

SANGRE DE CRISTO ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

The Outlet

NOVEMBER 2024



MAILING ADDRESS

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Sangre de Cristo Electric Association
Your Community Electric Cooperative

Sangre de Cristo Electric Association Welcomes New Fremont County Director

Sangre de Cristo Electric Association is pleased to announce the selection of Rob Canterbury as the new director representing Fremont County on the SDCEA board.

A rancher whose family has lived in the area for several generations and a lifelong resident of Fremont County, Canterbury brings a wealth of experience and a deep commitment to the community. Canterbury steps into this role following the resignation of former director Nick Hellbusch in July and will serve the remainder of Hellbusch's term, which concludes in June 2025. Canterbury will be eligible to run for the seat at that time for a full three-year term.

"We are excited to welcome Rob to the board," said Sandra Attebery, Chair of SDCEA. "His dedication to Fremont County and his background will be invaluable as we continue to enhance our services and meet the needs of our members."

Canterbury was selected by the board after interviews with three Fremont County residents who applied for the position.

About the Election Process

Director terms on the SDCEA board are for three years, with elections held annually on a rotating basis for each seat. Board members are elected by SDCEA's membership, comprised of account holders in the cooperative. This democratic process ensures that all members have a voice in the direction of their electric cooperative. While board members are elected to represent specific geographical areas of the cooperative, they are elected to serve all members. Two board seats are designated as at large.

Current board officers include:

- **Sandra Attebery, representing Custer County, Chair**
- **Charlie Abel, rural Chaffee/Lake counties, Vice-Chair**
- **Blake Bennetts, town of Buena Vista, Secretary**
- **Jeff Fiedler, At Large, Treasurer**

The board also includes directors Mark Boyle, Rural Chaffee/Lake County; Sandy Long, At Large; and now Rob Canterbury, Fremont County.

Contact Information

SDCEA directors can be contacted via email through the SDCEA website at myelectric.coop/boardinfo/board-of-director-contacts.



▲ SDCEA's newest Board Member Rob Canterbury represents Fremont County.

SAC Changes

San Diego de Cristo Electric Association is a not-for-profit, member-owned cooperative that is committed to providing reliable, quality service while keeping costs down. To continue delivering and maintaining these vital services amidst rising expenses, our annual financial review has indicated a necessary adjustment to our Service Availability Charge.

Starting January 1, 2025, the monthly charge for Residential Rate 1 customers — most SDCEA accounts — will increase by \$3.50.

The Service Availability Charge increase varies by rate class. To view the applicable updated rates for all other rate classes, as well as projected Service Availability Charge rate increases through 2027 (subject to review each year and not mandatory), please visit myelectric.coop/boardinfo/bylaws-rates-policies/.

The Service Availability Charge covers expenses related to:

- infrastructure maintenance and upgrades;
- operational costs including materials, taxes, and labor;
- consumer services, including outage response and system software;
- compliance with regulatory requirements.

As your cooperative, we are committed to minimizing the impact of increasing power costs on your household. Contact us to learn how to save more energy throughout your home and to learn more about our energy efficiency rebates.

For more information, contact our office by email, info@myelectric.coop or phone toll-free, 844-395-2412, or scan the QR code here.

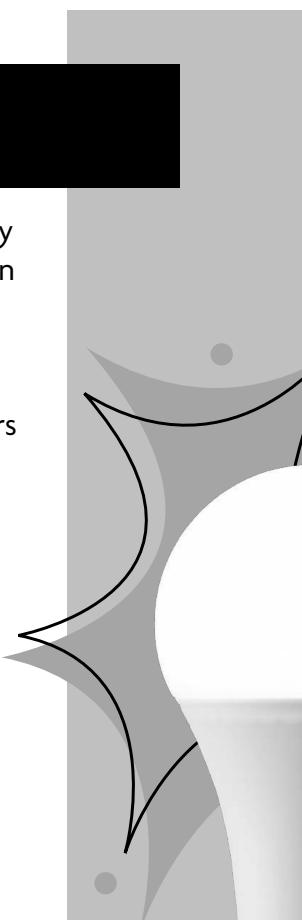


ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

If you're heading out of town during the holiday season, remember to set your home to vacation mode. You can save energy while you're away by lowering your thermostat a few degrees or creating an "away" schedule with a smart or programmable thermostat. Newer water heaters include a vacation mode setting to help you save on water heating costs, or you can simply lower the temperature manually.

Small actions can also stack up to energy savings. Unplug devices that consume energy when they're not in use, including phone chargers, toothbrush chargers, TVs, and gaming consoles.

Source: *Energy.gov*



REBATES

SDCEA and our power supplier, Tri-State Generation and Transmission, have teamed up to bring you rebates for energy efficiency upgrades such as water heaters, heat pumps, outdoor power equipment, and more.

Want to learn more? Visit our website at myelectric.coop, click on Save Energy & Money, and head to the Rebates tab.

Safety Tip

Plug appliances directly into wall sockets instead of power strips. Make sure outlets have ground fault circuit interrupter protection.

Safe Electricity.org®



Attention High School Juniors of SDCEA

Sangre de Cristo Electric Association is taking applications for the annual Electric Cooperative Youth Tour held in Washington, D.C., June 16-22, 2025.

Delegates will tour monuments, visit museums, meet with elected officials, learn about the cooperative business model, and make new friends from all over Colorado and 43 other states.

The best part? It's free, all trip expenses are paid. Attendees are responsible for incidental costs, such as souvenirs. It truly is the trip of a lifetime.

Interested? For more information, scan this QR code with your smartphone camera, visit www.myelectric.coop/community/youth-programs/youth-tour, or email communications@myelectric.coop with any questions.



Space is limited! The final day to submit your application is January 10, 2025. Don't let this opportunity of a lifetime pass you by!



SDCEA Hosts Tailgate Party at Buena Vista High School Homecoming Game

Sangre de Cristo Electric Association recently hosted a fun community tailgate party held in the parking lot of Buena Vista High School, in celebration of the school's homecoming game.

The event was blessed with beautiful weather, providing the perfect backdrop for community members to come together and enjoy each other's company. It was great to see so many locals engaging in lively conversation and building stronger community ties.

Scanga, a valued member of the co-op's small business community, provided top-quality meats that left attendees asking for seconds.

"It was wonderful to see the community come together for this event," SDCEA CEO Gary Kelly said. "Our goal was to create a fun and friendly atmosphere for everyone to enjoy, and it was great to see so many familiar faces."

SDCEA remains committed to fostering a sense of community among its members and supporting local businesses. The tailgate party was not just about having a good time but also about celebrating the bonds that make our community strong.

For more information about SDCEA and upcoming events, check these pages, our website, and follow us on Facebook and Instagram.



SDCEA hosts a tailgate party at the BVHS homecoming football game. Scanga Meat Co. hamburgers and hot dogs, drinks, chips, and cookies are enjoyed by the crowd of community members.

Vegetation Management Alert

Attention Custer County Verdemont Road Area Residents:

Sangre de Cristo Electric Association began vegetation management work in the Verdemont Road, Custer County area at the end of September.

Vegetation management work is important for many reasons including:

- **Wildfire Prevention.** Removing overgrown vegetation significantly reduces the risk of wildfires created by vegetation coming in to contact with energized electric line, sparking and starting a fire, making our communities safer.
- **Improved Service.** By minimizing potential hazards— such as outages from falling tree branches which snap lines or damage equipment — we ensure more reliable electric service. This also allows improved access for our crews to repair any issues that may arise on the system, enhancing overall service reliability.

This critical initiative is part of our ongoing efforts to prevent wildfires and enhance the reliability of electric service throughout our service territory.

The project is expected to take several months, depending on weather conditions.

Residents may notice our crews working in the area during this period. Please be cautious and maintain a safe distance from the work zones. Your cooperation is vital for ensuring the safety of both our crews and the community.

Funding for vegetation management comes from revenue from SDCEA's Wildfire Mitigation rate rider, budgeted funds and a state grant. To find more information on our program, scan the QR codes with you smartphone camera.

For any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. Email us at info@myelectric.coop or call toll-free at 844-395-2412.



▲ Vegetation management work (before and after) conducted earlier this year.



**Wildfire Mitigation
program information**



**Rate Rider
information**

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation as we work together to create a safer and more reliable electric service for our community.

Have a question about something to do with SCDEA?

The quickest way to get in touch with someone at SDCEA is to call the office at 719-395-2412 or toll free at 844-395-2412. Or you can send an email with your question to info@myelectric.coop. Please do not report an outage via email.

