

# SANGRE DE CRISTO ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

## The Outlet

FEBRUARY 2022



### MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 2013  
Buena Vista, CO 81211-2013



### STREET ADDRESS

29780 North U.S. Highway 24  
Buena Vista, CO 81211



**ph** 719-395-2412  
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Facebook.com/SDCEA.Inc  
Twitter: @SDCEA\_Inc

Your community electric service provider.



### Annual Meeting Notice

SDCEA's annual meeting will be held on June 9, 2022, at The Barn at Howard Creek Farm, Howard.



## HAVE A QUESTION about something to do with SDCEA?

The quickest way to get in touch is to give our office a call at 719-395-2412 or toll-free 844-395-2412. Our business office in Buena Vista is open 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, closed on major holidays. Or, send an email with your question to [info@myelectric.coop](mailto:info@myelectric.coop).



## NEW RATE OPTIONS FOR SDCEA CONSUMERS

**S**DCEA has enacted two rates that may be of money-saving benefit to consumers on our system who qualify. If you are interested in switching to one of these rates, please call our office. Consumers will stay on your existing rate unless you request to be placed in another rate class and fill out necessary paperwork to make that change.

### Time-of-Day rate

#### (Rate Schedule 7, Rate 60)

This rate benefits the consumer who can control or alter their energy use patterns to ensure they use less energy during on-peak times, or the hours of 5 p.m.–10 p.m. Monday–Saturday. These are times when energy is more in demand, more expensive and, therefore, SDCEA is charged more for energy on our system from our wholesale power supplier.

Consumers who opt for this rate can save a large amount on their distribution services costs if they are very vigilant about not using electricity during peak hours. However, consumers who are on the TOD rate and use electricity during peak hours are charged a higher Distribution Services Rate of 19.826 cents per kilowatt hour, compared to SDCEA's general service residential Distribution Services Rate of 5.941 cents per kWh. In contrast, the off-peak-hours Distribution Services Rate is 2.426

per kWh. The Energy Charge for all hours is 4.574 cents per kWh, which is the same as our general service Energy Rate.

The TOD rate is a great choice for consumers with **electric vehicles** who can charge during off-peak hours between 10 p.m. and 5 p.m. the following day. Electric vehicle consumers on the TOD rate will be able to take advantage of SDCEA's lower rates during this time frame.

#### Current TOD consumers (formerly referred to as Time of Use)

New on-peak hours are now 5 p.m.–10 p.m. (not 4–10 p.m.). This change provides an extra non-peak hour during the day, so you may want to reprogram appliances (if applicable) to take advantage of this extra hour.

#### Residential Heating Season Declining Block rate (Rate Schedule 10, Rate 102)

Homes heated with electricity and not with gas or propane qualify for this rate. The home must also have an electric water heater. A representative from SDCEA will schedule a time to visit your home to verify your home's primary space heating source is electric, and that you have an electric water heater. A home that uses less than 1,250 kWh per month in the winter will not benefit from this rate. Charges for summer months are exactly the same as our normal residential rate.



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

not-for profit, providing reliable, safe electricity to  
rural residents and communities in central Colorado



## MATCHING GRANT

<b>SDCEA</b>		PERIODIC: 20 JU
PAY TO THE ORDER OF <b>YOUR FAVORITE CHARITY</b> \$ <b>25.00</b>		
<b>TWENTY-FIVE + 00/100</b> DOLLARS		
MEMO: <b>MATCHING FUNDS</b>		<b>SDCEA</b>
#4234567890#		#9890-56784

t's a new year, so a reminder: If you are a member (named account holder) of SDCEA, when you support charitable, civic and educational organizations through financial contributions, SDCEA will match up to \$200 of your donation to qualifying organizations, based on the criteria outlined on our website, [myelectric.coop/community/matching-grant](http://myelectric.coop/community/matching-grant) program.

Donations must be made in the calendar year in which you are submitting the request (2022) to be considered for the matching grant program. Funds for the matching grant program are available until expended.

## IT'S AMERICAN HEART MONTH: EVERY STEP COUNTS

**F**ebruary is American Heart Month and a good time to take stock of your activity, or, for some of us, the lack thereof.

Many people have good intentions to move more, but then the day unfolds with little else other than chair time. You get to work and have that sit-down meeting; a nice co-worker brings in doughnuts; and the day is filled with several work fires to put out. You vow to move more tomorrow, but the same cycle continues.

Instead of waiting for another day, find easy ways to increase movement today. The American Heart Association offers seven simple ways to boost your activity level with no gym membership required — although a gym is also a good way to get moving.

**1. Grab the leash and walk your dog.** Both you and your four-legged friend will be healthier for it.



- 2. Take a walk with someone you love.** It is a great way to get face time without screens.
- 3. Try a 10-minute home workout.** Exercising in shorter increments can improve your health because the time spent moving adds up. People usually have an extra 10 minutes here or there throughout the day but may not be able to find a solid 30 minutes or an hour to exercise.
- 4. Walk and talk.** Or walk and work. Walk while you are on the phone or use a walking desk at work. If it is nice outside, have a walking meeting.
- 5. Tune into fitness.** Walk or jog in place; lift weights; or do yoga while you binge watch your favorite television shows.
- 6. Ditch the car.** Park farther away from the building to get in extra steps, or bike or walk to your destination.
- 7. Take the stairs, even if just for a floor or two.** The elevator may go up, but your heart rate will not as you press the floor number and listen to nondescript, piped-in music.

Stop putting off until tomorrow what you can do today. Look for opportunities to move more. Your heart will thank you.

# ANNUAL MEETING & DIRECTOR ELECTION NOTICE

The Sangre de Cristo Electric Association Board of Directors set June 9, 2022, for the cooperative's 82nd annual meeting at The Barn at Howard Creek Farm, Howard.

Members of the cooperative will act on financial data for the year 2021 and consider any other business that may become before the meeting.

## DIRECTOR SEATS

Fremont County incumbent director Geoff Gerk and Custer County incumbent director Tom Flower are running for re-election.

Elections will be held separately from the annual meeting by mail vote. If a board seat is uncontested, an election may not be necessary.

All director candidates are nominated by petition. Fifteen or more current members of the cooperative must sign each nomination petition. Any member interested in running for a director seat should review the following guidelines and pick up an official nomination petition at the cooperative's headquarters in Buena Vista. Members must reside within the director's district to be considered for nomination.

Nomination petitions, candidate biographies and financial disclosure forms are due by **5 p.m. Thursday, April 7, 2022**.

## CANDIDATE GUIDELINES

Directors of rural electric cooperatives establish policy and provide leadership in a complex, technical and ever-changing industry. They do not deal with day-to-day operations of the cooperative and do not work in the cooperative office on a daily basis. Directors attend a minimum of one board meeting per month and may attend other meetings or training programs held outside SDCEA's service territory or out of state. In addition, rural electric directors spend a considerable amount of time reading co-op and industry material and maintaining a current knowledge of industry trends. Consider the following qualifications and responsibilities when choosing a member for nomination or when deciding to run for a director position.

## QUALIFICATIONS

To qualify for directorship, a person shall:

- Be a member of the cooperative or an individual authorized by an entity member;
- Be a resident of the designated director district;
- Have the capacity to enter into legally binding contracts; and
- Disclose all monetary and in-kind contributions and expenditures directly or indirectly to or from his/her campaign for election to the board.

No person shall be eligible to become or remain a director who:

- Has failed to report all monetary and in-kind contributions and/or expenditures.
- Has been convicted of, is pleading guilty to, or had pleaded guilty to a felony.
- Is or has been within the five years preceding June 6, 2022:
  - Employed by SDCEA or the spouse of an employee.
  - Employed by or has a significant financial interest in a

business that sells or provides commodities, products or services to the cooperative.

- Employed by or a full or partial owner of an electric or natural gas utility, a propane company, or a renewable/alternative energy company, or has a significant financial interest in an entity that regularly competes with SDCEA, any entity that the cooperative controls or in which it has a substantial interest.

Directors serve without salary but may be allowed fair remuneration for their time actually spent in the service of the cooperative as directors, consistent with rural electric cooperative practice. Candidates should agree to serve the entire term of office for which they are elected. The position of director shall not be used to further any political ambition, and directors must be capable of representing the entire membership on an impartial basis.

## RESPONSIBILITIES

A director must be willing to:

- Promote and safeguard the interests of the cooperative;
- Expend the effort necessary to understand the cooperative's problems and provide the needed judgment to reach decisions in constantly changing circumstances;
- Support all official decisions and actions made or taken by the board;
- Study information in reports submitted to the board;
- Contribute to the development of statements on board functions and responsibilities, and work toward their constant improvement;
- Objectively evaluate and consider the questions and problems which face the cooperative;
- Stay informed of the cooperative's ideals and objectives, and study and analyze the policies, plans and problems which result from efforts to achieve those ideals and objectives.
- Keep informed on and aware of the attitudes of members, employees and the general public toward the cooperative's objectives and policies;
- Inform all interested persons about the cooperative's ideals, objectives, programs and services; and
- Attend classes to attain NRECA director certification within the first full three-year term of office and work toward NRECA board leadership certification within the second or third term.

## PERSONAL QUALIFICATIONS

A director candidate should display the following personal qualifications:

- Good business record and possession of sound business judgment;
- Demonstrated capacity for leadership and reputation for honesty and good judgment;
- Demonstrated capacity for working with others; and
- Ideals and objectives compatible with cooperative philosophy and principles.

## BV Schools and SDCEA Partner to Add Electric Bus to Fleet at NO COST to District

The Buena Vista School District (BV Schools) will add an electric school bus to its daily route schedule in 2022 at no cost to the school district. Acquisition of the bus is thanks to a successful grant application by the district and a significant financial contribution as well as technical support from SDCEA.

The grant of nearly \$353,000 to purchase the school bus and charging station, funded through the Regional Air Quality Council's (RAQC) Alt Fuels Colorado program, aims to improve Colorado's air quality by incentivizing replacement of pre-2009 diesel vehicles with fully electric and renewable natural gas (RNG) fleet vehicles. Funding for the Alt Fuels Colorado Program comes in part from the state of Colorado's settlement with car manufacturer Volkswagen Group of America regarding diesel emissions. SDCEA will contribute \$100,000 to cover the remaining costs of the bus, charging station and electrical infrastructure to provide power to the bus.

"This partnership with SDCEA is a tremendous way to help modernize the district's bus fleet. The bus will also promote education about emerging technologies and bring environmental and health benefits to students, as well as to our community," BV Schools Superintendent Lisa Yates said.

The bus will be the first vehicle-to-grid (V2G) installation in SDCEA's service territory. An electric vehicle V2G installation allows for energy to flow either to the vehicle being charged, or back to the grid during periods when the vehicle is not being driven. Under the BV Schools bus V2G scenario, the bus can be charged during hours that are less expensive for SDCEA to purchase wholesale power, primarily during daylight hours when less-expensive renewable power is generated, and late at night when demand for electricity is low. SDCEA can then discharge power from the bus battery, when not needed, back to the grid to offset consumer power use during high-demand, more expensive wholesale power cost periods, primarily from 5 p.m.-10 p.m. each day.

The school district may be able to take advantage of a more favorable electric rate to recharge the bus during the off-peak hours, which results in a monthly electricity cost comparable to diesel fuel.

"The bus brings an important opportunity to learn not only about the performance of an electric bus in our mountain valley, but also a chance to learn if this technology could help SDCEA going forward in leveraging large-scale batteries for power management in the future," SDCEA CEO Paul Erickson said. "We look forward to our ongoing partnership with the district on this project."



### OUTAGES

Do you have an outage to report? Don't hesitate to call 719-395-2412 or toll-free 844-395-2412.

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.



### SUPPLY CHAIN LEAD TIMES

SDCEA is alerting contractors, builders and members that lead time on materials is longer than normal. This may impact line extension, service upgrade projects and programs in 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 its power supplier, Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc., have teamed-up to bring you rebates for installing Energy Star-rated water heaters and Energy Star-rated appliances. **February 18, 2022, is the last day to submit rebate requests for purchases made in 2021.**

Want to learn more? Go to our website, 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 taking service with SDCEA, please update your information with us.

Go to myelectric.coop 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 or call us 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday 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 online at myelectric.coop. Sign in and find this information under our "Members Only" section, found on 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 on SmartHub. Go to the "My Profile" menu item on the top and select "Documents" from the drop-down menu.