

SANGRE DE CRISTO ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

The Outlet

OCTOBER 2024



MAILING ADDRESS

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Sangre de Cristo Electric Association
Your Community Electric Cooperative

Colorado's Electric Co-ops Send Crews to Light Up Navajo Nation

In June and July, Sangre de Cristo Electric Association and six other Colorado electric co-op line crews traveled to parts of Arizona to help electrify homes on Navajo Nation. SDCEA sent a four-person crew to build electric infrastructure near Kayenta, Arizona. SDCEA linemen Josh Saar, Colton Blankenbeckler, Caden Creamer, and Lucas Montgomery worked on the project.

More than 13,000 families living on Navajo Nation do not have basic access to electricity at home.

An initiative between the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority and the American Public Power Association, Light Up Navajo works to change that statistic and to change people's lives. "It is hard to believe that in 2024 there are still families in the United States that have never experienced having electricity," Colorado Rural Electric Association Board President Steve Valdez said. CREA is the trade association representing 21 Colorado electric co-ops across the state.

"The Light Up Navajo project was a good experience. We spent a week building power line for people on the Navajo Nation in northeast Arizona. Unlike our day-to-day work, they have never had the opportunity to have grid power in their life," Montgomery said. "The lady we built power to the first couple days was living without power for 85 years, and she was very grateful when we set the meter. She said she never got to sleep at night with a fan on and she was able to use the lights to do things at night rather than using a lantern."

Some NTUA applicants have waited years for electricity at home. Challenges include infrastructure limitations, supply chain issues, and siting and permitting considerations. Melissa, a new NTUA customer whose home was connected in June, had waited one year for electricity. "I purchased my home last year and was trying to take care of my family," she said. She and her kids lived with Melissa's parents during that time. "Now my kids have electricity and we're going to be forever grateful," she said, expressing thanks to the Colorado crew that worked to connect her home.

"NTUA was the power company we were working for, and they treated us very well. They made sure we were taken care of all day, bringing us lunches and snacks. This helped tremendously since we were working in 100-118-degree temperatures. The people we worked to bring power to live a very different lifestyle than what we are used to. It was awesome to be a part of a project that will help them live just a little bit easier," Montgomery said.

"I learned some new ways of building line that we had never really thought of, and I always think it's nice to learn a few new tricks from linemen around the country," Montgomery added. "All around, I'm very grateful for the opportunity and proud that our company was a part of



▲ The SDCEA crew works with the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority on the electrification project.



▲ Linemen from SDCEA work in 100-118-degree temperatures to help bring power to families. Photos courtesy of NTUA.



SDCEA linecrew members Caden Creamer, Josh Saar and Colton Blankenbeckler work to bring power to families living on Navajo Nation.

such a good cause.”

Since 2008, NTUA and volunteer crews have connected more than 7,500 homes to receive electricity. This year’s mission was to connect at least 150 homes. Volunteer crews surpassed that goal and helped connect 170 homes.

“Participating in projects such as Light Up Navajo are important because they exemplify the cooperative

principle of Concern for Community,” Valdez concluded. “Volunteers banding together to improve quality of life is how co-ops got their start. Today, Colorado’s electric co-ops are still improving the quality of life in rural areas — it’s who we are.”



SDCEA Plant Accountant Jenny Nall.

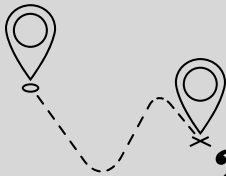
SDCEA Accountant Shares Expertise with Other Electric Cooperatives

SDCEA’s Plant Accountant Jenny Nall was a featured presenter at the prestigious Tax, Finance & Accounting Conference for Cooperatives, which took place at the end of July in Orlando, Florida.

Nall delivered an insightful presentation on the IRS requirements for reporting cash payments. This topic is crucial for cooperatives across the country, and Nall’s expertise and innovative approach in compliance in this area have earned SDCEA recognition on a national stage.

The conference also featured presenters from North Carolina-based Blue Ridge Energy, which serves 78,000 meters, and First Electric Cooperative, boasting 103,000 members near Jacksonville, Arkansas. Representing SDCEA’s 14,500 member accounts, Nall’s presentation contributed to the topic of smaller cooperatives within the industry.

“Being invited to speak alongside representatives from such large and well-regarded organizations is a tremendous honor for both Jenny and SDCEA,” said Sarah Crites, SDCEA Chief Financial Officer. “This invitation reflects Jenny’s dedication and innovation in the field of cooperative finance and accounting. We are extremely proud of Jenny and the recognition of our cooperative’s work.”



Temporary location until February 2025

**211 TABOR ST.
Buena Vista**

**Office Hours:
M-F, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.**

You can still ...

Call us at 719-395-2412

Email us at info@myelectric.coop

Visit us online at myelectric.coop

The dropbox at the U.S. Hwy 24 location is still open and is checked daily.

Daylight Saving Time ends November 3.



SDCEA Business Office Temporarily Relocates

In September, Sangre de Cristo Electric Association temporarily relocated our business office in Buena Vista to the Railroad Row Offices at 211 Tabor St., Suite 101.

This location, pictured lower right left side, is north of Town Hall.

This move is necessitated by a project to replace SDCEA's non-functioning HVAC system. Construction is expected to be completed in February 2025. During this period, the SDCEA business office on Highway 24 will be inaccessible.

Important Details

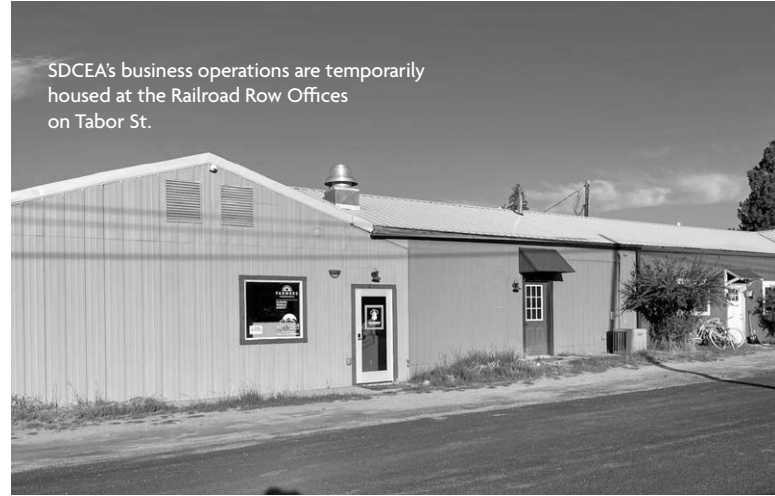
Operations: All SDCEA operations will continue as usual. There will be no changes to office hours, phone numbers, mailing addresses, or other services such as outage response.

If needed, you may come to the temporary offices to receive help with a billing question, speak with our engineering department, or pay your bill.

Drop Box: Our drop box at the Highway 24 location will remain available for your convenience and will be checked daily. There is no drop box option at the Tabor Street location.

If you have any questions, please email us at info@myelectric.coop or call our office toll-free at 844-395-2412.

Thank you for your patience and understanding during these next several months.



SDCEA's business operations are temporarily housed at the Railroad Row Offices on Tabor St.



ELECTRIFY AND SAVE™



NO MONEY DOWN, NO CREDIT CHECK FOR ENERGY EFFICIENT HOME UPGRADES

Take advantage of Sangre de Cristo Electric's (SDCEA) new On-Bill Repayment Program! Upgrade your home with energy-efficient appliances like heat pump water heaters, electric HVAC, windows, doors and insulation. No money down, no credit check, and pay back upgrades over time on your electric utility bill.

+ **LEARN MORE AT** myelectric.coop/electrifyandsave

STACK YOUR SAVINGS WITH STATE AND FEDERAL REBATES

+ **SDCEA REBATES**

myelectric.coop/energy-efficiency/energy-efficiency-credit-programs/

+ **FEDERAL AND STATE REBATE CALCULATOR** (Contractor must be State qualified)

homes.rewiringamerica.org/calculator



How to Save Money in the Laundry Room

Ah, the joys of having a washer and dryer in your home. There's no waiting for a machine, no coin slots, and no one taking out your wet clothes if you aren't right there when the cycle ends.

Although it's cheaper per load and much more convenient to do laundry at home, there's a somewhat hidden cost to consider, and that's the energy it takes to run your washer and dryer.

What appliances in your home use the most energy? The hot water heater is the appliance that costs the most to run. Right behind it is the washer and dryer's combined energy use. (Although not considered appliances by many, heating/cooling tops the list, followed by the hot water heater.)

A dryer requires more energy to run than a washer, but there are ways to reduce your washing costs, too (think hot water versus cold). To save money in your laundry room, consider these tips:

- When using your washing machine, select the right amount of water for the load – that is, don't select the “extra large” setting when doing a small load. In fact, consider waiting to do laundry until you have full loads to conserve water.
- Use cold water to save the money you spend heating water. Some laundry detergents are designed to tackle stains in cold water.
- Using warm water instead of hot can cut a load's energy use in half, and using cold water will save even more, according to www.energy.gov.

- Use dryer balls, which help separate clothes and get more air to them, cutting drying time.
- Utilize lower settings when you use the dryer. Even if your dryer runs longer, you'll use less energy and be less likely to over-dry your clothes.
- Clean the lint out of your dryer between loads and scrub the filter once a month to remove buildup.
- Put like items together since lighter-weight clothes take less time to dry. Drying towels and heavier cottons take longer.
- Use the moisture sensor option on your dryer if it has one.
- Wear clothes more than once between laundering them (although don't wait until your jeans can stand by themselves).
- When purchasing a dryer, consider an Energy Star version, which uses 20 percent less energy than a conventional model.
- Energy Star-certified washers use about 25 percent less energy and 33 percent less water than regular clothes washers.
- Thoroughly clean your dryer's vents and duct system at least twice a year.

To learn more about how much you are spending to run your washer and dryer each year, refer to the appliance energy use calculator at www.energy.gov.

For more information about safety around electricity, visit SafeElectricity.org.

10 EASY WAYS TO \$AVE

Here are 10 habits you can tweak to save energy:

1. Use cold water to wash your clothes.
2. Unplug battery chargers when not in use.
3. Skip the heat-dry setting on your dishwasher.
4. Unplug appliances and electronics not in use.
5. Run full loads of laundry instead of several smaller ones.
6. When drying clothes, include a dry towel for the first 20 minutes.
7. Keep your refrigerator at 35° to 38°F and your freezer at 0°F.
8. Reduce the setting on your hot water heater.
9. Use smart power strips that shut off power to items not in use.
10. When buying new appliances, consider ENERGY STAR versions.



Learn more at:

**Safe
Electricity.org**®