

# SANGRE DE CRISTO ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

*The Outlet*

DECEMBER 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  
**tf** 844-395-2412  
**email** info@myelectric.coop  
**web** www.myelectric.coop



Facebook.com/SDCEA.Inc  
Twitter: @SDCEA\_Inc

## Your Community Electric Cooperative



# POWER OF CHANGE PROGRAM

Participate in SDCEA's Power of Change program!

## An easy way for you to help those in need

By agreeing to "round up" your electric bills to the next dollar, you can work together with other SDCEA members to change lives.

- For example, a monthly bill of \$52.74 rounds up to \$53.
- The extra 26 cents are placed in an account, along with the pennies rounded up by all other participating members.
- Consumers who sign 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.

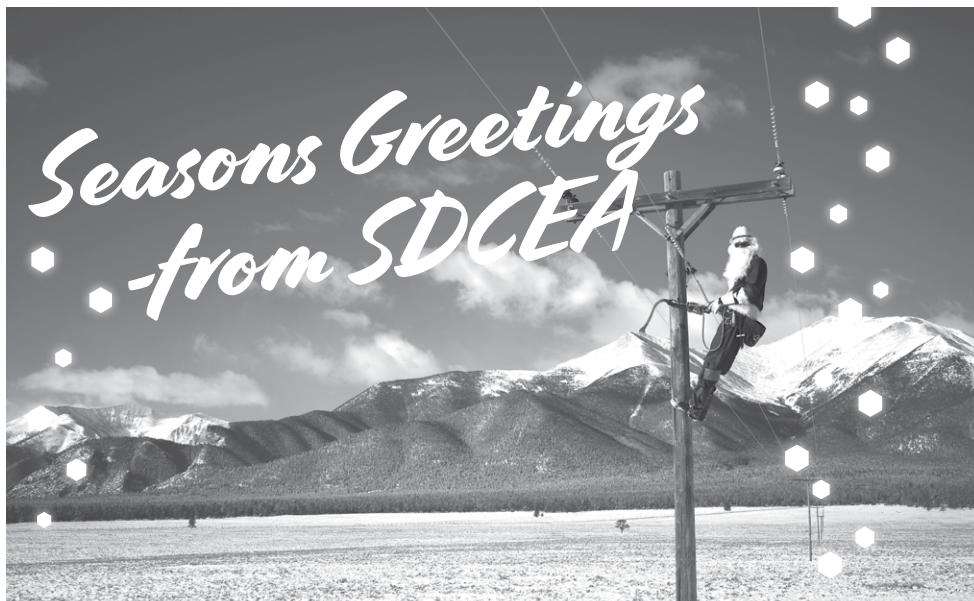


## How are the funds used?

Funds raised by the Power of Change Program are added to funds allocated by SDCEA to the Community Grant Program.

- Organizations in Chaffee, Fremont, Custer and Lake counties are eligible to apply for funding from the Community Grant Program.
  - Funds are disbursed to organizations for charitable purposes such as food, clothing, shelter and health needs.
  - Power of Change funds may not be used for political purposes or to pay your electric bill.
- Power of Change extends our 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.

If you haven't already signed up to contribute, contact us at 719-395-2412 or toll-free at 844-395-2412 or by email info@myelectric.coop with "Power of Change" in the subject line.



# Why is my electric bill higher in the fall and winter seasons?

Learn how you can track how much energy is being used at your home or business.



Let's be honest, we all love summer. The warmer weather, the longer days, the chance to get outside and enjoy all that nature has to offer. However, now those days are behind us. The fall weather is almost over, and the temperatures are dropping as winter approaches.

For many of us, this also means our electric bills will rise.

During this time of year, SDCEA office staff members receive calls from members asking why their monthly bill seems higher than previous months, and whether a rate increase is to blame.

It's true your bill may be higher than before, but it is not due to a rate increase.

SDCEA hasn't raised rates since 2017. The Service Availability Charge, a fixed monthly fee that covers the cost of providing service to your home or business, has not increased since 2017 either.

However, you may still be wondering, *why is my electric bill higher now?*

The amount of energy you use in a month affects your electric bill, and winter is typically a time when electricity usage is higher.

Following are some reasons we use more electricity in the winter:

- People spend more time in their homes during the colder months. It's time to bring out the space heaters and electric blankets. There is also an increase in the time spent watching television and using computers. Don't forget the PlayStation and the other gadgets people typically use during evening hours in the winter. TV streaming viewing surges during the winter months — it's binge-watching time.
- There are more hours of darkness during these seasons. Therefore, you probably use more lights inside your home, which consume more energy.
- Winter is a time when people tend to take warmer showers. The water for those showers is heated, and because it's colder, it takes more electricity to heat it to a comfortable temperature. Hot tubs also require more energy to maintain heat for a comfortable water temperature.
- During the holidays, some households decorate with additional lighting, which draws more power.
- Guests visiting over the holidays? That means more people taking showers and running appliances such as hair dryers. You may find yourself cooking more for

guests, including students at home. Did we mention binge-watching?

- You might be using a block heater to help start your vehicle, heat tape or other winter-specific equipment.

Curious about how much power you use each day?

You can track that.

Create an account on [myelectric.coop](http://myelectric.coop) or download and sign in to our SmartHub app. On the landing page, click Start Now. You will be taken to three options to analyze and manage your energy usage. It is an easy way to compare your usage from the previous month, year or season.

You can also use this to track how much energy you use in your home or business.

Keep in mind, even if you have a gas or propane heater in your home, it still uses electricity to move the warm water or air throughout your house.

**We encourage you to contact us if you have any questions or concerns about your bill. Call us at 719-395-2412, toll-free 844-395-2412; or email [info@myelectric.coop](mailto:info@myelectric.coop). For energy saving tips, go to our website, [myelectric.coop/energy-efficiency/energy-savings-guides/](http://myelectric.coop/energy-efficiency/energy-savings-guides/).**





## NEW PHONE/EMAIL

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

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

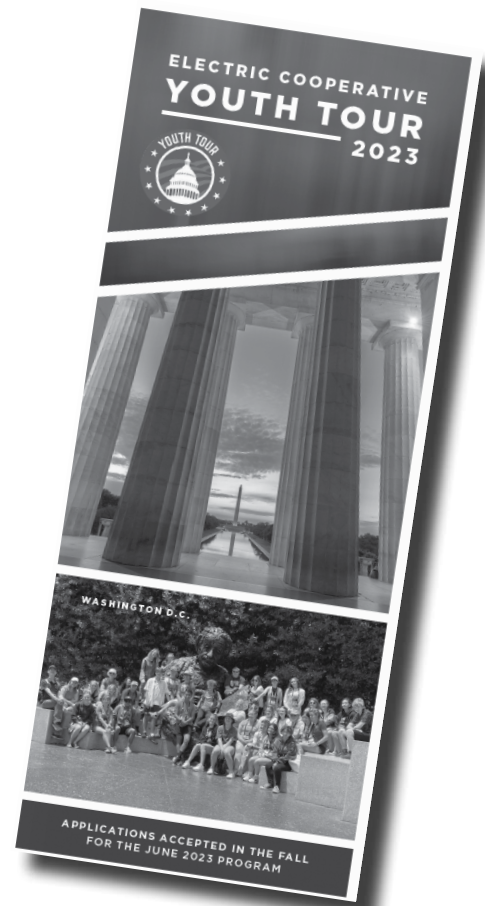
You may also email us at [info@myelectric.coop](mailto:info@myelectric.coop) or call us 8 a.m.-5 p.m. M-F at 719-395-2412 or toll-free 844-395-2412.



## 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.



# SDCEA SCHOLARSHIPS & YOUTH TOUR

## APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN!

### APPLICATION DEADLINES:

- Washington D.C. Youth Tour —  
Friday, January 13, 2023, by 5 p.m.
- Scholarship Application —  
Friday, January 20, 2023, by 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.

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

Service Address: 123 SUNNY ROAD					Bill Type: BANKDRAFT			
Meter #	Rate	From	To	Days	Previous	Present	Mult	kWh Usage
1ND123	101	12/31/22	01/31/22	31	10632	11972	1	1349

Activity Since Last Billing	
Previous Balance	\$212.00
Payment(s)	-\$212.00
Balance Forward	\$0.00

Current Charges Detail	
Energy Charge	1349 @ 0.129440 \$174.61
Service Availability Charge	\$31.83
Wildfire Mitigation Rider	\$7.00
County Tax	\$5.84

Current Charges Due	\$218.28
<b>TOTAL CHARGES DUE 02/23/2022</b>	<b>\$218.28</b>

## What is the **Service Availability Charge**?

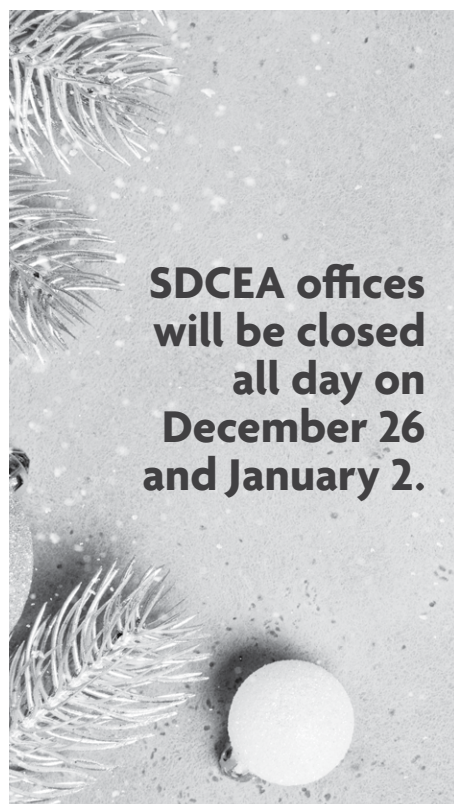
You may have seen a “Service Availability Charge” on your monthly bill. This base charge is the minimum amount required to cover the basic costs to provide electricity to your home or business. It covers ongoing maintenance on the electric system; line workers restoring outages; poles; lines; technological and delivery improvements; maintaining our substations (substations regulate voltage levels from transmission power lines that are then transmitted by distribution lines to individual consumers); the costs of our buildings; vehicle maintenance; property taxes; financing; equipment; software; and staffing to operate the company.

If you are connected to the electric grid and you don’t happen to be using much energy, or any energy, in a given month, we still have to have these things in place in order to serve you and the other

members on our system when it’s needed. The cooperative cannot operate proportionally or seasonally.

SDCEA made the decision years ago to be transparent about the base costs necessary to run the cooperative, regardless of an individual’s energy consumption. This charge is listed separately and is not built into SDCEA’s energy charges. Your actual energy usage is a separate charge on your bill.


The service availability charge is a more equitable way of recovering our base costs, year-round, throughout our system than having a high energy charge to recover those costs. This is because many of our members don’t buy much energy in some months of the year but the cooperative must still operate and maintain its infrastructure and business to be there when consumers do need electricity.




## HAVE A QUESTION

about something to do with SDCEA?

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 holidays. Or send an email with your question to [info@myelectric.coop](mailto:info@myelectric.coop).





## REBATES

SDCEA and our power supplier, Tri-State G&T, have teamed up to bring you rebates for installing Energy Star-rated appliances, water heaters, heat pumps, outdoor power equipment and more. Want to learn more? Go to our website, [myelectric.coop](http://myelectric.coop), click on Save Energy & Money and head to the Rebates tab.