

# Municipal Power News



Town of Paoli  
Volume 28, Issue 1 | Summer 2023



## Efforts to Bring a Youth Center to Paoli Underway

This spring, Orange County Commissioners approved preliminary steps to try to establish a youth center multiplex in Paoli. The potential Youth Center—which would likely be akin to a YMCA—would help Orange County provide more opportunity for local children and teens to have a healthy, after-school environment in the community. As the county seat, community leaders believe Paoli would be an effective centralized location for such a facility, and a potential location near Paoli Community Park has already been put forward.

“We have an old factory building on West Main Street that we believe has the capability to be renovated into a large multiplex,” said Danny Hickman, Town Council Member. “We’re working with the County and local businesses to see what we can do to bring this idea to reality.”

The push to create a local youth center comes from the organization Thrive Orange County (Thrive OC), which seeks to create a safe, stable, nurturing community for all. This coalition of community leaders and citizens began in 2018 with the goal of increasing community awareness of

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

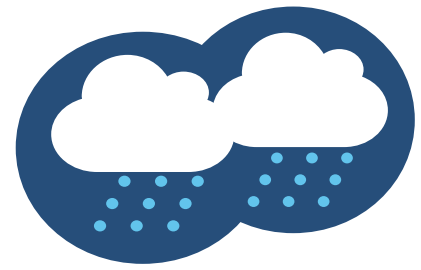
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# IMPA Responds to Winter Storm Elliott



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](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.



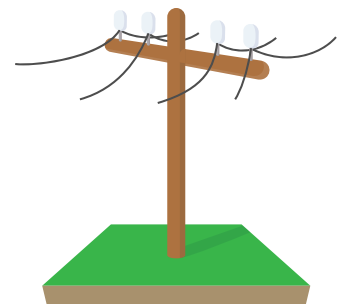
## STEP 3

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!



## Youth Center

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Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), the long-term effects of ACEs, and how to prevent them as a community. Large bodies of research indicate that ACEs, such as abuse, neglect, or traumatic experiences, can drastically increase the risk of long-term health problems and harmful behaviors. At the time of Thrive OC's founding, the state of Indiana ranked third in the nation regarding rates of child maltreatment, while Orange County ranked third among counties in the state. These statistics necessitate Thrive OC's data-backed efforts to advocate for local youth with evidence-based interventions and cultivate a community of support for local families.

"Thrive Orange County is focused on the social determinants of health and well-being," said Dr. Brandy Terrell, a local



With preliminary approval from the County, Paoli leaders are working with Thrive OC to get the project off the ground. While the possibility of a youth center aligns with Thrive OC's mission, it would also bring great economic development benefits to the town by attracting more business owners and housing developers who seek a healthy community for growth.

"These kinds of community projects are well worth it because of the numerous advantages they bring to our town," said Hickman. "We're hoping to start up a fundraiser of some sort to begin taking steps toward purchasing a location for the multiplex. Getting everyone on board will be essential to the success of this idea."

"We have great support from the county to the town of Paoli, local businesses, and involved citizens," said Dr. Terrell. "I really think it'll be an 'all-hands-on-deck' project, and we're looking out for any potential partnership opportunities to expand our impact. With everyone on the same page, we can truly make a difference and better our communities one step at a time."

The prospective youth center is only one of Thrive OC's many plans to develop a healthy community. Since 2018, the organization has worked in schools to

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clinical social worker and Chair of Thrive OC. "We know that our health is our neighbors' health, and building a community that cares for its residents is crucial to improving childhood experience and local well-being. A youth center in Paoli would open the door for more community connections and allow local youth to grow hope in a supportive social network."

## 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)

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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!

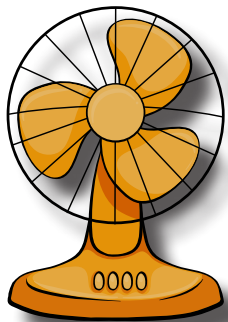
*“Our answer at home is to close the drapes, blinds, and try to cook with the air fryer, microwave, or outside on the grill instead of using the stove or oven on the really hot days. We’ve already purchased new thermo sliding glass doors with blinds and low-e ratings. We’ve also spray-foamed the basement*

*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.

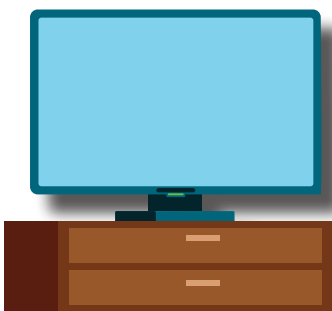
## Energy Efficiency Tip #2

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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IMPA Commissioner: Danny Hickman

# Youth Center

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self-regulation and stress-response techniques to children, connected schools with local law enforcement to support children experiencing trauma, collaborated with health departments to prevent teen substance abuse, and continuously collected data on local youth experience—just to name a few.

To keep up with Thrive OC and their community initiatives, visit their website at [sichc.org/thrive](http://sichc.org/thrive) or their social media page at [www.facebook.com/CultivatingResilienceGrowingHope](https://www.facebook.com/CultivatingResilienceGrowingHope).

