

ELECTRIC CO-OPS GROW FOR THE COMMUNITIES THEY SERVE

October is National Co-op Month

BY RYAN ELARTON GENERAL MANAGER

October is National Co-op Month, and San Isabel Electric is joining cooperatives across the U.S. to celebrate. Co-ops come in all shapes and sizes, but they each have a common goal: to provide goods or services for the members of the co-op.

Electric co-ops, including San Isabel Electric, exist to serve their members. Our priority is to provide affordable, reliable energy to our local communities. Because we are led by you, the members we serve, we evolve to meet your needs. When we were founded in 1938, our purpose was to teach our member-owners how to use electricity to make their life more efficient. Today, we're teaching you how to use electricity more efficiently and how to save energy and money with our Empower program.

This October as we celebrate Co-op Month, we're focusing on the ways "Co-ops Grow" for their members.

Co-ops grow communities: Co-ops help communities grow by promoting

economic empowerment, fostering community engagement, and supporting the unique needs of co-op members. "Concern for Community" is one of our core principles — and being community-focused is essential to everything we do. Through our USDA loan programs to bolster rural economic development or donating money to improve fire stations, recreational facilities, and community events, we are always here and ready to help our members.

Co-ops grow together: Co-ops are all about cooperation, not competition. That's why electric co-ops across Colorado and the country work together to share lessons learned, successful strategies, and better ways to serve our members. We're better when we grow together.

Co-ops grow tomorrow's leaders: Electric co-ops serve as fertile ground for growing tomorrow's leaders through a variety of younger member engagement programs. We're committed to providing



RYAN ELARTON

opportunities for our local kids to learn and thrive in our community and beyond. We offer workforce development curriculum aimed at recruiting high school kids into good-paying trade careers that are in demand in southern Colorado. We teach grade-school students about how electricity is made and gets to our communities and how to use it safely with the Story Behind the Switch program and demonstration.

Co-ops grow for you: At San Isabel Electric, your satisfaction is our number one goal. We were formed nearly 85 years ago to fulfill a uniquely local purpose. We've come a long way since then, and your needs continue to evolve. That's why we'll never stop growing for you.



VIRGINIA GRINSTEAD RETIRES

We at San Isabel Electric bid a bittersweet farewell to Virginia Grinstead, who retired in July after an impressive 25-year journey with the cooperative. Virginia began as a meter reader and her role evolved throughout the years. She ended her time at SIEA as the Administrative Assistant for the Engineering and Operations Department. There she not only kept everyone organized, but also brightened our days with her smile.

Her unwavering support made her a go-to confidante for many of us — she was always ready with a listening ear and a hug. It's not just Virginia that we'll miss, but also her beloved dog Mimi, who became SIEA's unofficial mascot. Mimi's joyful bark as she chased a laser pointer and made her rounds for treats helped our workspaces feel more like home.

Virginia plans to spend more time with her five children and 14 grandchildren. Virginia, we hope you have a retirement as fulfilling as the joy you've brought to all of us. Congratulations!



What is an EMPOWERED Home?

BY JACK SNELL ENERGY SERVICES MANAGER

The San Isabel Electric Energy Services Department works hard to provide member-owners like you with a range of products and services to improve your comfort, and your home's energy efficiency and value. Our Empower program is the only one of its kind in southern Colorado, an all-in-one energy-efficiency retail, installation, and financing provider. Throughout years of ducking into dusty attics and squeezing into tight crawl spaces, we've handpicked a selection of products and services. Driven by technology and in-home assessments, we offer affordable and energy-efficient solutions for the comfort of our members' homes or businesses. We can help you find products to suit your lifestyle and budget based on past energy usage; finance the project; help you find a contractor; or set you up to install it yourself. The following is a list of products that I'd include if I could build the ultimate Empowered home.

LET'S START FROM THE TOP WITH YOUR ATTIC

Do you know the R-Value of your insulation? The "R" in R-Value stands for resistance and refers to a material's resistance to temperature changes. R-Value is the insulation rating system used to grade a material's insulation properties. The higher the R-Value, the better. If you have less than R-49 insulation value, you are letting all those hard-earned

BTUs get out too easily. You might as well throw money out your windows.

San Isabel Electric's Empower program can provide the insulation improvements your home needs to maintain an ideal temperature. As your HVAC system gets a much-needed break, you'll feel a difference and start seeing savings on day one.

Insulation is like the MVP of home improvements. Good insulation will slash your energy bills, keep you comfy year-round, and add years to the life of your heating and cooling systems. The upfront cost is low, installation is simple, and we even offer a \$450 rebate to help cover the cost if you insulate up to the R-49 value.

While we are up in the attic, let's look at your attic's ventilation to see if a QuietCool whole house fan is a good fit. A whole house fan uses the outside air to cool your house for pennies on the dollar. If it's cooler outside than inside, you simply crack a couple windows, turn on the QuietCool to draw the cooler outside air in, and feel the temperature drop. A great addition to a whole house fan is an attic fan. Attic temperatures can reach up to 140 degrees in the summer. SIEA can install an attic fan to push that hot air outside and install a thermostat to control the fan when the space gets too hot. This can be done with turnkey installation with American-made QuietCool products.

MOVING DOWN TO THE GROUND LEVEL

Let's talk about the Steffes ETS (energy thermal storage) 2100 series room unit. It is a great heating addition to any home. ETS heaters come in a range of sizes to provide clean and simple heating for 400 to 1,000 square feet. ETS heaters charge during times when electricity is in less demand and less expensive, storing heat in bricks and putting it right in the room where you want it, when you want it. SIEA offers a special time-of-day rate exclusively to members with ETS heaters. On the time-of-day rate, any electricity your home or business uses during off-peak times is nearly half the price of the regular rate, up to 1,000 kilowatt-hours. With the time-of-day rate and the controls to make the ETS heater work at all the right times, you'll have a very economical system.

The best part about it is that all you have to do is set the temperature and it does the rest of the thinking. There's no need to worry about costly repairs or finding a contractor to work on it. SIEA sells, services, and installs ETS heaters, making the process of owning one a breeze. Plus, a lifetime repair contract is an option for an additional \$250 to \$600 depending on the heater's size.

Many southern Colorado homes have tall or cathedral style ceilings, which means you have a whole lot of trapped heat at the high points. For every foot of ceiling height, it's as much as one degree warmer at the peak. Installing a high-quality ceiling fan that can move that air may make a big impact on your energy bill and comfort and it can run for next to nothing. SIEA is a full-service Hunter Fan dealer. Hunter has an innovative product that applies high-volume low-speed technology — typically used in commercial settings — for homes. Hunter's HVLS Trak Fan is available in three colors (black, white, and silver) and comes in sizes from 5 to 8 feet in diameter with a wireless remote and a 900-lumen light to top it off. The Trak



ETS heaters charge during times when electricity is in less demand and less expensive, storing heat in bricks and putting it right in the room where you want it, when you want it.
 Photo by Sabrina Shibe of Walsenburg.

Fan can provide extreme comfort with minimal noise, low energy usage, and can be used year-round in both the heating and cooling seasons.

FINALLY, DOWN IN THE BASEMENT

In the basement is the often-ignored but highly used water heater. Water heating is often a large part of a home's energy usage and a necessary component to any home. Electric water heaters have come a long way, now with efficiency ranging from 93% all the way up to 400%. That means they're very cost-effective to run in almost any situation. SIEA offers several programs for members to install the best electric water heater for their home's needs. We offer Rheem water heaters, including the Pro Classic, Marathon, and ProTerra hybrid electric heat pump models, and have various incentives for installing them. SIEA can offer a turnkey solution for water heating needs and options to match both your budget and energy needs.

SIEA's energy service team can handle projects from start to finish and provide on-bill financing as low as 0% for any of these projects. We stand behind all our products and have most of them in stock and ready to go. Give us a call today and schedule a free in-home assessment to see how these products might fit in your home or business. Your comfort and savings are just a phone call away.

THE ETS LEGENDS EXCHANGE

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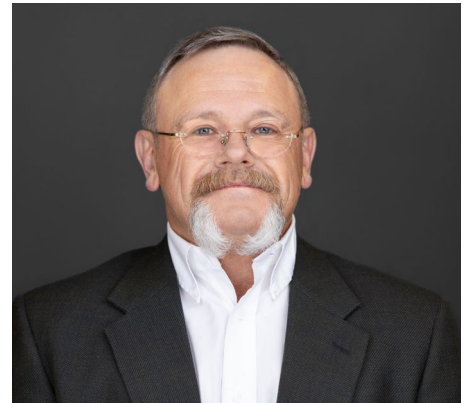
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Every person who buys electricity from San Isabel Electric has the power to help guide the cooperative. The San Isabel Electric Board of Directors is elected by the members in their district to make decisions about how the co-op is operated, including decisions about services, rates, and infrastructure investments.

We are here to serve you.

