

IMPA Files Integrated Resource Plan

In February, the Indiana Municipal Power Agency filed an Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) with the state's regulatory agency, the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC), as is required of the Agency every three years. IMPA's Planning Department works on resource planning almost constantly, mapping out the utility's plans for keeping wholesale rates low and service reliable, no matter the economic condition or political environment. The Agency views its IRP filing as a living document that requires diligent ongoing analysis in order for IMPA to move forward with purpose.

As part of the IRP process, the Agency explored three potential resource scenarios as a structured way to think about the future, as scenario planning is a proven tool to better anticipate and respond to future risks and opportunities.

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Solar Program Celebrating 10 Years

The Indiana Municipal Power Agency (IMPA) launched its solar program in 2014 with the goal of expanding the diversity of its power supply portfolio through cost-effective renewable generation sites in member communities. 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's solar program is unique among utilities in the United States, as the Agency develops renewable sites that are directly connected to its members' electric distribution systems, ensuring that

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These scenarios range from a base case that IMPA believes is the most likely future outcome, an austerity case that creates an economically pessimistic version of the base case, and a CO2 reduction case, in which the market aims to reach net-zero carbon emissions by 2040. Through evaluating each possibility, IMPA strategizes its pathway through each scenario and what actions it would have to take to ensure low-cost, reliable, and environmentally responsible wholesale power no matter the situation.

One challenge facing the Agency in the coming years will be the eventual retirement of Gibson Station, a 625 MW coal-fired baseload generating facility located in southwestern Indiana that has been a component of IMPA's power supply portfolio since its origination in 1983. Gibson's pending retirement would create a need for capacity toward the end of the decade, prompting IMPA to act now in order to replace

this generation loss smoothly. The Agency is considering the option of adding a new, IMPA-constructed generation resource to fill future capacity needs. While the Agency investigates the feasibility and efficacy of constructing its own generation, IMPA plans to execute a bilateral capacity contract to fulfill capacity needs in the meantime.

IMPA's rigorous resource preparation allows its Board of Commissioners to make well-informed decisions regarding the ever-changing energy landscape. Whether it's through examining potential projects or a range of other avenues that may turn out to be more advantageous, the Agency's flexible path toward the future braces IMPA for whatever could come its way. As electric consumption patterns shift and political and economic climates fluctuate, IMPA and its member communities remain equipped to provide public power consumers with low-cost, reliable, and environmentally responsible energy. •

Dedicated Services Program Expands

IMPA's engineering and operations subsidiary, IMPA Service Corp, added member community Etna Green to its Dedicated Services program in late 2023, bringing the total served communities to fifteen. Through this program, participating IMPA members receive emergency and storm restoration, vegetation management, and regular system maintenance at a reasonable rate. Etna Green joined the communities of Advance, Brooklyn, Centerville, Dublin, Dunreith, Frankton, Knightstown, Lewisville, New Ross, Rockville, South Whitley, Spiceland, Straughn, and Thorntown as part of the Dedicated Services program.

Oftentimes, small public power utilities find difficulty in balancing the costs of having their own electric personnel relative to the amount of work that needs to be performed in the community. Since Dedicated Services participants only pay for the services they need under this arrangement, their utilities can cost effectively maintain a healthy local electric infrastructure while still maintaining high performance standards. With the help of IMPA Service Corp's expertise, all 15 Dedicated Services members receive help with their infrastructure problems, large and small, leading to better quality utility service for customers.

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the power generated is consumed by local municipal customers. Additionally, IMPA's ownership of property in member communities contributes to the tax bases of each member that hosts a solar site. Above all, every solar park established through the Agency's program further diversifies IMPA's power supply portfolio, adding additional renewable energy as the Agency prepares for the possibility of future, more restrictive, federal or state requirements. In turn, this contributes to rate stability in the years to come.

Over the last decade, IMPA staff has developed a keen knowledge of solar power and the steps needed to successfully develop parks of this scale. As technology in the field of solar power has progressed, so have IMPA's procedures and equipment. Since beginning in 2014, IMPA has shifted from constructing static, fixed-tilt solar sites to single-axis tracking systems, 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 Agency has also installed innovative data collection systems at its solar parks to enable engineers and technicians to monitor park output more efficiently. By 2022, the systems were not only collecting data on the operations of the parks but could alert solar personnel in real time to any performance issues that may occur. The data gathered now allows engineers to develop historical data trends and verify the parks are meeting output expectations.

When IMPA began its solar program ten years ago, the Agency's portfolio was comprised of 73 percent coal and only 4 percent

renewable resources. With the help of its solar 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 ongoing achievements made through the program will bring even more diversity and a higher ratio of renewables in IMPA's future power supply portfolio while prioritizing affordable energy.

IMPA had its most prolific year yet for its solar park program in 2023 as the Agency brought seven solar parks online in member communities. The agency's largest park – at 9.9 MW – was completed in Washington, Indiana, and IMPA celebrated a milestone as the Agency's 50th solar park came online in Knightstown, Indiana. The Agency now has over 196 MW of solar power in member communities with the addition of these seven parks. Plans are 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 vital role in IMPA's diverse power supply portfolio, and with its proven success rate, the Agency maintains a diverse fuel mix that benefits both consumers and the environment. •





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Member communities participating in the Dedicated Services program have high praise for the work being done in their communities.

“It’s been reassuring for our utility customers to have IMPA’s support in our town,” said Keith Claassen, IMPA Commissioner for Etna Green. “We’ve had some difficult times in our community, and we were worried about how we were going to make sure utility operations continued reliably, but IMPA Service Corp’s program will help us get there.”

IMPA Service Corp’s utility crews are proud to work with each of these communities to bring the best quality of power service to utility customers as possible. To learn more about IMPA and IMPA Service Corp, visit www.impa.com/about.

