reduction in our wholesale power cost, led to healthier margins for the year than were anticipated. The one-time refund was authorized by the SDCEA Board of Directors during its October meeting to reflect these unique, concurrent events.

The refund amount for each consumer will vary, as it is based on the total amount of each account's monthly electric bill total from January through October 2021. Only active memberships will be eligible for the refund. If you have more than one account, your total credit for all accounts will post to your main account.

SDCEA is an electric cooperative. Electric cooperatives operate on a not-for-profit basis. Margins, when consumer revenues exceed costs, are used by SDCEA as equity and for operating capital. SDCEA generally allocates margins in the form of capital credits to consumers. Over time, capital credits may be retired and paid back to our members in the form of capital credit refunds when the financial position of the cooperative permits and policy provisions are met.

In the case of this refund, the board of directors determined that 2021 margins are in excess of needed equity and operating funds that would normally be allocated for a future date and therefore should be returned to consumers this year.

Seasons Greetings  
-from SDCEA



SDCEA will be closed December 24 and December 31 in observance of Christmas and the New Year's Day holidays.

## COST OF SERVICE STUDY RESULTS

**S**DCEA conducted a comprehensive review and evaluation of the rates we charge for providing electric service to our consumers.

Power System Engineering, a national firm that specializes in conducting cost-of-service studies, was retained by SDCEA over the past 18 months to evaluate rates and charges to all consumer rate classes, the income received from various rate classes, and to weigh those findings against the actual cost of providing services in each rate class.

The good news from the study: SDCEA learned there is no need to enact a general rate increase. SDCEA has not enacted a general rate increase since 2017. The review also found, in part, that in some rate classes more than enough money was collected to pay for costs. In other classes, not enough revenue was collected to pay for costs. This is referred to as “cross-class subsidization.” SDCEA’s goal is to reduce, to the extent possible, subsidies between rate classes. In other words, SDCEA’s objective is to make sure consumers are paying the fairest cost possible for their electric service, and not more than or less than their share.

The cost-of-service study findings also support SDCEA’s recognition that consumers would prefer, and would benefit from, new tools and options to allow more control over their electric usage and utility bills. Now that the cost-of-service study is complete, SDCEA plans to roll out some new rate options from which consumers may choose beginning in February 2022. We’ll take a look at consumer options next month, including how you can use tools and information to decide which option may be the best for you.

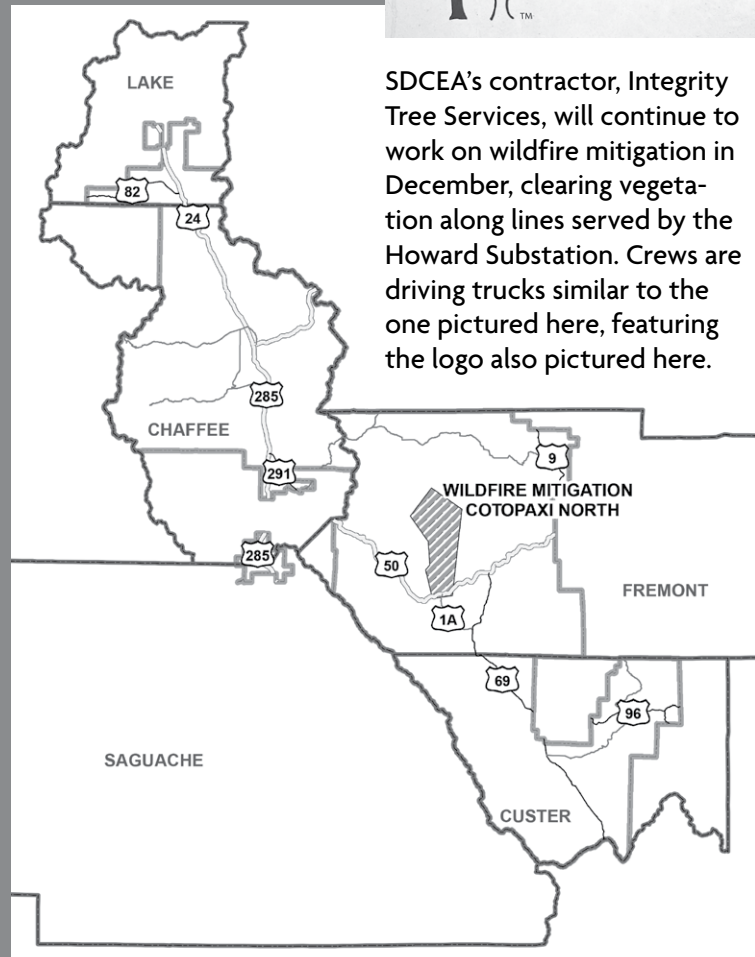


# WILDFIRE MITIGATION



**INTEGRITY  
TREE  
SERVICES**

SDCEA’s contractor, Integrity Tree Services, will continue to work on wildfire mitigation in December, clearing vegetation along lines served by the Howard Substation. Crews are driving trucks similar to the one pictured here, featuring the logo also pictured here.



# CCCF AWARDS \$30,000 FROM THE SDCEA COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM

The Chaffee County Community Foundation recently awarded \$30,000 in charitable grants, funded by the SDCEA Community Grant program, to 16 organizations serving Chaffee, Lake, Fremont and Custer counties. SDCEA and CCCF are in their second year of partnership to manage SDCEA's Community Grant and Matching Grant programs.

"The partnership with SDCEA is truly incredible, and we're honored to provide this grant review and administration service to such an important community partner," CCCF Board Member and Grants Committee Chair Rachele Vierthaler shared.

Congratulations to the 2021 grant recipients: Guidestone, ElevateHer, Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative, Colorado Farm to Table, Boys and Girls Club of Chaffee County, West Central Mental Health, Chaffee County Early Childhood Council, Chaffee County Childcare Initiative, Southwest Conservation Corps, Howard Volunteer Fire Department, Achieve, Inc., Colorado Theater in Non Traditional Spaces, Ark Valley Helping

Hands, The Alliance, Foodshed Alliance, and the Congregational United Church of Christ/Backpack Food Program.

Applicants applied through the CCCF's grant portal, and applications were evaluated by a special review committee comprised of individuals from four of the counties served by SDCEA. The reviewers played an integral part in the grant review process by conducting thoughtful and thorough reviews, discussions and site visits for each application.

Paul Erickson, SDCEA CEO, said, "One of SDCEA's guiding principles is to support the communities we serve. Through the SDCEA Community Grant program, we are pleased this year to be able to help support organizations in the provision of food, activities promoting health and safety, the improvement of watershed health, assistance to older adults and to youth, and more. We are grateful to be able to have this impact in our region through the grant program and from the generous participation in the Power of Change program by our consumers."

## ABOUT THE PROGRAM

SDCEA's Community Grant program funding is made possible by allocating capital credits donated back to the cooperative for charitable giving. Added to the total are the contributions of SDCEA consumers who participate in the Power of Change (formerly Operation Round Up) program. Power of Change participants round their bill up each month to the nearest dollar, and the proceeds go toward the Community Grant fund.

To sign up for the Power of Change program, please visit SDCEA's website, [myelectric.coop](http://myelectric.coop) and read about the details under the Community tab. Power of Change donations may be tax-deductible.

For more information on the SDCEA Community Grant or Matching Grant programs, visit SDCEA's website, [myelectric.coop](http://myelectric.coop), or follow the electric cooperative on Facebook or Twitter. Interested community members can also learn more at CCCF's website at [chaffeecommunity.org](http://chaffeecommunity.org).



# SMOKE ALARMS SAVE LIVES



Use interconnected smoke alarms for additional safety and early warning



DO NOT INSTALL near windows, doors, or ducts





Low pitch sound, and vibration smoke alarms are available for those who are hard of hearing



NEVER paint smoke alarms

## REMEMBER TO:

**TEST** smoke alarms monthly   **CHANGE** battery yearly   **REPLACE** alarm every 10 years



### SUPPLY CHAIN LEAD TIMES

SDCEA is alerting contractors, builders and members that the lead time on materials is longer than normal. This may impact line extensions, service upgrade projects and programs in 2021 and 2022. SDCEA is working to maintain a healthy inventory of equipment to minimize the potential delays, yet we encourage stakeholders to review their project estimates and timelines closely. To ensure realistic expectations, please reach out to our engineering department regarding any changes in your project timeline.

### REBATES

SDCEA and our power supplier, Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, have teamed up to bring you rebates for installing Energy Star-rated water heaters and Energy Star-rated appliances.

Want to learn more? Go to our website, [myelectric.coop](http://myelectric.coop), click on Save Energy & Money and head to the rebates tab.

### NEW PHONE/EMAIL

If you've changed your phone number or email address since you've started service with SDCEA, please update your information with us.

Go to our website, [myelectric.coop](http://myelectric.coop) and navigate to the login box to create an account with updated information, or to update information if you already have an account.

You may also email us at [info@myelectric.coop](mailto:info@myelectric.coop) or call us 8 a.m.–5 p.m. M–F at 719-395-2412 or toll-free 844-395-2412.

### SDCEA INFO

SDCEA posts board meeting information, annual reports, board contacts and more for members to access at any time. To view these items, create an account on our website at [myelectric.coop](http://myelectric.coop). Sign in and find this information under our “Members Only” section, the left side of the landing page.

If you want to see rates and policies, that information can be found on the landing page for your account (SmartHub). Go to the My Profile menu item on the top and select Documents from the drop-down menu.



## Scholarship & Youth Tour opportunities

### SDCEA SCHOLARSHIP & YOUTH TOUR OPPORTUNITIES ARE OPEN FOR APPLICATIONS! APPLICATION DEADLINES

#### Washington D.C. Youth Tour

Friday, January 14, 2022  
5 p.m.

#### Scholarship Application

Friday, January 21, 2022  
5 p.m.

For more information and directions on how to apply for these opportunities, visit [myelectric.coop](http://myelectric.coop), click on the **Community** tab and choose “Youth Programs” from the dropdown menu.

Call 719-395-2412 or toll-free 1-844-395-2412,  
or email [communications@myelectric.coop](mailto:communications@myelectric.coop).



**Sangre de Cristo Electric Association**  
Your Community Electric Cooperative



### December 2021 Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Heading out of town for the holiday season? Remember to unplug electronics that draw a phantom energy load. Some gadgets, such as TVs, phone chargers, gaming consoles and toothbrush chargers, use energy when plugged into an outlet — even when they're not in use.