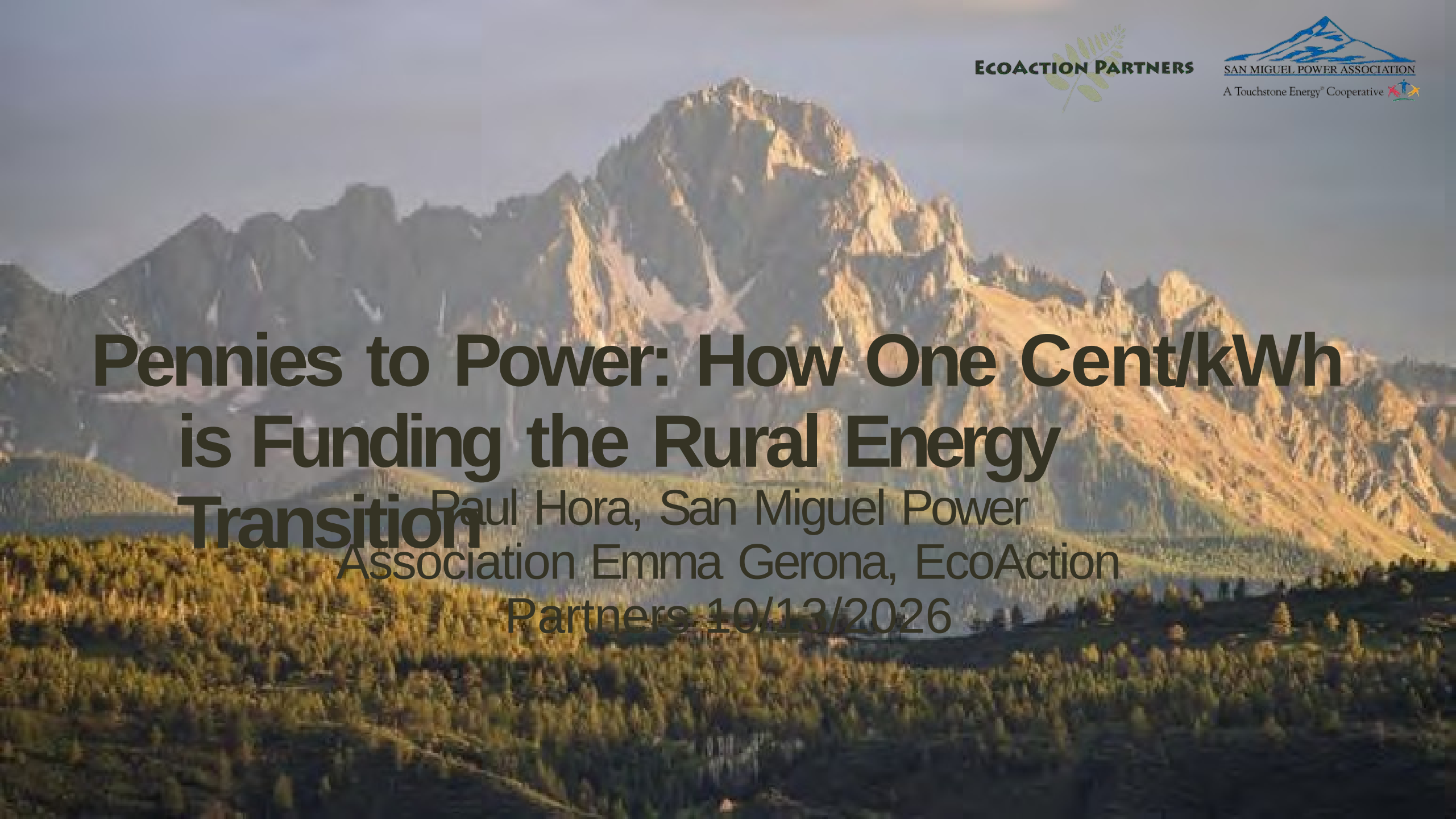

MT2030
CLIMATE
SUMMIT
SUN VALLEY 26
PRESENTED BY TORUS



Pennies to Power: How One Cent/kWh is Funding the Rural Energy Transition

Paul Hora, San Miguel Power Association Emma Gerona, EcoAction Partners

10/13/2026

Who Are We: San Miguel Power Association



A member owned electric cooperative serving communities in southwest Colorado

Safe, reliable, cost-effective, and environmentally responsible electricity

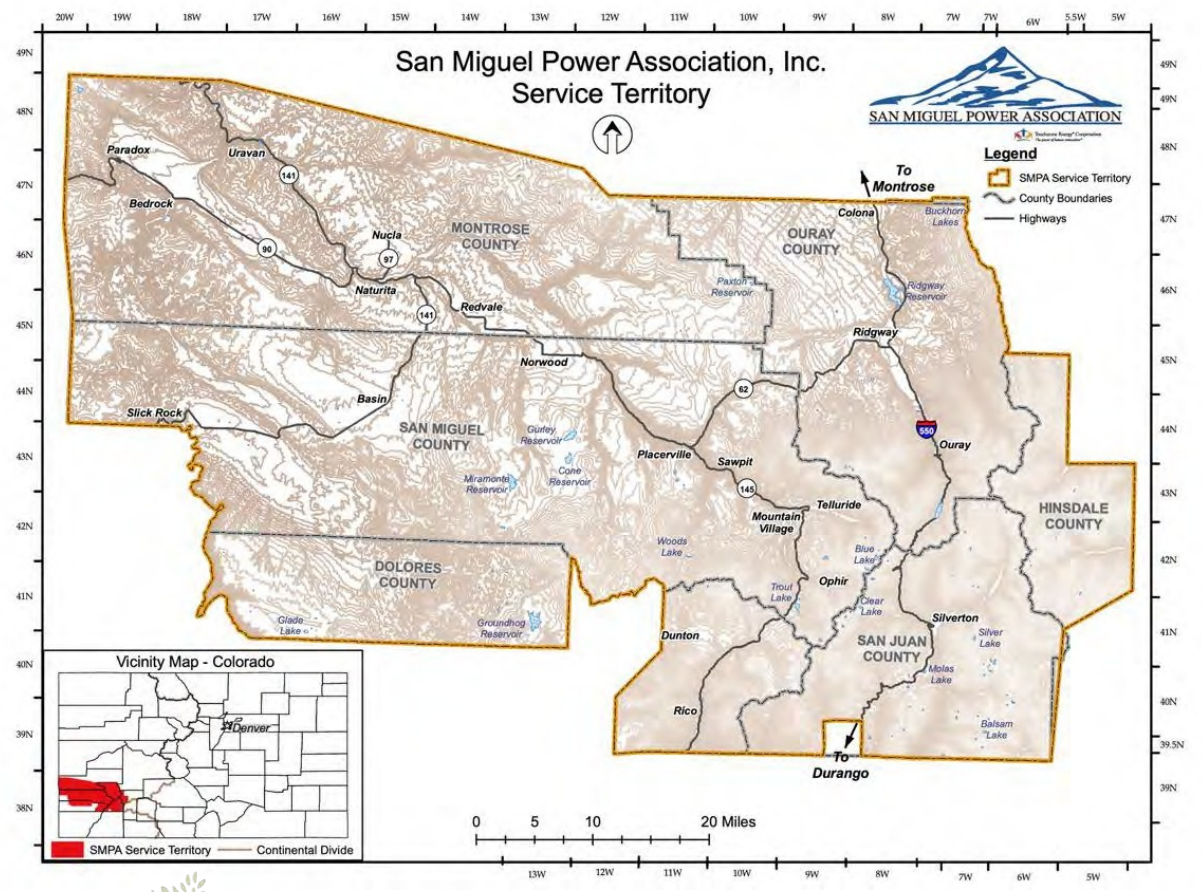
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SMPA at a Glance:

Electric service across a diverse region of western Colorado

- **3,600** square miles
- **~15,500** meters
- **1,600** miles of line
- **18** substations
- **46 MW** peak winter load



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The Need to Bolster the Rural Energy

- Creating the right type of funding
- One tool in the toolbox
- Constraints of co-op funding being tied to rate payers
- Building community support for projects easier with funding in place
- Opportunity for utility/nonprofit collaboration
- Why would a co-op want to lead this?



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How the Green Fund Took Shape

Developed around member priorities and board direction

Early Mid 2000s

Member Interests: Demand for local energy production i.e. Paradox solar array proposal

2010

Staff Development: Development of dedicated funding structure

2011 Ongoing

Board Action: Charter and oversight

Ongoing Review: Programs aligned with member value

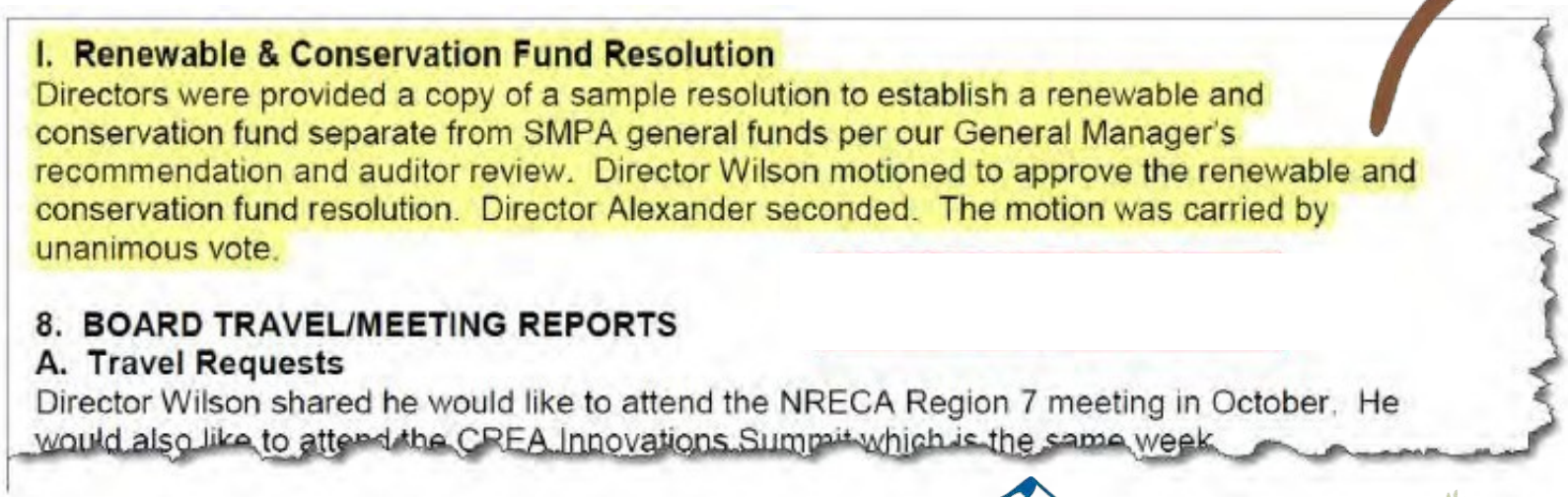
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The Green Fund

A dedicated way to serve community energy initiatives

- Board chartered funding for programs, grants, and renewable energy projects
- Fund activities sit outside of the traditional cost of service calculation used to set member rates



I. Renewable & Conservation Fund Resolution
Directors were provided a copy of a sample resolution to establish a renewable and conservation fund separate from SMPA general funds per our General Manager's recommendation and auditor review. Director Wilson motioned to approve the renewable and conservation fund resolution. Director Alexander seconded. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

8. BOARD TRAVEL/MEETING REPORTS
A. Travel Requests
Director Wilson shared he would like to attend the NRECA Region 7 meeting in October. He would also like to attend the CREA Innovations Summit which is the same week.

SMPA Board meeting notes: 7/25/2011 Ridgway, CO

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What Goes into the Green Fund

Green Cents
Opt-out bill roundup to nearest $1

Green Blocks
$1/100 kWh fixed monthly contribution

Totally Green
$0.01/kWh based on variable monthly energy consumption



TOTALLY GREEN

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The Charter as a Framework

1. **Purpose** Why the fund exists and the outcomes it supports

2. **Eligible uses** Programs, grants, and renewable energy projects

3. **Governance** Proposal review and approval process

4. **Oversight** How the board tracks use of the fund

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Benefits to SMPA Members

Rate setting clarity: Green fund expenses remain outside of the traditional cost-of-service evaluation

Accountability: Board charter and oversight guide how the fund is used

Room to innovate: The fund offers a defined path to consider emerging programs and technologies



Local investment: Funding supports projects and programs serving SMPA communities

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Who Are We: EcoAction

Our mission is to drive collective climate action in our rural mountain communities.

Environmental Educators

Community Connectors

Impact Implementers











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Impact Reporting

Green Fund Impact Report 2023

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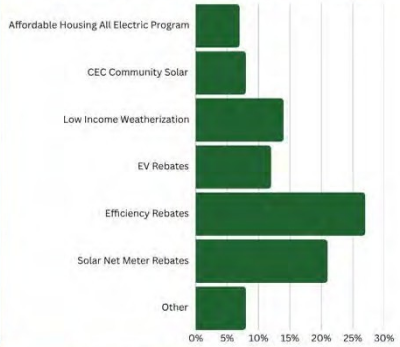
The Green Fund is a regenerative fund set aside for green projects within SMPA's service territory. Programs like Totally Green and Green Blocks contribute funds to a designated pool of money for renewable and energy conservation projects. **Your participation in these programs both powers your home with renewable energy AND fuels the fund. THANK YOU!**



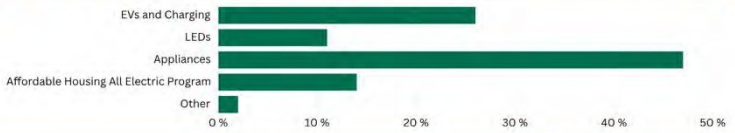
$580,000 In funds dispersed for green initiatives in the region from 2020-2022

The **Green Fund** is used to support a variety of green initiatives in the region. The fund is **regenerative**, with every dollar of the proceeds from Totally Green and Green Blocks renewable energy consumption programs fueling a plethora of green initiatives in SMPA's service area. **This includes supporting renewable energy generation, helping our neighbors weatherize their homes and making energy efficient buildings and lifestyles more affordable and achievable through rebates.**

A deeper look into where your funds went this year



$268,658 In funds provided by the Green Fund for Rebates. Rebates support SMPA members in making big purchases to invest in more efficient homes, workplaces and lifestyles



2024 Green Fund Impact Report

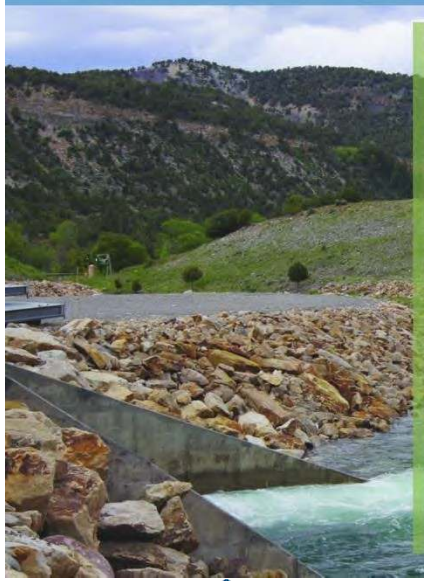
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TOTALLY GREEN

THE GREEN FUND is a fund set aside for green projects within SMPA's service territory. SMPA Programs like Totally Green and Green Blocks contribute funds to a designated pool of money for renewable and energy conservation projects. Your participation in these programs both powers your home with renewable energy AND fuels the fund forward. THANK YOU!

THE GREEN FUND IS REGENERATIVE, with every dollar of the proceeds from Totally Green and Green Blocks renewable energy consumption programs fueling a plethora of green initiatives in SMPA's service area. This includes supporting renewable energy generation, helping make our neighbors homes weatherized and energy efficient, and making lifestyles more affordable and achievable through rebates.

BY PARTICIPATING IN the Totally Green Program you are actively supporting resilience projects across SMPA's service territory through the Green Fund. You are supporting your neighbors in Norwood. You are helping a friend in the CARE program weatherize their home and get a heat pump. You are making sure your coworkers in Silverton have reliable power. You are actively tapping into a web larger than yourself.



WHO LIVES IN SMPA TERRITORY?

The individuals who choose to live in the rural and remote southwest mountains and mesas of Colorado are independent, resourceful and resilient. And yet, it's pretty hard to make it alone in this region. We depend on our neighbors to check the mail while we are away and in turn, we help them when their driveway needs to be shoveled. Living in rural and remote communities means that we are inherently connected to one another and our natural landscapes. In the same way, we share the atmosphere in our region; wildfire smoke and poor air quality can be felt across jurisdictional lines. We are connected by our watersheds. We are connected by infrastructure, the roads and power lines that make the flow of daily life work with ease. We can't help but be more resilient together.

Green Fund Impact Report 2025

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Dear neighbor,

When you participate in the Totally Green or Green Blocks Programs, those monthly contributions make a difference to the Green Fund, a regenerative fund set aside for green projects within SMPA's service territory. This designated pool of money supports local renewable energy generation, helps weatherize income-qualified homes, and makes residential + commercial beneficial electrification projects possible through SMPA rebates.

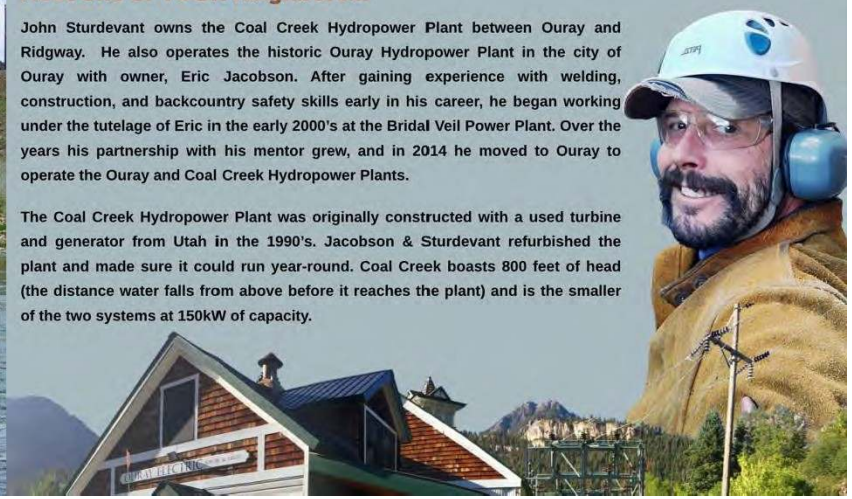
The Green Fund has the potential to support new emissions reduction projects in our community too. Maybe it's a community solar array or reinvigorating a micro-hydro project. The Green Fund is already supporting thriving local initiatives. You are invited to join us and envision a future with additional flourishing local projects.

With gratitude,
Your neighbors at SMPA

Meet one of YOUR neighbors...

John Sturdevant owns the Coal Creek Hydropower Plant between Ouray and Ridgway. He also operates the historic Ouray Hydropower Plant in the city of Ouray with owner, Eric Jacobson. After gaining experience with welding, construction, and backcountry safety skills early in his career, he began working under the tutelage of Eric in the early 2000's at the Bridal Veil Power Plant. Over the years his partnership with his mentor grew, and in 2014 he moved to Ouray to operate the Ouray and Coal Creek Hydropower Plants.

The Coal Creek Hydropower Plant was originally constructed with a used turbine and generator from Utah in the 1990's. Jacobson & Sturdevant refurbished the plant and made sure it could run year-round. Coal Creek boasts 800 feet of head (the distance water falls from above before it reaches the plant) and is the smaller of the two systems at 150kW of capacity.



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ECOACTION PARTNERS

Collaborative Marketing Campaigns

YOU CAN WIN AN E-BIKE!



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San Miguel Power Association

TOTALLY GREEN

Allows for leveraged reach to the Green Fund that benefits both EAP & SMPA



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Local Renewable Projects







5 million kWh annually covering ~500 households

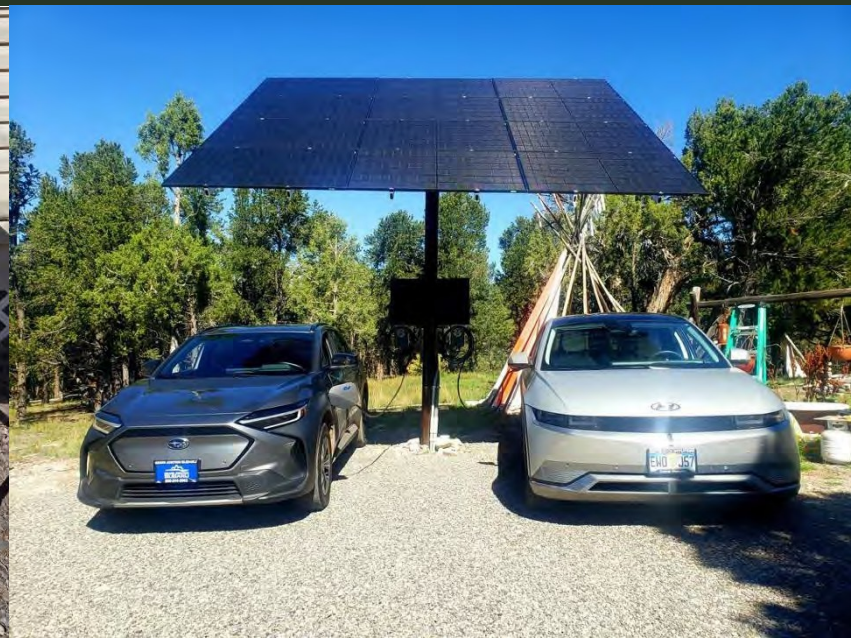
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Energy Efficiency and Renewable Rebates







- Rebates available for solar, EV charging, heat pumps, home batteries, electric water heaters, induction cooktops and much more!
- $150,000 a year in rebates to members
  - $25k from Green Fund leveraged against $125,000 from Tri-State

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Colorado Affordable Residential Energy

300+
Homes weatherized

$1.25 million+
In weatherization upgrades

50+
Metric tons CO2e avoided annually

Addresses:

- High utility bills
- Health and safety concerns
  - Air quality
  - Home comfort



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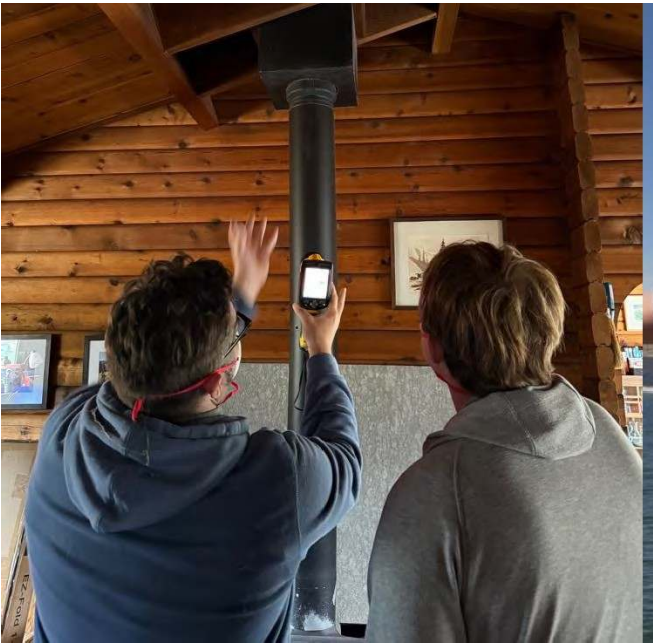
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Energy Workforce Development Program

Ten
graduates
working across
our region
in energy fields

Funding can support training and certification for:

Heat pump installation, solar installation, EV mechanics, BPI certification, infiltration and duct leakage, and much more!






Starting a Green Fund in Your Community

Initiated by the community:

1. Identify utility type and how to best engage (Co-op vs. IOU vs. Muni)
2. Work with staff or board at utility to introduce policy
3. Identify structure that works best for your community/utility
3. Build community support

Initiated by the Utility:

1. Conduct community outreach to identify demand/implementation partners and projects
2. Identify structure that works best for your community
3. Work with staff/leadership (board) to develop policy that works within your organization

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Thank You!

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