

## IMPA Hosts Linemen Appreciation Event

On September 28, IMPA held its second annual Linemen Appreciation Event to recognize the dedication of Indiana's public power utility lineworkers. Over 100 community leaders and utility workers from IMPA members joined to celebrate the linemen who consistently work to provide the essential service of electricity to their friends, families, and neighbors.

Across the country, there are approximately 115,000 lineworkers who take daily risks to ensure that we receive power. These lineworkers work on 9 million miles of wire, 170 million utility poles, and 2.7 million transmission towers in service across the United States. On a daily basis, these individuals carry up to 40 pounds of protective equipment and tools while working dozens of feet in the air. They work in sunshine, rain, hail, sleet, and snow to bring electricity to the communities they serve at all times

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## Dick Justice of Gas City Wins Lineworker Award

The IMPA Kerry Vincent Distinguished Lineworker Award was created in 2021 to honor the life and legacy of Kerry Vincent, a longtime employee of IMPA and advocate for public power who passed away last year. Kerry's career in the public power industry spanned the course of four decades, and his passion for the industry and the brotherhood of linemen was evident in everything he did. The Kerry Vincent Award was established to recognize a lineworker from a member community that embodies the traits Kerry exhibited in his everyday life: Commitment, Compassion, Character, and Community.

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## Lineworker Award

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This year, Dick Justice, Electric Supervisor of Gas City Utilities, was unanimously chosen by the Award Selection Committee and the IMPA Executive Committee to be the second recipient of the award due to his qualifications in each criterion. Justice has served his community in the electric department for over 30 years, spending the last 14 as Electric Supervisor. He is the past president of the Indiana Municipal Electric Association and a current IMPA commissioner and IMPA Executive Committee member.



## Linemen Appreciation

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of the day. Lineworkers regularly take time away from their own families to ensure that everyone else's family has access to power. IMPA gratefully acknowledges and honors the hard-working line crews in all 61 member communities through its annual event.

The day featured axe throwing, yard games, a cornhole tournament, raffle prizes, lunch, numerous vendors, and the presentation of IMPA's Kerry Vincent Distinguished Lineworker Award. The Agency looks forward to its next Linemen Appreciation Day in 2023 and encourages everyone to remember the devotion that is given by lineworkers to supply our electricity at all times. •

Justice is described by his colleagues as the epitome of commitment, compassion, character, and community. He leads by example and has committed his life to helping his community in any way possible. Not only is he a tremendous worker and leader, but he's a great friend who can bring a smile or laugh to anyone he meets.

The Kerry Vincent Distinguished Lineworker Award was presented to Justice at IMPA's 2022 Linemen Appreciation Event, to Justice's complete surprise.

"We are honored to present Dick with this award," said Jack Alvey, IMPA President and CEO. "The integrity and diligence that he has demonstrated for decades is truly noteworthy, and I know that Kerry Vincent would be proud to see Dick recognized in this way."

"I'm honored," said Dick Justice upon receiving the award. "Thank you from the bottom of my heart. More than one person in this room deserves this award, and I hope that each and every one of you gets the chance to be recognized for your contributions in this industry. Be proud." •



Dick Justice, Gas City Mayor Bill Rock, and the Gas City electric utility crew.

# Walkerton Hosts Solar Park Ribbon Cutting

Community leaders in the northern Indiana town of Walkerton joined with IMPA staff and elected officials in early September to cut the ribbon on the Walkerton Solar Park. With the park’s commissioning, Walkerton joins a growing list of IMPA members to have renewable generation sites in their community.

Walkerton’s solar park is 1 Megawatt (MW) in size, which is capable of producing nearly 2,000 MW-hours per year - enough energy to supply about 180 homes. The site uses a single axis tracking system in which the park’s panels move throughout the day, following the path of the sun and generating more power as a result. The energy generated at the solar park will stay within the town, benefitting the local electric system and supporting renewable energy in Indiana.

IMPA’s choice to locate solar parks within its member communities also contributes to rate stability. IMPA uses high voltage transmission systems to deliver much of the power to its members, but with a solar park like the one in the Walkerton community, an amount of transmission is saved for a portion of the town’s power supply.

“The entire utility industry has been moving toward renewables as a viable part of power generation resources,” said Jack Alvey, IMPA President and CEO. “IMPA has been an innovative leader of solar construction in the Midwest since 2014, and communities like Walkerton have helped us to solidify our place in the forefront of the energy sector by collaborating with IMPA in establishing renewables as a part of our power supply portfolio.”

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Students from a local elementary school joined with community leaders and IMPA staff at the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Walkerton Solar Park.



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Indiana Municipal Power Agency

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IMPA currently has 164 MW of solar capacity online in various member communities throughout the state. The Agency also has 29.5 MW of capacity currently under construction, and another 8.1 MW planned for future developments. Overall, IMPA plans to have 200 MW of solar in its power supply portfolio by the end of 2024, providing enough capacity to power approximately 30,000 homes in Indiana.

Learn more about IMPA's solar program and individual solar parks on the Agency's website at [www.impa.com/solar](http://www.impa.com/solar).

