

PATH TO CLIMATE CHANGE SOLUTIONS

At a time when high electricity prices met a slowing economy, the United States Congress pushed for legislation to address global warming concerns. While climate change legislation was not passed by Congress in 2009, IMPA is already preparing itself for future changes and has been active in encouraging Congress to write a responsible bill that will curb global warming while easing the financial burden on consumers.

Indiana Partnership for Fair & Affordable Energy

Along with being politically active on issues affecting the electric industry and municipalities generally, IMPA remained in constant contact with consumers and member communities, keeping them informed of evolving climate change legislation. One of its biggest communication projects involved a partnership with Indiana rural electric cooperatives.

In May 2009, IMPA helped launch the Indiana Partnership for Fair & Affordable Energy. The Agency and its members, as well as the Indiana Statewide Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives, Hoosier Energy and the Wabash Valley Power Association formed the partnership to inform Hoosiers about proposed climate change legislation and the potential impact on Indiana's electric rates.

The Indiana Partnership for Fair & Affordable Energy supports responsible climate change legislation and public policy that achieves carbon reductions at an affordable cost for consumers. To educate consumers about proposed legislation and its impact, the Partnership launched a statewide television advertising campaign and web site at www.FairPowerNow.org. At this web site, Hoosiers can support fair carbon legislation that balances environmental goals with consumer affordability by signing a petition, contacting elected officials, and sharing the message with friends and family.

Agency-wide communication efforts

Communication of evolving climate change legislation was not limited to the Indiana Partnership for Fair & Affordable Energy. With a variety of resources on hand, the Agency turned to its member communities to spread information and knowledge to consumers.

Education began with several features on climate change and legislative updates in IMPA's *Municipal Power News*. The *Municipal Power News* is distributed tri-annually to electric consumers in the Agency's member communities. IMPA staff also visited member city and town councils to give presentations with detailed information about climate change, pending legislation, and statistics that detailed the effects of potential legislation on Indiana electric prices.