

# Municipal Power News



Town of Chalmers  
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## Advanced Metering Infrastructure Coming Soon

In collaboration with the Indiana Municipal Power Agency (IMPA), Chalmers plans to begin implementation of an Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) initiative. AMI is an integrated system of metering technologies that enables two-way communication between utilities and customers' meters. AMI also offers software that shows a meter and outage map, so that the utility can monitor the system, pinpoint the location of power outages and other electric issues, and access customer usage data.

Chalmers is collaborating with the town's not-for-profit, wholesale power provider on the project. IMPA focuses on providing its member communities with a low-cost, reliable, and environmentally responsible power supply. In addition, the Agency strives to assist communities in improving their electric systems and communities as a whole, even in areas beyond power supply. In one of its many efforts to help member communities, IMPA Service Corp, IMPA's engineering and operations subsidiary, launched a program in 2019 to assist member communities with establishing AMI in their utility system.

Most communities across the United States are interested in AMI because the system provides cost savings to the towns and cities that use the technology. Since the advanced

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Read the various ways that readers of this newsletter save energy in the cold.

# Holiday Safety with IMPA!

The holiday season is just around the corner, and preparing for this hectic time of year can help things go over a bit more smoothly. Safety precautions are always important but can often be forgotten in the midst of holiday chaos. Use this time to remind yourself and your loved ones about the following safety tips that will help everyone enjoy the time to come.

## Decorative Lights

- Check all electrical wiring before you install decorations, and throw away any damaged wiring.
- Using miniature lights or LED lights on a Christmas tree can produce less heat, decreasing the chances of mishap.
- All lights should be labeled as approved by a nationally recognized testing laboratory, such as the Underwriters Laboratory (UL).
- Always unplug any lights before leaving your home.



## Candles

- Imitation electric candles are always safer than traditional candles that burn with fire.
- Keep all candles away from window dressings, furniture, and greenery.
- Never leave a burning candle unattended.

## Cooking

- Never leave food cooking on the stove unattended.
- Keep handles on pots turned in, so they won't be bumped or in reach of small children.
- Extinguish a cooking fire by putting a lid, or even a plate, on the pot or pan. If a fire breaks out in the oven, keep the door shut and turn off the appliance.

## Toys

- When buying electrical toys, purchase only those approved by the UL, and those that meet fire and shock hazard standards.
- Make sure toys that are given as gifts are always suitable to the receiver's age.



## How Does Public Power Work?

The transmission lines stretching across the country carry electricity to households and businesses nationwide. However, some of the electricity travels to customers served by investor-owned utilities (IOUs) or rural electric cooperatives (REMCs), while other households like yours are served by a public power utility. Your community, as a member of the Indiana Municipal Power Agency (IMPA), buys its electricity from the Agency before selling it to you and bringing it to your door. The electricity that your community purchases is called wholesale power—it is supplied to your local public power utility for resale to retail customers of the utility. By purchasing wholesale power in bulk, the member utilities of IMPA are able to provide electricity with the economic advantages than if they were to individually generate the power themselves or purchase it elsewhere. Your community takes advantage of this benefit, since all 61 member communities of IMPA work together to purchase power in bulk through the Agency.

Member utilities of IMPA have contracts with the Agency to ensure that all the electric needs of the community are met. IMPA, by either generating power at a

generation facility or purchasing it from other utilities, places the power on the electric grid through transmission lines.

The high voltage electricity travels across the grid on these transmission lines to your community. Before the electricity gets to your residence, a substation transformer is used to lower the voltage of the electricity to make it safer to travel across shorter distances than the transmission lines cover. This lower voltage also makes it safer for the electricity to be in closer proximity to traffic and people. Once electricity goes through the transformer in the substation, it moves through distribution lines in your local community to a transformer at homes and businesses. It then arrives at your home and allows you to turn on the lights, heat your home, and watch tv.

Public power utilities are not just there to provide power – they work for the betterment of the community, too. These utilities are embedded in the fabric of their communities—boosting community investment, supporting local education, and getting involved with beautification and charitable programs. As a result, public power customers benefit from affordable energy, better service, local control, and a utility that cares about the overall well-being and growth of your community. •



*At IMPA Board Meetings, a representative from your community helps guide the direction and decisions of the Agency.*

# 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.

What are some of the benefits of public power?



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!



## AMI Coming Soon

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meters can both send and receive information, the installation of AMI allows utilities to read electric meters remotely, which provides labor savings and more accurate billing and customer data. AMI is also capable of monitoring the electric distribution system and will immediately send notifications to the utility if issues like a power outage occur. With the map view of customers that AMI supplies, utility personnel can see the precise locations of any issues and send out workers to the exact location of the problem, rather than having to estimate problem areas. In this way, AMI helps utilities restore power more quickly and to work more efficiently, saving time and money.

Through this program, Chalmers and other IMPA member communities cost-share much of the server hosting, startup training, metering and outage maps, and system monitoring that is required for AMI implementation. IMPA Service Corp is also available to assist with installation



of the AMI technology to help reduce costs. Over a dozen other IMPA communities have incorporated AMI into their system with the help of IMPA. By working with IMPA, Chalmers is obtaining some of the best- in-class metering technology at a significantly reduced rate.

“We’re glad to have Chalmers join with us on the AMI project,” said IMPA President and CEO Jack Alvey. “This program will help maintain a low-cost, reliable, and environmentally-responsible power supply in Chalmers’s service area.”•

# Myth Busters: The Truth About AMI

Unfortunately, many myths exist about AMI, which can lead to misunderstandings and fear of the technology. Here are commonly circulated myths about AMI, with the truth of the situation laid out:

***Myth #1: AMI meters emit radiation and therefore aren’t safe.***

The small amount of radiation produced by AMI meters is well below federal limits mandated for public health, and advanced meters actually emit less radio frequency than a common cellphone. The AMI meters installed in Chalmers are tested for safety.

***Myth #2: AMI always uses 5G.***

IMPA Service Corp’s AMI program does not require or implement 5G infrastructure, as 5G is an entirely different technology. 5G is the newest generation of broadband mobile networks, and while some utilities across the nation have implemented both 5G and AMI in tandem, IMPA Service Corp’s project in Chalmers is solely integrating

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## What’s the Word?

### *Investigating Power Terminology*

### Distribution Lines

Utilities use distribution lines to transport electricity from the larger transmission system to individual customer homes and businesses. While transmission lines carry electricity across long distances at a high

voltage, distribution lines carry electricity over shorter distances at a lower voltage. You may see transmission lines while driving on a highway, but the utility lines you see on the streets of your community are distribution lines.

Distribution lines bring electricity to its final stage of delivery. As a member of a public power utility, your town or city owns and operates the distribution lines in your community.

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.

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# Cooking Corner

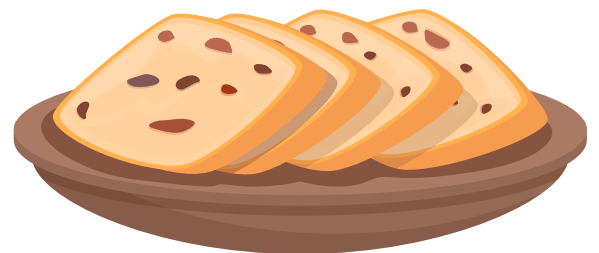
## Eggnog Bread

Recipe submitted by Susan of Richmond, Indiana

- 2 large eggs
- $\frac{3}{4}$  cup skim milk
- $\frac{1}{4}$  cup orange juice
- 1  $\frac{3}{4}$  cups eggnog
- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup canola oil
- 1 tbsp grated orange zest
- 4  $\frac{3}{4}$  cups all-purpose flour
- $\frac{3}{4}$  cup sugar
- 2 tbsp baking powder
- $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp salt
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1 tsp ground nutmeg
- $\frac{3}{4}$  cup dried cranberries
- $\frac{3}{4}$  cup chopped macadamia nuts

Preheat oven to 350°F. Whisk wet ingredients together with orange zest in a bowl. In another bowl, combine all dry ingredients except for cranberries and macadamia nuts. Add the liquid mixture to the dry mixture, carefully stirring until the flour is moistened. Fold in cranberries and nuts. Grease and flour 2 loaf pans and pour in batter. Bake for 50-60 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted comes out clean. Cool in pans for 10 minutes, then remove wire racks to cool completely. Slice and serve with orange marmalade. Or, to serve without a spread, use the glaze below.

In a small bowl, mix:  
- 1 tbsp eggnog  
-  $\frac{3}{8}$  cup confectioner's sugar



Drizzle mixture over the cooled loaves

# How Do I Save Energy in Cold Weather?

Last year, we asked readers of the *Municipal Power News* some of the methods they use to reduce energy consumption in cold weather. Here is what some of you said!

“I have reduced my energy consumption due to my purchase of long cloth door tubes that resemble snakes. They are the draft prevention cloth tubes approximately 36” x 3 1/2” filled with beans or double tubes with center strips. They can be placed in the home at the bottom of outside doors or where drafts enter under doors inside a home. The double tube style can slide under

the storm door outside the house door---one tube outside the storm door and the other tube set between the storm door and the inside house door. These can also be used on doors in cold rooms with closed doors to stop drafts. This is really great in blocking cold air at the floor level that cause cold feet and drafts.”

- Jean

“I often use an infrared/radiant space heater that is thermostat-controlled. During the day I close off unused rooms so my living room/kitchenette is comfortably warm. The glow of the radiant heater is pleasing like a fireplace. You definitely need to wear insulated slippers or plush socks indoors in

addition to layered clothing. Wearing indoor weather-appropriate clothing, I can keep my heater set on a lower temperature—generally less than 65 degrees. My furnace, in comparison, needs to be set at 70+ degrees to maintain satisfactory room warmth.”

- Penny

“During the cold weather months, the most effective method for reducing my energy consumption is by closing off rooms that do not necessarily have to be heated all day. I also put plastic on any drafty windows and use draft stoppers for my doors. I’ve replaced

most of my home’s light bulbs with energy efficient LED bulbs and I change my furnace filter often. Room darkening curtains help keep the heat in and as the famous saying goes, I never let the water run!”

- Tiffany

“The method that I use most is to wear warmer clothes in the house. I know that there are people who want to sit around the house in shorts and t-shirts, and run around the house in bare feet, all the while having

their thermostat turned way up. That makes no sense to me. Today, for instance, it’s 14° outside. The thermostat is set at 68° inside. I’m wearing a flannel shirt with a puffy vest, long pants, and shoes.”

- Bruce

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IMPA Commissioner: Pam Brown

## Myth Busters: The Truth About AMI

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new metering technology without changes to the town's mobile network. Customers will still receive all the benefits of AMI without 5G in place.

*Myth #3: My private information is being monitored by AMI.*

AMI captures and stores data about your utility use, which is information that has always been accessible to the town of Chalmers. AMI meters only measure the consumption of utilities, and do not track how utilities are used in your home or business. Both Chalmers and IMPA highly value the protection of customer information, and both entities take precautions to safeguard customer privacy. •

