

Municipal Power News



South Whitley Municipal Electric Utility

Volume 28, Issue 3 | Winter 2024



South Whitley Powers Through Another Year

Year-round, electricity keeps our homes comfortable, our appliances running, and our worlds connected. That's why leaders in South Whitley understand that keeping the town's municipally-owned electric utility in good condition is imperative for citizens and business owners in the community. Unfortunately, maintaining a reliable local electric system can be difficult with limited funds and the expense of skilled labor, especially for small municipalities like South Whitley. Luckily, the local utility has paired with its wholesale public power provider, the Indiana Municipal Power Agency (IMPA), to ensure cost-effective electric maintenance.

In 2018, South Whitley enlisted in the Dedicated Services Program through IMPA's engineering and operations subsidiary, IMPA Service Corp. Since then, IMPA Service Corp staff have worked with the local utility to solve electric issues large and small. Developed in 2013, the Dedicated Services Program provides hands-on assistance to participating communities, recruiting and maintaining their own full-time staff and service equipment so small towns are not required

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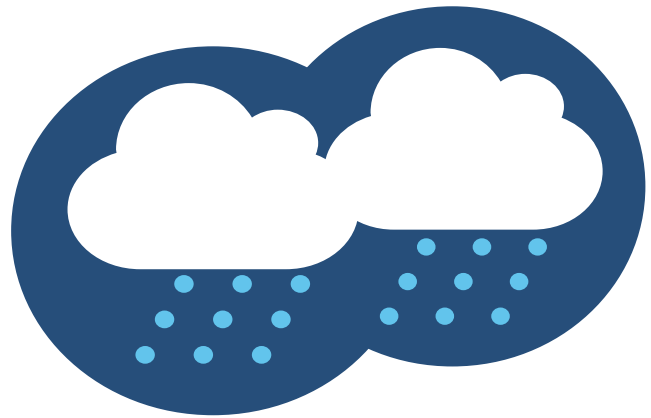
Read the various ways that readers of this newsletter save energy in the cold.

Winter Safety with IMPA!

The winter season is upon us, and while it is the least favorite time of year for many, preparing for the cold can help things go over a bit more smoothly. Use this time to remind yourself and your loved ones about the following safety tips that will help everyone enjoy the time to come as best as they can.

Driving

- Drive slowly and attentively in icy or snowy conditions. Give yourself plenty of time to get to your destination.
- Keep your vehicle's gas tank as full as possible throughout the winter season. This can prevent your fuel lines from freezing, which can result in your car not starting.
- Dress warmly and keep an extra set of clothes and blankets in the car.
- Avoid using backroads, as major streets and highways will have better clearance in bad conditions.



Avoiding Fires

- Never plug a space heater into an extension cord or power strip - only plug them directly into an outlet.
- Never leave a space heater, lit fireplace, or candles unattended for long periods of time.
- Portable generators can be great during a winter power outage, but keep in mind that they pose fire and carbon monoxide poisoning risks. Never run a generator indoors or in enclosed areas, and keep fuel containers away from heating devices.

Snow Removal

- Before going outside to clear snow from a driveway or walkway, be sure to stretch just like you would before regular exercise.
- When shoveling snow, be sure to stay hydrated and avoid overexertion. Take frequent breaks to let your body rest, as cold weather can put a unique strain on your heart and lungs.
- Keep dry while working outside with snow. Wet clothes will make your body lose heat faster.



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, 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!



South Whitley Utility Building

South Whitley Powers Through

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to do so alone. Services provided through the program include, but are not limited to, system analyses, tree trimming, and emergency outage restoration.

This November, town leaders met with IMPA staff to discuss the work completed by Dedicated Services in the last year, and the improvements made since signing up with the program. Through 2023, IMPA Service Corp lineworkers completed a total of 18 service requests from town staff members, replaced 13 utility poles in the community, and restored power to the town nine times. In the prior year, IMPA Service Corp performed an assessment of vegetation management around the town's entire electric system, and much of the work Dedicated Services crews accomplished through 2023 included ongoing tree trimming as recommended



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by the assessment. On top of these achievements, the organization remains continuously available for engineering work, site preparations, and communications help.

“Working with IMPA Service Corp has greatly improved electric reliability in our community,” said Randy Cokl, South Whitley Town Council Member and Commissioner to IMPA. “Compared to 2022, unanticipated power outages dropped by nearly 50% in 2023. The continued work on our power

infrastructure completed by IMPA Service Corp will make sure that we can provide the best power quality to our residents and local business owners.”

Moving forward, officials of IMPA Service Corp hope to continue replacing utility poles to increase reliability in the town’s service territory. To learn more about IMPA Service Corp and the Dedicated Services Program, visit www.impa.com/about-impa/impaservice-corp!

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.

Cooking Corner

Eggnog Bread

Recipe submitted by Susan of Richmond, Indiana

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

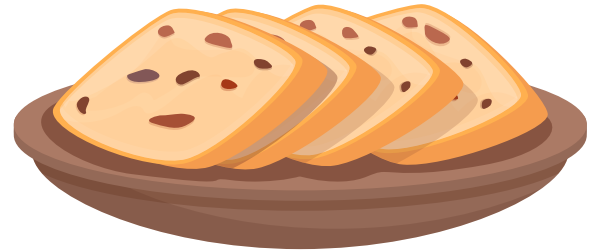
MPN Recipes
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- 2 large eggs
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup skim milk
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup orange juice
- 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ cups eggnog
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup canola oil
- 1 tbsp grated orange zest
- 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ cups all-purpose flour
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup sugar
- 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

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 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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The *Municipal Power News* is published by the Indiana Municipal Power Agency and the South Whitley Municipal Electric Utility.

IMPA Commissioner: Randall Cokl

Save on Energy Through the Winter

As the temperatures trend downward, some residents and businesses may see their electric use go up. Luckily, since South Whitley's electric utility is a public power utility and a member of the Indiana Municipal Power Agency, your community already provides you with some of the best electric rates in Indiana. As outside temperatures cool down, you can take the following energy-saving measures to save even more on your utility costs.

- Find and seal any air leaks you feel coming from cracks or gaps in windows and doorways.
- Use energy-efficient decorations and appliances. Verify that electronics are Energy Star® certified.
- Take advantage of sunlight and open curtains on south-facing windows during the day to help warm your home.
- Replace furnace and heat pump air handler filters monthly for the best efficiency.
- Set your water heater to the warm setting at approximately 120°F. •

