Municipal Power News

IMPA New Ross Electric Department
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Inside this Issue

Advanced Metering Infrastructure Coming Soon

New Ross plans to begin implementation of an Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) initiative throughout the town. AMI is an integrated system of metering technologies that enables two-way communication between utilities and customer's 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.

New Ross is collaborating with the Indiana Municipal Power Agency (IMPA), 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.

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IMPA Celebrates 10 Years of its Solar Program

With the goal to expand the diversity of its power supply portfolio with economically feasible renewable generation sites, the Indiana Municipal Power Agency (IMPA) launched its solar program to construct solar parks within its member communities in 2014. At the time, solar power was just emerging as a cost-effective fuel resource for utilities, but IMPA embraced the challenge of incorporating this resource into its power supply portfolio to further diversify its resources and prepare for the future. Now, 10 years and 50 solar parks later, IMPA is proud of the numerous accomplishments made through its solar program and the nearly 200 megawatts of power that it contributes to all 61 member communities served by the Agency.

IMPA began its program cautiously, only constructing three demonstration solar parks in Frankton, Rensselaer, and Richmond, Indiana in its first year. Each site was housed on about eight acres of land and with 4,000 solar panels, and by the end of the year, the three sites generated 1.5 million kilowatt hours.

Through this process, IMPA expanded its knowledge of solar power and the steps needed to successfully develop parks of this scale in the most cost-effective way possible. Besides relying on in-house expertise, IMPA worked with local contractors in each of the three member communities to keep costs down and support local businesses. When construction of the three solar parks came in under budget while reliably providing environmentally-responsible electricity, IMPA and its Board of Commissioners started to envision the vast possibilities of building solar in several member communities. A spark was lit, and by 2015, six more solar parks were constructed in member communities, adding over 9 megawatts (MW) of solar capacity to the Agency's power supply portfolio.

In the ensuing years, IMPA increased its renewable footprint by building solar in collaboration with its member communities. As time progressed, so did the Agency's proficiency in constructing solar parks. By 2017, IMPA was constructing each of its solar parks with a single-axis

tracking system, allowing solar panels at each site to effectively track the movement of the sun throughout the day and generate more electricity as a result. The program continued to expand with new solar parks being constructed in member communities throughout the state, as well as additional parks being added to some communities whose infrastructure were able to handle more than one solar park . With the help of this program, IMPA achieved at least 30% low or no carbon resources by 2020 while still offering some of the lowest wholesale electric rates in the state of Indiana.

The success of IMPA's solar program continues to thrive in recent years. In 2023, IMPA had its most prolific year yet for its solar park program as the Agency brought seven solar parks online in member communities. The agency's largest park – at 9.9 MW – was completed, and IMPA celebrated a milestone as the Agency's 50th solar park came online late in the year. From a small, idealistic program that started with three, 1-MW parks in 2014, the Agency's solar park program has grown exponentially in under 10 years. The Agency now has over 196 MW of solar power in member communities. Plans are already underway for four additional parks, and the Agency expects to surpass 209 MW of solar capacity by the end of 2025. The solar park program plays a key role in IMPA's diverse power supply portfolio, and with its proven success rate, the Agency continues to provide a diverse fuel mix that benefits both consumers and the environment.

IMPA's 50th Solar Park Ribbon Cutting

Reader Feedback

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 does having reliable electricity mean to you and your family?

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!

Topic 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!

AMI Coming Soon

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Many 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 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 work more efficiently, saving time and money.

Through this program, New Ross and other IMPA member communities cost-share

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

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much of the software, server hosting, startup training, metering and outage maps, system monitoring, and customer usage data that is required for AMI implementation. IMPA Service Corp will also be available to assist with installation of the AMI technology to help reduce costs, if necessary. Over a dozen other IMPA communities have incorporated AMI into their system with the help of IMPA, including the nearby town of Advance. By working with IMPA, New Ross is obtaining some of the best-in-class metering technology at a significantly reduced rate.

"We're glad to have New Ross join with us on the AMI project," said IMPA President and CEO Jack Alvey. "This program helps our members incorporate the most modern technology and software available to reduce meter reading and utility billing costs and improve customer service. Overall, the upgrade will help maintain a low-cost, reliable, and environmentally-responsible power supply in New Ross's service area." •

What's the Word?
Investigating Power Terminology

Watt

A watt is a unit of measurement used to show the rate of energy transfer over one second of time. Consequently, a kilowatt is equal to 1,000 watts, a megawatt is 1 million watts, and a gigawatt equals 1 billion watts.

You may have heard of a kilowatt hour (kWh), which is a common billing unit used by most utilities in the electric industry. Essentially, a kWh simply shows the energy use per hour of an appliance, device, or entire home measured in kilowatts. For example, a space heater rated at 1.5 kWh consumes 1,500 watts of power in one hour of continuous use!

Watts are named after James Watt, an inventor and engineer born in 1736 who also created the concept of horsepower.

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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Cooking Corner

Meatloaf

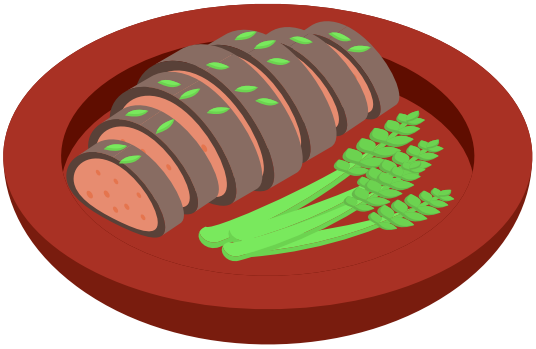
Recipe submitted by Marcie of Richmond, Indiana

- 2 lbs hamburger
- 2 eggs
- 10 to 12 crackers (crumbled)
- 1 onion diced
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1/2 cup milk
- 2 pkgs instant oatmeal
- 2 to 3 squirts of ketchup

Mix all ingredients well. Form into a loaf and put into a greased loaf pan. Cover with ketchup. Refrigerate for 20 to 30 minutes covered to help the loaf firm up. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Remove loaf from refrigerator and bake in preheated oven for 1 to 1 1/2 hours.

Once meatloaf is baked, remove from oven. Let rest on top of the stove for 30 minutes before cutting into so that it won't fall apart.

This recipe serves about 4 to 6 people. Invite your friends and family over to enjoy!



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Brookston
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Chalmers
Coatesville
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Lebanon
Lewisville
Linton
Middletown
Montezuma
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Paoli
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Walkerton
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Waynetown
Williamsport
Winamac

What are the Benefits of Public Power?

In the last issue of the *Municipal Power News*, we asked you what some of the benefits of public power are. As a reader of this newsletter, you live in a public power community, which means the electric utility that serves your power needs is a not-for-profit utility, owned and operated by your municipality.

The benefits of public power are numerous. Here is what some of our readers had to say about the advantages of living in a public power community.

"By being a part of the community, public power utilities can boost investment in the community, support local education, and be involved with charitable programs. They also care about the overall well-being of the communities they serve."

– Fred

"Since public utilities are nonprofit organizations, their main focus is on providing affordable services rather than maximizing profit. This often leads to lower rates for customers, as any surplus revenue is reinvested into the improvement and expansion of services. Public power also eliminates the need for shareholders and dividends, further reducing costs. Consequently, individuals and businesses can save money on essential utilities, allowing them to allocate their resources more efficiently."

– Chris

"There are many benefits to public power, such as being able to be provided with economic advantages. IMPA makes sure all electric needs of the community are met, as well. It boosts community investments, supports local education, and gets involved with beautification."

– Bridgette

These are all great answers that highlight how public power improves your community to help it thrive. Additionally, public power is affordable. According to a 2021 American Public Power Association (APPA) comparison, public power customers of Indiana and Ohio typically saved an average of more than 40% when compared to other types of electric utilities. APPA also reports that nearly 80% of projects currently under construction by public power utilities are solar and wind generating sources. This shows that public power utilities also recognize the importance of environmental stewardship and continue to invest in sustainable power sources.

Public power communities, including yours, consistently work to provide low-cost, reliable, and environmentally-responsible power to their consumers.

To learn more about public power, visit www.impa.com/publicpower!

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IMPA Commissioner: Sherry Baird

Myth Busters

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than a common cellphone. The AMI meters being installed in New Ross 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 New Ross is solely integrating 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 New Ross. AMI meters only measure the consumption of utilities, and do not track how utilities are used in your home or business. Both New Ross and IMPA highly value the protection of customer information, and both entities take precautions to safeguard customer privacy. •