

LOOK WHAT YOU DID!

The power of a co-op community

Life is full of endings and beginnings. And there's no better mark in time that highlights this than turning over the calendar page to a new year. We're already one month into 2023, and maybe you've realized that ringing in a new year can be both bittersweet and exciting.

To successfully look forward to new adventures and goals, it's important to stop and reflect. Take some time to look back. Acknowledge wins — and losses — of the past. Lean into lessons learned. And perhaps most importantly, express gratitude to yourself and those who have supported you along the way.

IN 2022 ...

You welcomed a new general manager

In January, Ryan Elarton was appointed interim general manager when former SIEA General Manager Reg Rudolph announced his move to co-op power supplier Tri-State G&T.

Later in the year, the board of directors named him as general manager of the co-op. Elarton served as the co-op's chief financial officer for eight years prior to taking on this role.

Elarton has lived in the Greenhorn Valley since 2008 and became a member of San Isabel Electric in 2004. His future-minded leadership approach for the co-op focuses on innovation and always having members at the forefront of decisions.



▲ Ryan Elarton was named San Isabel Electric General Manager in April.

You celebrated the retirement of Joseph Costa

Joseph Costa, pictured here with his wife, Anita, served for 20 years on the SIEA board. He retired in April.

Costa represented members in Aguilar, Trinidad West and vicinity. During his time on the board, Costa earned several National Rural Electric Cooperative Association certificates.



San Isabel Electric is a rural electric cooperative. That means that each household and business that buys electricity from the co-op helps bring electricity and other services to underserved areas that larger utilities and businesses don't find profitable enough to serve.

We at SIEA found great success in 2022. And those achievements were made possible by our members' support. That's you. Keep reading to see what YOU and your fellow co-op members accomplished in 2022.

You welcomed new and returning board members

Don Tokar was elected to fill Costa's board vacancy to serve District 7 (Aguilar, Trinidad West and vicinity). Doris Morgan was elected to serve District 8 (Pueblo West Proper). Ms. Morgan previously served as the District 8 Board Director from 2015-2019.



Don Tokar



Doris Morgan

You helped us take care of the electric grid

SIEA's pole inspection and replacement maintenance program is in place to extend the average service life of our power poles. In 2022, SIEA's employees and contractors inspected 1,434 power poles and replaced 238 poles.





SIEA crews trim trees regularly to reduce the risk of wildland fires.

You helped us reduce the risk of forest and wildland fires

Since 2019, SIEA has increased fire mitigation efforts in areas with a high fire risk. Areas at increased risk for fire are identified by several factors, including the history of wildfires in the area; vegetation and potential fuel sources; types of electric infrastructure; and other environmental factors. SIEA crews trim trees and vegetation every three years in areas where there is rapid growth to reduce wildland fire risk. In slower growth areas where there is less risk, we trim every eight years. This year, we plan to hire three additional full-time employees to maintain this important and necessary work schedule.

More than 10 reclosers were added in high fire risk areas

A recloser on a power line is technology that automatically opens and closes when something touches the live line. There are more than 75 reclosers in areas with high fire risk profiles



that provide protection. Generally, a recloser operation causes whatever has made contact to fall off the line. When it doesn't, the recloser stays open, which causes an outage. During Stage 2 fire restrictions, reclosers in high fire risk areas are set to immediately open before the recloser operates. This helps prevent reclosing into a situation that could potentially start a fire. Reducing the possibility of electricity holding something on the line and catching fire or sparking a fire is a primary goal for SIEA and a responsibility we do not take for granted.



You helped reduce the frequency and length of future power outages

On March 14, SIEA commissioned the new Walsenburg Substation (pictured above) and on May 16 we began replacing the Aguilar Substation. Both substations were nearing the end of their usable life. Replacing them with new equipment and technology provides better reliability for both communities.

SIEA's 69-kilovolt line serves as the backbone for the majority of our co-op's membership. The line upgrade is expected to be complete early this year, weather permitting. Replacing older materials and equipment with new materials and smart equipment help accommodate increased load capacity, decrease the frequency and length of blinks and outages, and extend the life of the overall current grid.

You are bolstering future economic growth in southern Colorado

In 2022, more than \$1.3 million in Rural Economic Development zero-interest loans were granted to local governments and small businesses for energy improvements and business expansion. We also began a revolving loan fund that will begin lending to rural member businesses in 2024.

Energy audits are now available to qualifying rural small businesses, thanks to a \$100,000 grant. And San Isabel Electric helped bring about the installation of a new fast-charging electric vehicle charging station in Colorado City.



empower

You helped 150 households and businesses save money and energy

Empower is San Isabel Electric's innovative approach to making energy efficiency efforts and upgrades accessible to everyone in the communities we serve.

Most utilities offer rebates and encourage efficient energy use. But we're taking that several steps further. We are one of the first utilities in the country to sell, finance and install energy-efficiency equipment. This includes energy-efficient insulation; heating and cooling systems; whole house and high-volume-low-speed fans; water heaters; solar power systems; and more.



▲ SIEA completed a Hunter HVLS fan project at St. Paul the Apostle church in Pueblo West. It was designed and installed locally and will contribute to both energy efficiency and comfort for many years to come.

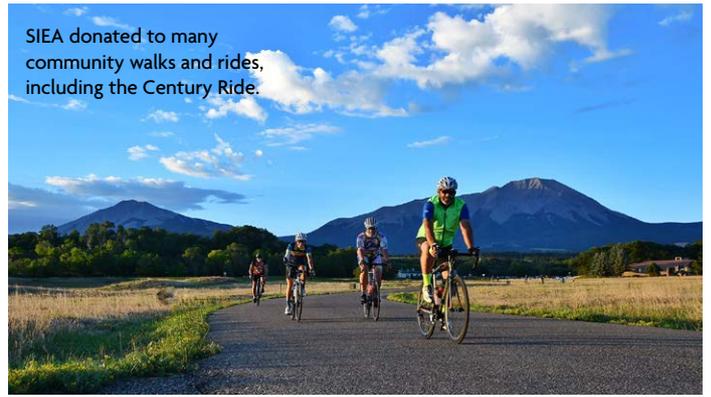
SIEA created the Empower program because we know how hard it is to get a timely, reasonable bid for these types of energy-efficiency upgrades in our rural areas. This is frustrating and prohibitive to people actually taking steps to explore and complete these upgrades. SIEA leverages relationships with contractors to increase the availability of competitively-priced energy-efficiency products and projects. We are a one-stop shop.

We help members select the right products for their lifestyle based on their past energy consumption. And we can help schedule permitting, installation and follow-up calls. We also offer zero- and low- interest, short- and long-term financing options right on your San Isabel Electric bill.

You supported future generations and community programs

SIEA has a long history of offering scholarships each year to students in our communities who want to further their education. And 2022 was no different. The San Isabel Electric Board of Directors awarded a record \$39,000 in higher education scholarships. Not only that, but SIEA donated over \$64,000 to more than 50 community-enhancing projects. Each community donation was matched by Basin

SIEA donated to many community walks and rides, including the Century Ride.



Electric Power Cooperative. A notable donation included \$30,000 to the Huerfano, Las Animas and Pueblo County Fairs, each of which received a \$10,000 combined donation from San Isabel Electric and Basin. SIEA also contributed to several charity walks and rides; food and clothing drives; museum exhibits; and more. More information about scholarships, community charitable donations, and other outreach programs is available at siea.com/community.

You're inspiring the next generation of workers

In December's magazine, you read about a new workforce development and recruitment program for students attending SIEA member high schools. The program gives kids in vocational classes an introduction to the electric cooperative industry, including who we are, what we do, and the wide range of career opportunities our industry has available. The program will continue this year. SIEA wants to see young, skilled workers start their careers here in their home communities and not have to uproot their lives from their family and friends. Not only is this beneficial to them personally, it helps us all build even stronger communities within our service territory.

An SIEA staff member shows a high school student how to use surveying equipment as part of a workforce development program.



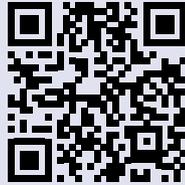
Thank you for your membership. Thanks for all you accomplished in 2022. Here's to a bright year ahead. We look forward to serving you throughout 2023 and seeing all we can achieve together.



FOR THE LOVE OF ETS, VOTE

Voting for our For the Love of ETS photo and caption contest is now open.

Entries are posted online at siea.com/showyourheater. The entry with the most votes will win a \$100 bill credit. Voting will close on February 28.



Scan this QR code with your smartphone to vote!



SCHOLARSHIPS Applications due February 15

Time is running out to apply for a scholarship from San Isabel Electric. **Applications are due by 5 p.m. February 15.** We offer scholarships for graduating high school seniors who plan to enroll in higher education the consecutive year.

We also offer scholarships for students who:

- have a gap in their education between high school and starting college
- are pursuing vocational, trade and certificate programs
- are first in their immediate family to attend college

All scholarship opportunities require the student or their immediate family to buy electricity from San Isabel Electric. For more eligibility information and to apply online, visit siea.com/scholarships.



GET PAID \$100

FOR EVERY ELECTRIC THERMAL STORAGE REFERRAL THAT TURNS INTO A COMPLETED INSTALL!

Restrictions apply. Visit siea.com/ets for info.

NEW GRID ACCESS CHARGE

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2023

Look for this change on your bill due February 15, 2023.

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RESIDENTIAL	SMALL COMMERCIAL C1	SMALL COMMERCIAL C4	LARGE COMMERCIAL	TIME OF USE	PUMPS
\$5 INCREASE	\$5 INCREASE	\$5 INCREASE	\$20 INCREASE	NO CHANGE	NO CHANGE
from \$20 to \$25	from \$31 to \$36	from \$50 to \$55	from \$150 to \$170	\$30	\$20

*The Time-of-Use (TOU) rate is available to all members with qualifying electric storage equipment, such as heating, battery storage, or electric vehicle charging. Visit siea.com/timeofday to learn more.