

# Municipal Power News



Town of Middletown  
Volume 28, Issue 1 | Spring 2023



## Let's Talk Solar!

Since the fall of last year, construction has proceeded on a solar park in Middletown's electric service territory. While town leaders are excited to see the 1.35-megawatt facility come to fruition, some residents and local business owners are curious as to how this will affect the local community. Read further for answers to some frequently asked questions that have to do with your town's future solar park.

### ***Who owns the solar park being constructed in Middletown?***

The solar park will be owned by the Indiana Municipal Power Agency (IMPA). IMPA is a not-for-profit organization that provides wholesale electric power to municipal utilities in Indiana and Ohio—including Middletown. Each IMPA member community holds a seat on the IMPA Board of Commissioners and has input into all decisions made by the Agency. In this way, Middletown has a direct stake in the solar park. The cost of the construction and maintenance of the property is paid for by IMPA.

### ***Will having a solar park located in my community lower my electric bill?***

Since IMPA is the owner of the solar park, the generation asset will be factored into the Agency's power supply portfolio. These

-continued on page 4

## Inside this Issue

### **Page 2**

*IMPA Responds to Winter Storm Elliott*  
Winter storm reminds the utility industry of the importance of reliability.

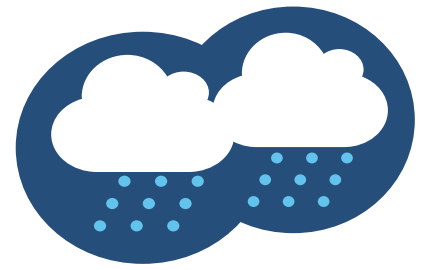
### **Page 4**

*Tidbits and Trivia*  
Give your answer for a chance to win a prize from IMPA!

### **Page 7**

*How Do I Save Energy in Hot Weather?*  
See how readers of the newsletter responded to this question.

# IMPA Responds to Winter Storm Elliott



**F**rom 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](http://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.



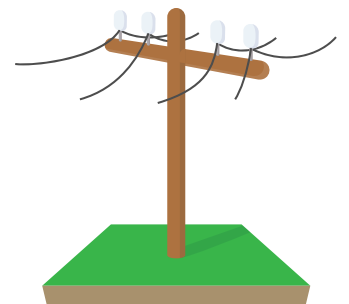
## STEP 3

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](mailto: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](mailto: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!



## Let's Talk Solar!

-continued from page 1

generation assets are what produce the electricity that is provided to IMPA member communities like Middletown.

The construction of this solar park, and the other parks planned in IMPA communities, is meant to further diversify IMPA's portfolio of power supply resources, adding additional renewable energy as the Agency prepares for the possibility of future, more restrictive, federal or state requirements. IMPA's solar projects add stable-cost power generation and are blended with the Agency's other resources. Through this initiative and others, IMPA strives to keep its electric rates among the lowest in Indiana. Therefore, Middletown can remain a competitive utility provider.

As a result, the Middletown solar park will have no direct impact on your electric bill, but will contribute to long-term rate stability.



### ***So, what are the benefits of having a solar park in Middletown?***

#### **1. The town's utility gets the benefit of electric system improvement at no direct cost.**

With IMPA constructing a solar park to connect to the local utility's electric infrastructure, the Agency works to improve the local system to accommodate the new generation facility.

This provides some system upgrades to Middletown's utility in preparation for the commissioning of the solar park.

#### **2. IMPA's solar assets contribute to rate stability.**

All of the energy generated at Middletown's upcoming solar park will be consumed by electric users within the community. Logistical costs come with transporting power from one place to another, so with the solar park in Middletown, the cost of transportation is decreased for a portion of IMPA's power supply. Lower costs for IMPA translate to lower costs for all 61 of its member communities, including Middletown.

Additionally, diversity in fuel-source and geographic location lets IMPA avoid the problem of "putting all its eggs in one basket." If complications arise with one resource or generating location, IMPA is prepared to continue supplying power from other resources. In this way, IMPA-constructed solar parks such as the Middletown facility play a role in ensuring stable electric rates and reliable power for years to come.

Lastly, wisely investing in local solar units and resource diversity prepares the

-continued on page 8

## **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](mailto: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.

Editor: Niki Dick  
Senior Director of Marketing Communications

Correspondent:  
Whitney Hicks  
Communications Coordinator

## MEMBERS

Advance  
Anderson  
Argos  
Bainbridge  
Bargersville  
Blanchester, OH  
Bremen  
Brooklyn  
Brookston  
Centerville  
Chalmers  
Coatesville  
Columbia City

Covington  
Crawfordsville  
Darlington  
Dublin  
Dunreith  
Edinburgh  
Etna Green  
Flora  
Frankfort  
Frankton  
Gas City  
Greendale  
Greenfield

Huntingburg  
Jamestown  
Jasper  
Kingsford Heights  
Knightstown  
Ladoga  
Lawrenceburg  
Lebanon  
Lewisville  
Linton  
Middletown  
Montezuma  
New Ross

Paoli  
Pendleton  
Peru  
Pittsboro  
Rensselaer  
Richmond  
Rising Sun  
Rockville  
Scottsburg  
South Whitley  
Spiceland  
Straughn  
Tell City

Thorntown  
Tipton  
Troy  
Veedersburg  
Walkerton  
Washington  
Waynetown  
Williamsport  
Winamac

# 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!

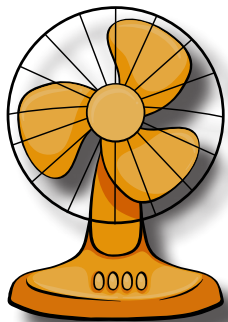
*“Our answer at home is to close the drapes, blinds, and try to cook with the air fryer, microwave, or outside on the grill instead of using the stove or oven on the really hot days. We’ve already purchased new thermo sliding glass doors with blinds and low-e ratings. We’ve also spray-foamed the basement*

*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.

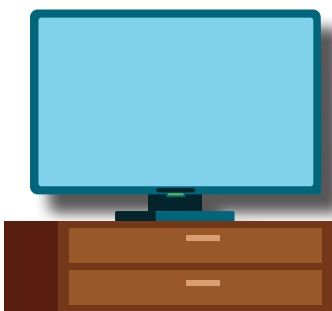
## Energy Efficiency Tip #2

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.



Indiana Municipal Power Agency  
11610 N. College Ave.  
Carmel, IN 46032

PRE-SORTED  
STANDARD  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Indianapolis, IN  
Permit # 9555

The Municipal Power News is published  
by the Indiana Municipal Power  
Agency and the Town of Middletown.

IMPA Commissioner: Ron Koons

# Let's Talk Solar!

-continued from page 5

Agency and its members to persevere no matter the political or economic climate. This means that IMPA will be able to continue providing Middletown with low-cost, reliable, and environmentally-responsible power into the foreseeable future.

### 3. Improves the town's marketability for economic development.

Renewable generation facilities serve to bolster economic development in local communities, as renewable power is highly marketable to prospective businesses and industries. As a result, the solar park plays an important role in attracting potential opportunities and jobs to the town.

### 4. Contributes to the community's tax base.

Since IMPA purchased and now owns the property that the IMPA solar park will be located on and has invested in the assets that comprise the solar park, the Agency is now a contributor to Middletown's tax base. Through annual property taxes that come with this ownership and construction on the site, the Middletown Solar Park is expected to contribute millions of dollars in property taxes to the community in the decades to come. •