

Municipal Power News



Knightstown Electric Utility

Volume 28, Issue 1 | Spring 2023



Knightstown Public Library Awarded OCRA Grant

In late February, the Office of Community and Rural Affairs announced that the town of Knightstown was awarded \$500,000 to support an extensive renovation of the local public library. The funding will contribute to the library's plans to construct a new ADA accessible entryway and an elevator unit, as well as upgrading mechanical systems, energy efficiency, and completing structural changes.

The Knightstown Public Library was first constructed in 1912 with a \$10,000 grant from Andrew Carnegie, making it one of 1,689 Carnegie libraries that were established in the US between 1883 and 1929. Carnegie was a steel industrialist who became one of the richest Americans in history, eventually donating much of his wealth to education, world peace, and scientific research—making the building of libraries central to his philanthropic efforts. Since then, only approximately 45% of American Carnegie libraries are still in existence today, and the Knightstown Public Library is one of few that has been used continually as a library since its founding.

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Winter storm reminds the utility industry of the importance of reliability.

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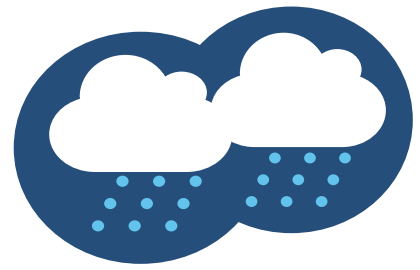
Give your answer for a chance to win a prize from IMPA!

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See how readers of the newsletter responded to this question.

IMPA Responds to Winter Storm Elliott



From December 22 to the 26 of 2022, Winter Storm Elliott swept across North America, causing record low temperatures and severe winter conditions throughout the United States. Snowfall, ice, and blizzard-like conditions blew through much of the Midwest while hazardous road conditions kept many of us hunkered down inside through the holidays. During these days of sub-zero temperatures, approximately 1.5 million utility customers throughout the country lost power (according to www.poweroutage.us).

Fortunately, Indiana utility customers were only a small portion of those without power, and the Indiana Municipal Power Agency (IMPA) worked diligently with neighboring utilities and the state's Regional Transmission Organizations to ensure the reliability of the power grid. IMPA's seven combustion turbines—totaling 249 megawatts (MW) of capacity in Anderson, Indiana, and Richmond, Indiana—were staffed and operational through the winter storm. The Anderson and Richmond units are run by IMPA employees who worked day and night through December's winter storm to ensure power was delivered to utility customers. These units,

which primarily run on natural gas and are built to operate in temperatures down to -20 degrees Fahrenheit, are a vital dispatchable resource in extreme weather events due to their capability to utilize ultra-low sulfur No. 2 fuel oil as a backup. The backup fuel allowed the units to run and provide power during the whole severe winter weather event.

Other staff members who were out in the field during the cold weather event included IMPA Service Corp's linemen and operations employees who responded to outages in member communities. During Winter Storm Elliott, IMPA Service Corp's crews responded to eight IMPA member communities to assist with power restoration to keep utility customers warm in their homes.

IMPA is grateful to the dedicated staff members who braved the historic winter conditions to ensure the rest of us could remain safe and warm at home. The Agency's reliability, whether during a typical day or an extreme period of uncertainty, is its upmost priority. Now, as we head toward the warmer weather of spring, IMPA looks forward to continuing its legacy of reliable operations and excellent electric service for all member communities. •

How Does Reliable Electricity Reach Me?

Your power is unique as it is distributed not by a for-profit electric utility, but rather by your municipally-owned, locally controlled electric utility. Your municipal electric utility—also known as a “public power” utility—receives its power from the Indiana Municipal Power Agency, a not-for-profit organization created by 61 public power utilities in the Midwest. This is where your electricity begins!

STEP 1

IMPA is the wholesale power provider to your community, meaning that it produces or purchases electricity (depending on what is most economically advantageous) and transmits that energy to your local utility. IMPA's power supply portfolio is made up of coal, natural gas, solar, wind, and nuclear energy. By providing its member communities with power from multiple sources, IMPA can maintain stable costs.

STEP 2

Once the power is generated, no matter from which type of resource, a set of equipment located within a substation is used to “step up” the electricity's voltage. A higher voltage means that the electricity can travel longer distances over high-voltage transmission lines with lower energy losses.



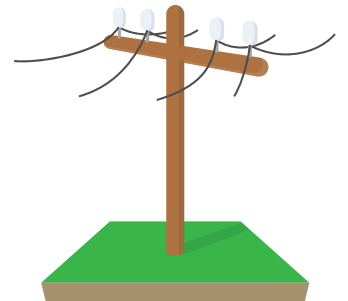
STEP 3

Once “stepped-up,” the electricity is sent along transmission lines, allowing it to reach IMPA's member communities. IMPA jointly owns a portion of the state's transmission system, which covers about 2/3 of Indiana.



STEP 4

Once the electricity reaches a community like yours, it is “stepped down” by a local substation, bringing the power to a lower voltage that will allow it to travel on your local community's distribution power lines.



STEP 5

The power then travels along local distribution lines owned by your public power utility to reach homes and businesses in the community.



Tidbits & Trivia

The **Indiana Municipal Power Agency** (IMPA) is a not-for-profit organization that provides a low-cost, reliable, and environmentally-responsible power supply to its members. IMPA provides this wholesale power to 61 communities in Indiana and Ohio, who collectively make up the Agency's membership.

Question: What is one benefit of driving an electric vehicle rather than a gas-powered car?



Send your answer to newsletter@impa.com, along with your name, e-mail address, and address for a chance to win an energy efficiency prize pack!

Reader Survey

Is there more about your community that you would like to know? Do you have questions about how public power or your municipally-owned utility works? Would you like to learn more tips and tricks as to how you can improve your home's energy efficiency?

Reach out to newsletter@impa.com to suggest topics for future *Municipal Power News* newsletters and let us know what articles you enjoy most, and what you'd like to see next!



Public Library Awarded Grant

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The recent grant from OCRA will help to preserve this historically significant building while also making it a safer and more accessible facility.

"We're building a great team here, and we are working on a new music program and expanding our selection here with the Evergreen Indiana program," said JoAnn Bush, Director of the Knightstown Public Library. "The upcoming renovations are something we're all looking forward to so that the building can grow with us."

While the local library physically contains thousands of items for borrowing, its collection recently expanded in collaboration with Evergreen Indiana—a resource sharing



Knightstown can request to have materials delivered from other participating libraries to the local library using an online catalog at www.evergreen.lib.in.us. Requested materials from other libraries are delivered to Knightstown's location once a week. Patrons can then pick up their materials, and once they're finished using them, they can return them to the Knightstown Public Library where employees will ship the titles back to their home library. Borrowers from libraries across the state are also using the program to borrow materials from the Knightstown Public Library.

"Now, instead of our patrons only having access to our 14,500 plus titles, they can choose from millions that are available through Evergreen's consortium," said Bush. "It's really breathed life back into some of the titles in our collection that weren't seeing much attention here. We're seeing much more traffic in all of our material this way."

As many libraries have now done, the Knightstown Public Library also offers digital resources that can be accessed as eBooks, audiobooks, and videos through Libby. Libby provides a phone app that can be downloaded and used to access these materials. The library's extensive genealogy and archived

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initiative that links together the catalogs of over 120 Indiana libraries. Now, library patrons from all over Indiana can request to borrow books from Knightstown's collection, and patrons in Knightstown can borrow from the vast amount of books, magazines, and movies available in libraries across the state. Through the Evergreen program, patrons in

What's the Word?

Gas Turbine Plant

noun

A facility which uses natural gas or other liquid fuels to power a combustion turbine and generate electricity. The first true gas turbine was patented in 1791!

IMPA owns seven combustion turbines and associated facilities totaling 419 MW in the aggregate. These include three units in Anderson, IN, two near Richmond, IN, and two in Indianapolis, IN. IMPA employees operate and maintain the combustion turbines located in Anderson and Richmond, while the plant in Indianapolis is operated and maintained under a contract with a separate utility that has two other units at the same facility.

Cooking Corner

Broccoli Casserole

Recipe submitted by Kimberly of Paoli, Indiana

- 2 lbs broccoli, frozen or cooked
- 1 roll ritz crackers, crumbled
- 1/2 lb velveeta, cubed
- 1 stick butter divided in half

Cook broccoli according to package directions. Add velveeta and 1/2 stick butter. Cook until melted. Butter a 2 qt casserole dish. Pour broccoli into casserole dish. Pour crumbled crackers on top. Melt remaining 1/2 stick butter and pour on crackers. Bake on 350 degrees for 30 minutes and enjoy!

White Mountain Salad

Recipe submitted by Jean of Middletown, Indiana

- 1 small can crushed pineapple (in juice)
- 1 can chopped pecans
- 1/4 cup lemon juice
- 1 eight oz tub cool whip (thawed)
- 1 can Eagle brand milk

In a large bowl, stir all ingredients together. Cover and refrigerate for 2 hours.

“When I take this recipe to a dinner, I always get several requests for the recipe!” - Jean

For a chance to be featured in the newsletter and win a prize, send your recipe to:

MPN Recipes
11610 N. College Ave.
Carmel, IN 46032
or
newsletter@impa.com

The MUNICIPAL POWER NEWS is a periodic publication of the Indiana Municipal Power Agency and the 61 communities that it serves with wholesale power.

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How Do I Save Energy in Hot Weather?

Last year, we asked *Municipal Power News* readers, “What are some of the methods you use to reduce your energy consumption in hot weather?” Here’s what Kenneth had to say!

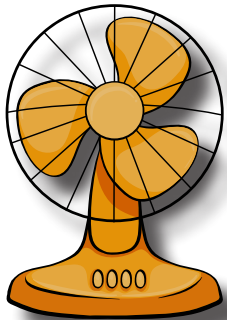
“Our answer at home is to close the drapes, blinds, and try to cook with the air fryer, microwave, or outside on the grill instead of using the stove or oven on the really hot days. We’ve already purchased new thermo sliding glass doors with blinds and low-e ratings. We’ve also spray-foamed the basement

walls and the underside of the roof. For a 1964 house, we feel pretty efficient.

At work, we try to close the blinds and raise the thermostat a degree or two. We also bought two digital smart thermostats and replaced the old mercury bulb sliders.”

-Kenneth E

That’s a great answer, full of energy efficiency tips! Below are a few other ways you and your family can save on energy this summer.



Energy Efficiency Tip #1

Use fans around your home to circulate cool air. Set ceiling fans to turn counter clockwise, as this will push air down and create a cooler feeling in the room.

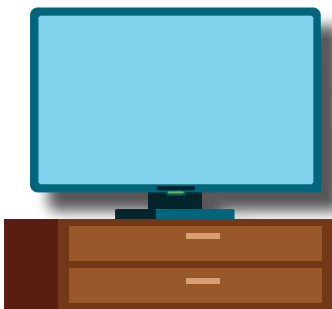
Energy Efficiency Tip #2

Replace air filters in your home with each season. Dirty air filters can cause your system to work harder and longer, using unnecessary energy as a result.



Energy Efficiency Tip #3

Keep lamps and TV sets away from your thermostat. Thermostats can sense the heat that these items give off, which can cause the A/C to run longer than required.



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Public Library Awarded Grant

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newspaper collection is also worth
paying a visit.

Additionally, the Knightstown
Public Library serves as a WorkOne
location—providing resources to
help you find a new or better job,
choose a career, or access training.

If you'd like to stay updated on
the library's upcoming renovation,
as well as their exciting programs
and services, visit their website
at www.knightstown.lib.in.us and
their social media page at:
[www.facebook.com/
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